

ROOTED



Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge

STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS

NEW BEGINNINGS...



Like many organizations, John Knox has engaged in a number of Strategic Planning processes over the years. The most recent was launched in May of 2021.

The process began with consultations with various stakeholders including students, parents, staff, board and community members—giving us a range of feedback including an external landscape report and an understanding of the mega-trends in education.

This initial process gave the Strategic Planning team the resources required to continue its work in September of 2021. It was an inspiring process and we came away with rich and meaningful goals.

We want John Knox to be a place where students are:

Welcomed, Known, and Flourishing

WELCOMED

We want to be a place of deep hospitality where all of our families feel they are welcomed and a vital part of the John Knox family.

KNOWN

We want to know our students—how they learn, what they love, how God has gifted them.

FLOURISHING

We want our students to flourish - to Thrive - in all that they do—socially, emotionally, academically, and physically. These are the things we are striving for through our strategic plan.

In addition to this focused vision, the team also drafted a new Mission and Vision statement. These statements will drive who we are and who we are striving to be for the next three years:

MISSION STATEMENT

John Knox Christian School seeks to nurture a learning mindset and a sense of belonging in a loving Christian environment so that every child flourishes to become a disciple of Christ in their community.

VISION STATEMENT

John Knox Christian School is consistently building rigorous, innovative, and engaging programs that will serve all Christian families seeking a complete education for their children.

By reviewing all survey and consultation data and spending time in prayer and devotion before the Lord, listening to his voice in leading the school, 4 themes began to emerge. These 4 themes are the overarching categories of the Strategic Plan:

- 1 **THEME 1:**
Adaptive Learning
- 2 **THEME 2:**
All Students Belong
- 3 **THEME 3:**
Invested Community
- 4 **THEME 4:**
Becoming Disciples



 **CHRISTINE SOULTANIDIS**
PRINCIPAL

Welcomed, Known And Flourishing

Over the past few months, we have been unpacking the following goals and objectives of each theme and creating a timeline for the next 3 years. Included in the theme descriptions are some of the ways we are already living out our themes day to day at John Knox in 2022.

1

Adaptive Learning

We desire to be a learning community that supports the development of the whole child. We acknowledge that social, emotional, and spiritual well-being are essential to academic outcomes and those outcomes rely upon supported and engaged staff, spaces conducive to learning, and the right technology. We acknowledge that every child has their own pace of development and we adapt our learning accordingly.

Current Implementation

Assessment is often an area that can be difficult for students who are struggling. It can be degrading, and highlight weaknesses, however, it doesn't have to be that. Through proper assessment, and a recognition that all students learn differently, we want to adapt our learning accordingly and this theme will help us be more purposeful in this goal.



3

Invested Community

We desire to be a place where people love to connect and to serve. We believe this is essential to providing a supportive community for learning and for contributing to the welfare of the wider community where we are called to represent Jesus in all we do.

Current Implementation

WINTER WALK — to help make connections between our families we planned a Winter Walk to embrace our new families and connect with old ones, as a community of believers. In addition to this, our Community Connection Team has been busy planning more events such as a night out at a trampoline park, we had a Cookie Decorating workshop in the gym, and are planning for an end-of-year BBQ on Friday, June 10. Our prayer is that these types of activities bring people together and foster an invested community where people love to connect and to serve.



4

Becoming Disciple

We desire to put Jesus at the centre of all we do and who we are. Our learning community should be a place where each child, parent, guardian, and staff person is encountering Jesus in ways that are personal, authentic, transformative, and leading to culturally-aware action in the world.

Current Implementation

In December, each class chose a way to bless someone in the community with a

We desire to put Jesus at the centre of all we do and who we are.

food drive, making care packages for seniors, baking cookies

for people we love, and more. We always want to encourage our students to think beyond themselves to encounter Jesus in ways that are personal, authentic, transformative, and leading to culturally-aware action in the world.



2

All Students Belong

We desire to be a place of deep hospitality and care for every child. We acknowledge our place of learning is richer when we embrace diversity, welcome wonder, and seek understanding.

Current Implementation

As staff, we are looking for ways we can be hospitable—welcoming all learners to the table, and ensuring that all our students feel welcome and engaged. Our student body is also encouraged to look for ways they can be hospitable to their classmates and teachers—how can we be sharing God’s love and care to others and be in community with one another? We desire to be a place of deep hospitality and care for every child.

As part of the initiatives to "create space for students to explore their racial identities and lived experiences", we are having discussions with our grade 7 & 8 students on Micro and Macro Aggression, as well as providing counselling sessions to give them safe spaces to share and to providing them with tools for dealing with emotions, anxiety, family and friendship.



These are just a few of the ways we are already beginning to meet the objectives of our Strategic Plan. Over the next several years, you will hear us talk about these themes and we will keep coming back to our vision to be a place where all students are **welcomed, known and flourishing.**

May God walk alongside us in this as we lean on him daily to provide us with the wisdom, patience and understanding to live out his ultimate goal of teaching children in the light of His word and creating responsive disciples for his glory.



SPRING

New Beginnings...

Spring symbolizes rebirth, renewal, and a fresh start. It’s also associated with love, hope, youth, and growth; all very relevant touch points for JKCS!

We celebrate the coming of Spring as the transition from the chill of winter to the sun’s warmth and vibrant colors of Spring; flowing maple tree sap, blossoming flowers, and the growth of crops and trees all remind us of God’s faithfulness. Spring is a testament that God fulfills His promises – after all our sufferings, there is hope to renew and start again.

“As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”
Hosea 6:3 (NIV)

As the ‘winter chill’ of the Covid pandemic ebbs away, we are so excited to see signs of new life around our school. We’ve recently sent out our first field trip, resumed the swimming program, held our first in-person assembly to celebrate Easter, and hosted a wonderful community event in the gym. What a blessing to be able to gather together again as JKCS community—*within the school walls and beyond!*





ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Jerome Hector
CLASS OF 2007

1. Where has God led you on your journey after JKCS?

After my time at JKCS I knew roughly that I had an interest in emerging technology and business but didn't know how exactly they would manifest themselves in the coming years. My interest in these two areas is particularly relevant

In this environment there's always something to learn and challenges that need to be overcome, which have proven to be extremely rewarding.

for my current role as Manager, Management Consulting at KPMG LLP. In this role, I work with many familiar Canadian companies advising them on how they can leverage technology (such as Intelligent Automation) to operate more efficiently and add value for employees, customers, and investors. In this environment there's always something to learn and challenges that need to be overcome, which have proven to be extremely rewarding.

2. How have your years at JKCS helped to provide a solid foundation for your educational, professional, and personal journey?

On occasion, I'm reminded of my time at JKCS and reflect fondly on the Christian values that continue to be instrumental to my journey personally, academically, and professionally. Personally, I'm reminded to practice empathy and understanding throughout my interactions with other people and challenge myself to make meaningful relationships. Academically, I discovered that realizing my potential is directly related to my dedication – something my teachers instilled in me, and has continued with me in my master's program (MBA) at Ivey Business School. Professionally, I continue to seek out my interests with the understanding that God is ultimately in control. I trust in God to continue leading me on my journey, and I'm thankful for JKCS for this life changing foundation.

Who Are We?

Encore Thrift Store is a voluntary, non-profit, non-denominational organization, operating a thrift shop to benefit the general public by providing used goods and other items for sale. Funds raised will support John Knox Christian School in Brampton."



Encore Thrift Store is open for donation drop-offs whenever the store is open:

Monday through Friday
from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Encore will gladly accept any good quality, re-sellable clothing and household goods.

Encore welcomes volunteer drop-ins on any Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

(please use the rear door).
No experience necessary!

Visit our website for more information:
www.encorethriftstore.ca/donate/

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