



Waterloo Catholic  
District School Board

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## News Release

November 27, 2014  
For immediate release

# St. Mary's High School Receives Dr. Bette Stephenson Achievement Award

## Outstanding work in Grade 9 math receives provincial recognition

Waterloo Region, ON – On Wednesday, November 19, 2014 *St. Mary's High School* received the *Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement Award* for outstanding work on the 2014 *Education Quality & Accountability Office (EQAO)* Grade 9 math assessments – one of only 27 Ontario schools to receive the prestigious award this year.

### QuickFacts

- ✓ The Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement Award was established by the EQAO board of directors in 2009 as a tribute to Dr. Stephenson's lifelong commitment and contribution to education and public service.
- ✓ Dr. Stephenson served as Ontario Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities from 1978 to 1985 and was an original member of EQAO's Board of Directors.
- ✓ Schools receiving the award are representative of the many school communities across the province that have made effective use of EQAO data and evidence from other sources to enhance and support student achievement.
- ✓ The percentage of St. Mary's students reaching levels 3 and 4 in **applied mathematics** has increased from **41%** in 2009-10 to **60%** in 2013-14. By comparison, the provincial achievement rate for 2013-14 is 47%.
- ✓ The percentage of St. Mary's students reaching levels 3 and 4 in **academic mathematics** has increased from **81%** in 2009-10 to **86%** in 2013-14. By comparison, the provincial achievement rate for 2013-14 is 85%.

### Quotes

"Looking at a variety of data propels our school improvement planning. Evidence from students' classroom and EQAO assessments and staff surveys shows us if we're on the right track, guides our decisions and sets us in motion for the next year. I believe that our teachers are our most important resource and their creativity and passion should never be underestimated when it comes to helping students learn and achieve success."

~~ Gale Daly, Principal, St. Mary's High School

### Related Links

[St. Mary's High School – EQAO Success Story](#)

[St. Mary's High School – Grade 9 Math EQAO Report](#)

[Photo from Dr. Bette Stephenson Award Ceremony](#)

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The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 96,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 178-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: **@WCDSBNewsWire - #WCDSBAwesome.**

- 30 -

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