COMMUNITY
Director's Update
QUALITY • INCLUSIVE • FAITH-BASED • EDUCATION
www.wcdsb.ca

Catholic Secondary Schools Shine In Waterloo Region!

WCDSB High Schools: State-of-the-Art Facilities ~ High Standards ~ Outstanding Staff

Moving to high school from elementary school can bring new challenges, new opportunities and new freedoms. It is also time to move forward on career interests and to choose courses that that will prepare you for direct entry into the world of work, college, community living, apprenticeship or a university program.

There are so many advantages to attending a Catholic high school. First and foremost, you will have the added advantage of working (within a *"Quality, Inclusive, Faith-based"* educational environment) toward the achievement of the *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*. These expectations define what each student is expected to know, to do and to value when they graduate from Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools.

THE ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS

• A Discerning Believer •
• An Effective Communicator •
• A Reflective, Creative & Holistic Thinker •
• A Self-directed, Responsible, Lifelong Learner •
• A Collaborative Contributor •
• A Caring Family Member •
• A Responsible Citizen •

Another advantage you will have is access to our provincially-recognized *Building Successful Students* (BSS) program – part of an Ontario-wide initiative to ensure secondary school programs provide opportunities for ***ALL*** students to be successful in school. Quite simply, BSS helps students develop their skills in literacy and mathematics within the various "pathways" that are linked to career opportunities after they graduate from high school.

There's so much to explore in Waterloo Region's Catholic High Schools! Why not see for yourself?

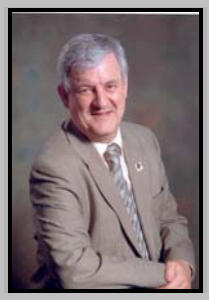
Premier Dalton McGuinty, MPP John Milloy and student leaders – May, 2007

Quality, Inclusive, Faith-based Education

Waterloo Catholic District School Board

November 2007

See inside for more!



Roger D. Lawler
Director of Education

"All five of my children have had the privilege and benefit of having attended Waterloo Region's Catholic schools. I encourage all parents to sit down and talk to your children about the difference attending a Catholic High School can make in their lives."

…DID YOU KNOW…

There are 7,866 students attending Waterloo Region's five Catholic Secondary Schools – served by 700 dedicated staff members (including 524 teachers)!

*In the 1970's – before full-funding of Catholic high schools was granted in Ontario – St. Jerome's & St. Mary's parents and students raised money in almost every way imaginable via the "**Make it Happen**" campaign. Today, the **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation** helps "bridge the gap".*

Special Message For Grade 7 & 8 Students

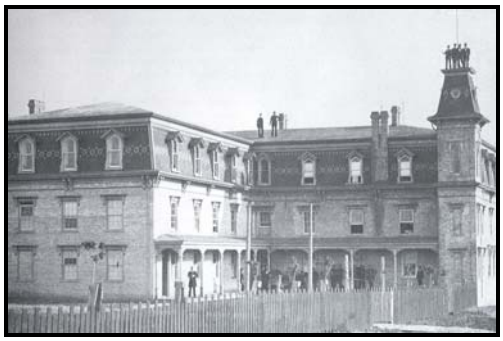
It probably seems like it was just yesterday when you walked (or were dragged by Mom & Dad!) into your first Junior Kindergarten class. And now you're starting to think about going to high school.

Lucky you! No matter where you live in Waterloo Region you have a chance to attend one of the best and most modern Catholic high schools anywhere in Ontario.

We've tried in this newsletter to give you just a small sampling of the kinds of programs and activities you'll find in **your** Catholic high school.

We hope you'll talk to your parents about your choices and we encourage you to take every opportunity to visit your high school and see for yourself just what a special place it is!

Roger D. Lawler
Director of Education



St. Jerome's H.S. circa 1870

St. Mary's H.S. circa 1930

Where It All Began…

St. Jerome's High School – for 125 years the flagship Catholic school in Waterloo Region – was established in a one-room log cabin near St. Agatha in 1865. ***St. Mary's High School*** opened on Weber St. in Kitchener in 1929. Between them, the two schools graduated 10's of thousands of students.

St. Jerome's closed in 1990 (replaced by ***Resurrection C.S.S.***) and ***St. Mary's*** moved to its new location in 2002. The former St. Mary's buildings now comprise the Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre / Kitchener Downtown Community Centre, while portions of the old St. Jerome's house the Board's St. Louis Adult Learning & Continuing Education Centre.

St. Benedict was opened in Cambridge in 1962 as a "Junior High School" and was joined by ***Monsignor Doyle*** Junior High in the 1970's. Waterloo received its own Junior High in 1965 with the opening of ***St. David's***.

All of them are now, of course, full service secondary schools – offering a learning environment and range of programs the Reverend Fathers of the ***Congregation of the Resurrection*** and the ***School Sisters of Notre Dame*** couldn't possibly have imagined in the early days of St. Jerome's & St. Mary's.

There's Something For Everyone In *Your* Catholic High School

Monsignor Doyle C.S.S.
Cambridge

~~ Small size (1,100 students).
~~ Religious retreats for all Grade 10 & 12 students.
~~ $10,000 raised for charity last year.
~~ 430 athletes competing on 20 teams coached by 29 different staff members; District 8 Champions in eight different sports.
~~ 215 students involved in co-curricular arts programs (band & choir).
~~ Recent grad class: 47 Ontario Scholars / 52 student award winners.

~~ Large school (2,200 students) stressing "equity of access".
~~ Religious retreats for all Grade 10 students.
~~ Major charitable fundraiser for numerous community causes.
~~ 35 teams; 60 coaches & 630 participating students.
~~ ESL magnet school & Advanced Placement courses in English, Science & Math.
~~ Two drama productions per year; successful Concert Choir.
~~ 150 math contest participants in 06/07.
~~ Grade 9 & 10 specialty programs for "at risk" students.

St. Mary's H.S.
Kitchener

St. Benedict C.S.S.
Cambridge

~~ Medium-large school (1,730 students).
~~ Chaplaincy and grade level retreat programs.
~~ Generous, caring community with social justice focus.
~~ 30 teams and 700 participants.
~~ Dozens of clubs (including an active "Enviro Club") and several major annual arts opportunities.
~~ Partnership with the adjacent Cambridge Public Library.
~~ "LINK Grew" – an innovative program linking senior students as mentors for new students.

~~ Medium-large school (1,678 students).
~~ Weekly celebrations of Mass (Fridays @ 7:40); annual Grade 9 retreat day.
~~ $25,000 raised for charity last year.
~~ 35 teams (male/female balance) and 50 coaches.
~~ Two drama productions per year and a full range of clubs (from Cooking to Model United Nations).
~~ Numerous specialty programs for "at risk" students.
~~ Consistent success at Skills Canada.

Resurrection C.S.S.
Kitchener

St. David C.S.S.
Waterloo

~~ Small size (1,150 students).
~~ Religious retreats for all Grade 10's; special chaplaincy programs for athletes; 65-member peer ministry team.
~~ Lunch time study support programs for students.
~~ Major success at Skills Canada.
~~ Full range of athletic teams, clubs and school events (100-plus opportunities annually).
~~ Specialty programs for "at risk" students – including the Workplace Preparation Program for Grade 11-12 students.
~~ Fully renovated gym; "Healthy Lifestyle" food choices in cafeteria.

Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

www.wcdsb.ca

Finding Your Catholic High School…

*The **Waterloo Region Catholic Schools Foundation** is sponsoring a major production of the smash-hit Broadway play **42nd Street** – April 23-26, 2008 at the Centre in the Square.*

Contact your future high school for information about the following important programs – or visit www.wcdsb.ca for more information

Monsignor Doyle C.S.S.

185 Myers Road, Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 7H2
Phone: 519-622-1290, Fax: 519-622-1292
Principal: Wendy Price
http://doyle.wcdsb.ca/

Resurrection C.S.S.

455 University Avenue West, Kitchener, Ontario, N2N 3B9
Phone: 519-741-1990, Fax: 519-741-5096
Principal: Dan Witt
http://resurrection.wcdsb.ca/

St. Benedict C.S.S.

50 Saginaw Parkway, Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 5W1
Phone: 519-621-4050, Fax: 519-621-4057
Principal: Jamie McKinnon
http://stbenedict.wcdsb.ca/

St. David C.S.S.

4 High Street, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3X5
Phone: 519-885-1340, Fax: 519-885-1345
Principal: Paul Lacalamita
http://stdavid.wcdsb.ca/

St. Mary's H.S.

1500 Block Line Road, Kitchener, ON N2C 2S2
Phone: 519-745-6891 Fax: 519-745-2256
Principal: Theresa Horan
http://stmary.wcdsb.ca/

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