



# Catholic Education

## Catholic Ratepayers

If you are a Catholic ratepayer we urge you to check your property tax bill to ensure that your support is directed to your local Catholic school board. If you are a tenant you can verify your support by contacting your local Catholic school board or municipal office.

By ensuring that you are accurately recorded as a Catholic school supporter you can help to deliver a powerful message to the government about the level of support for publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

**In order to be eligible to vote for your local Catholic school board trustee you must be registered as a separate school supporter.** If you would like to learn more about the Catholic school board in your area, please visit [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca) or call (416) 932-9460.

"I believe that having a Catholic education helped me to understand the importance of living a virtuous life, respecting others and taking care of my physical body – the sanctuary of the soul."

**Sahra Maira,**  
York Catholic District School Board Graduate  
Dancer with the National Ballet of Hungary



2011

Printed on recycled paper



[www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

Keeping Faith in Mind



# Catholic Education...

## A Tradition of Academic Excellence

Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools have a long history of academic excellence. Catholic elementary and secondary schools continue to be recognized among the top performing schools in the province each year based on reviews of data released by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (an agency of the provincial government).

Students in Catholic schools are encouraged to achieve their full academic potential within a safe and caring environment that recognizes and responds to the unique needs and talents of each student.

## Part of the Fabric of Ontario

Catholic education has been an integral part of Ontario's history for more than 170 years. As a vital component of the province's publicly funded education system, Catholic schools educate about 600,000 students each year. Over one million Ontarians choose publicly funded Catholic schools for the education of their children.

## Faith Makes a Difference

Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools bring a distinctive faith component to learning. Catholic schools integrate the teachings of Jesus Christ into all aspects of school life. For students in Catholic schools the school community serves as a support and foundation for understanding our faith tradition.

The family and the parish community play an integral role in partnering with schools to support the faith development of students and to prepare them for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist and Confirmation.



## Living Out our Faith Through Service

Catholic education has a distinct emphasis on social justice and service to those less fortunate. School communities launch numerous charitable initiatives throughout the year to inspire a commitment to service and to bring to life the Catholic faith curriculum. Through these works and initiatives our students become for the world the light of Christ.

## The Catholic School Graduate

Catholic schools nurture the development of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Young people are taught that each person is special because they reflect in their person the image and mystery of God, who is at the heart of every person and the world we inhabit. The expectations of Catholic graduates are measured not only in knowledge skills, but also in attitude, values and actions.

At the core of the Catholic school system is the unique framework for learners called the **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations**. These distinctive expectations are integrated into the full Catholic school curriculum to help form graduates who are:

- 1 Discerning believers formed in the Catholic faith community;
- 2 Effective communicators;
- 3 Reflective, creative and holistic thinkers;
- 4 Self-directed, responsible, lifelong learners;
- 5 Collaborative contributors;
- 6 Caring family members; and,
- 7 Responsible citizens.

