

Entering Secondary School 2012

YOUR PATHWAY - CHOOSE YOUR MISSION



YOUR NAME: _____



Mission

Our Mission is to serve our students, working with the home, parish and school community to:

- Nurture a Christ-Centred environment
- Provide student-focused learning opportunities
- Support the growth of the whole person.

Our secondary schools have been reshaping themselves recently, to achieve the goals of the provincial Student Success initiative. Key goals include:

- providing every student with a good outcome from secondary school;
- connecting with students by providing new and relevant learning opportunities for all students;
- building on students' interests and strengths;
- ensuring smooth and successful transitions into, through, and out of high school;
- increasing graduation and credit-accumulation rates.

Welcome!

Welcome to the next part of your educational journey in our K-12 Catholic system. We in the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board want to ensure it is a positive and exciting time as you prepare and plan your transition to grade 9!

Moving to our Catholic secondary school from elementary school can bring new challenges, new responsibilities and new freedoms. It is also an exciting time to consider your career interests and to choose courses that will prepare you for direct entry into the world of work, college, community, apprenticeship or a university program.

This guide to our Catholic secondary schools provides you with a general overview of what you can expect to find in our two secondary schools.

First and foremost, our Catholic Schools begin with the belief that each person is created in the image and likeness of God who offers unconditional love and promise of a life filled with hope, meaning and purpose.

Secondly, the Ontario Catholic Curriculum is infused throughout with Gospel values and thirdly, you will have the added advantage of working toward the achievement of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. These expectations define what students are expected to know, do and value when they graduate from our Catholic school system.

Lastly, you will also have access to our provincially-recognized **Student Success** program which provides opportunities for all students to be successful. Our students develop their skills in literacy and mathematics, self advocacy, organization, and lifelong learning, with the various "pathways" available to them along the way. These pathways are linked to career opportunities after students graduate.

As part of our Student Success program, we are also very proud of our Specialist High Skills Major pathways, designed to give students a focused, hands-on, career-based program in Agriculture, The Arts, Construction, or Green Industries.

Thank you for your interest in our secondary schools. Please make sure to stay in touch with your guidance counsellor, school administrator, student success teacher, classroom teacher or special education resource teacher to quickly address questions or concerns.

Again, welcome to what we hope will be the beginning of fantastic secondary years and wonderful learning opportunities. Best wishes in making your dreams come true.

Sincerely,



Martha Dutrizac,
Director of Education



Going from elementary school to high school can be a stressful time for many teens, but it is also an exciting experience. Just think of all the great things you'll do at your Huron-Perth Catholic District high school, like playing sports, enjoying artistic hobbies, being academically challenged and learning technical skills in a hands-on way. You'll get to experience new things, meet new people and become a more independent person.

High school is another step towards your career pathway. Do you know what you want to be? Do you know what kind of career you're looking for? You can use your time in high school to find answers to these important questions.

Your support system:

Entering secondary school is an important milestone in your life as a student. Never feel that you are on your own. Every student is assigned a guidance counsellor and administrator who are available to answer your concerns or assist you. There are also other supports available to you – your subject teachers, student success teacher, special education teacher, chaplain and youth counsellors. Contact them anytime!

Administrators

(Principals & Vice Principals)

...are responsible for ensuring safe and secure schools. They are available to assist students and parents with concerns.

Youth Counsellors

...work in conjunction with guidance counsellors, administrators and special education teachers to support students with personal needs.

Guidance Counsellors

...are important people to get to know at high school. They are available to assist students with planning their educational pathways, personal career plans and course selections. They are also available to assist students with personal concerns and guide you to other professionals for specific assistance.

Special Education Teachers

...monitor and assist students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Students, parents and the special education teacher work together with other school staff to ensure that students' individual learning needs are being met.

Student Success Teachers

...are an additional support to students who are struggling at school and who may be thinking of leaving school early. They work with students to help them be more successful and stay in school.

The Chaplain

...provides opportunities to experience the risen Lord by sharing with students and staff in liturgical celebrations, retreats, social action, small faith communities, support groups, counselling, and walking with individuals and groups on their faith journey. The chaplain facilitates personal and communal growth in body, mind and spirit, in the context of our Catholic faith. These experiences become the building blocks of the school's Catholic Christian Community.

Your Teachers

...provide instruction to students in a range of academic subjects. They aim to create a positive learning environment that is both challenging and rewarding for students.

We are here to help you!

Table of Contents

Page 3	Grade 9 – Support System
Page 4	Your Flight Plan to Success
Page 4	What you need to know about: the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)
Page 5	The Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)
Page 5	The Certificate of Accomplishment
Page 6	Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations
Page 7	Pathways
Page 7	Changing Pathways
Page 7	Websites to Explore Your Pathway Options
Page 8	Course Descriptions and Definitions
Page 9	Special Programs
Page 10	Making Sense of Course Codes
Page 10	Course Selection & Registration
Page 10	What is a Timetable?
Page 11	Terms You Should Know
Page 12	Websites You Should Check Out
Page 12	Helpful Hints for Parents
Page 13	Commonly Asked Questions
Page 13	Thriving in Grade 9 - Get involved
Page 14	St. Michael's
Page 15	St. Anne's
Page 16	Four steps to success

Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)



Certificate of Accomplishment

Your flight plan to Success

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

* Please note: a maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education now count as compulsory credits
 ** note: Compulsory substitutions are available, see your principal/guidance counsellor

What you need to know about the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

18 compulsory credits	
Students must earn the following compulsory credits** to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Diploma:	
4	credits in English
3	credits in Mathematics
2	credits in Science
1	credit in Canadian History
1	credit in Canadian Geography
1	credit in The Arts
1	credit in Health and Physical Education
1	credit in French as a second language
0.5	credit in Career Studies
0.5	credit in Civics
Plus one credit from each of the following groups:	
1	Group 1: an additional credit in English, or French as a second language, or a Native language, or a classical or an international language, or social sciences and the humanities or Canadian and world studies or guidance and career education or cooperative education
1	Group 2: an additional credit in health and physical education, or the arts or business studies, or French as a second language, or cooperative education*
1	Group 3: an additional credit in science or technological education, or French as a second language, or computer studies, or cooperative education*
In addition to the above the students must complete:	
4	credits in Religion
8	optional credits
40	hours of community involvement activities
Ontario Literacy Requirement OSSLT or OSSLC	

What you need to know about the Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

An Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC) is granted "on request" to students who leave school before earning the Ontario Secondary School Diploma provided they have earned a minimum of 14 credits:

7 compulsory credits	
Students must earn the following compulsory credits** to obtain the Ontario Secondary School Certificate:	
2	credits in English
1	credit in Mathematics
1	credit in Science
1	credit in Canadian History or Geography
1	credit in The Arts or Technological Education
1	credit in Health and Physical Education
7	optional credits

* Please note: a maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education now count as compulsory credits
 ** note: Compulsory substitutions are available, see your principal/guidance counsellor

A student who continues his/her education can be granted an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) upon successful completion of all diploma requirements.

What you need to know about the Certificate of Accomplishment

A Certificate of Accomplishment is granted to students engaged in alternative non-credit bearing programs.

NOTE: The Principal has the authority to make compulsory course substitutions (up to a maximum of 3) to enable a student to fulfill certificate requirements. Substitutions will be based on pre-determined criteria and are at the discretion of the principal.



Secondary School Course Planner				
Year 1 Courses — Grade 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Math Science Geography French Religion 	Year 2 Courses — Grade 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Math Science History Civic & Career Studies Religion 	Year 3 Courses — Grade 11
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Math Religion 	Year 4 Courses — Grade 12
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Religion
				Additional Year

Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements 1999 (OSS) sets out the policies and requirements that govern the program in English language Secondary Schools in Ontario. This publication is available on the Ministry of Education website at www.edu.gov.on.ca.

Keep these points in mind when choosing courses:

- ✓ Pick electives that will interest you. Electives are courses that focus on your special interests. Take advantage of these opportunities instead of picking a class just because your friends do.
- ✓ Choose course types that suit you. You can always switch later if you need to. Talk to your teacher, or call the high school guidance office to decide the course type you should choose.
- ✓ Choosing co-op in Grade 11-12 is a great way to figure out if you like a particular type of work. You can apply for a co-op that suits your interests and try out a job before you graduate.

Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations

Catholic education views human life as an integration of body, mind, and spirit. Rooted in this vision, Catholic education fosters the search for knowledge as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. The expectations of Catholic graduates, therefore, are described not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but in terms of values, attitudes and actions.

- **A discerning believer**
formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection, and moral living.
- **An effective communicator**
who speaks, writes, and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.
- **A reflective, creative, and holistic thinker**
who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.
- **A self-directed, responsible, life long learner**
who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.
- **A caring family member**
who attends to family, school, parish, and the wider community.
- **A responsible citizen**
who gives witness to Catholic social teachings by promoting peace, justice, and sacredness of human life.
- **A collaborative contributor**
who finds meaning, dignity, and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.



Pathways

YOUR PATHWAY • CHOOSE YOUR MISSION

Pathway Options:

Think of your time in high school as a journey – a pathway to success! Along this pathway, you can choose courses at a variety of levels – Apprenticeship, College, Community, University or Work. And because there will inevitably be

forks in the road, you can switch levels, or pick and choose a combination of courses to best suit your abilities. Talk to your Guidance Counsellor if you need help choosing your pathway.



All pathways can lead to bright exciting futures!

Changing Pathways

Pathways are not carved in stone. They can be adapted and revised to meet the individual needs of every student. Over your years in high school, your interests and goals might change as you gain experience and learn more about yourself. You may embark on one pathway, and then decide you want to change it along the way. There are a variety of ways to change directions, depending on when you make the decision.

Remember, you are not alone. If you decide to make a change in your pathway, or if you need help making choices about your pathway, consult your guidance counsellor and/or teacher for additional direction and information.

Future Planning ...

When you move out of grade nine there are different programs and opportunities for you to consider:

Experiential Learning Programs:

Experiential Learning programs are often referred to as "hands on" opportunities. Each secondary school has many opportunities available for students in grades 10-12.

Here are some to consider:

- Cooperative Education (Co-op)
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
- Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)
- Alternative Education Programs

Explore Your Pathway Options:

- Apprentice Search
www.apprenticesearch.com
- l'Arche, Stratford
www.larche/en/communities/Stratford
- Career Cruising
www.careercruising.com
(see teacher for password)
- Christian Horizons
www.christian-horizons.org
- College Info
www.ontariocolleges.ca
- Community Living St. Mary's / Huron-Perth
www.communitylivingstmarys.ca
- Ontario Disability Information - Persons With Disabilities Online
www.ph-endirect.ca/pwdh.4m.2@.jsp?geo=6&title=
- Ontario Skills Passport
<http://skills.edu.gov.on.ca>
- OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program)
www.oyap.com
- Pathway Student Success
www.yourmission.ca
- Prospects Ontario - Guide to Career Planning
www.ontarioprosects.info
- Specialist High Skills Major
www.highskills.ca
- University Information
www.electronicinfo.ca
- Volunteer Opportunities
www.canadian-universities.net/Volunteer
- Work Smart - Workplace Safety Information
www.worksmartontario.gov.on.ca

Course Descriptions/Definitions

Grade 9 to 12 Courses

OPEN (coded “O”)

Open Courses are designed to prepare students for further study in a subject, and to enrich their education generally. Open courses comprise a set of expectations that are appropriate for all students. Several subject areas offer open courses (e.g. Physical Education, Visual Arts, etc.). Students can have a variety of learning skills.

NON-CREDIT COURSES (coded “K”)

Non-credit Courses (those that begin with a “K”) are designed for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) who are working on primary expectations of the Ontario Curriculum or on individualized alternate expectations. These courses carry alternate expectations of a credit course, and are modified as per the student’s IEP. Non-credit courses are designed to help students meet their own individual education goals.

SUPPORTED CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

In addition to in-class credit and non-credit courses, students in grades 10 through 12 may pursue work placement preparation courses in the area of supported co-operative education. Students are supported in a variety of job settings with help from co-operative education teachers, job coaches and onsite job mentors.

Grade 9 and 10 Courses

ACADEMIC (coded “D”)

Academic courses develop students’ knowledge and skills through the study of theory and abstract problems. These courses focus on the essential concepts of a subject and explore related concepts as well.

APPLIED (coded “P”)

Applied Courses focus on essential concepts of a subject, and develop students’ knowledge and skills through practical applications and concrete examples. Familiar situations are used to illustrate ideas, and students are given more opportunities to experience hands-on applications of the concepts and theories they study.

LOCALLY DEVELOPED (coded “L”)

This program is appropriate for students who may have struggled with the grade 8 curriculum and is designed to teach key concepts and build necessary skills in numeracy and literacy (core curriculum). Locally Developed courses in Mathematics, Science and English meet the needs of students working toward an OSSD, as well as those pursuing an alternate diploma.

“I was really worried when I heard rumours about all the homework. Yeah, I have more homework than in elementary school, but I learned some new study skills and I still have loads of time to hang out with my friends and play hockey.”



Students who have struggled with Mathematics, English or Science in Grade 8 are encouraged to speak with their Grade 8 teacher, parent(s)/guardian(s) and principal in order to choose the most appropriate courses.

Individual Education Plan

Students who require accommodations and/or modifications have a written plan described on an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Transition meetings are held in Grade 8 for every student on an IEP. Parents and students are invited to meet with elementary school staff (teacher, special education teacher and principal) and secondary special education teachers and staff to discuss courses, levels of study and pathways based upon the student’s strengths, needs and academic achievement. Every student on an IEP is assigned a special education teacher at secondary school, who will meet with students and parents to review student progress, pathways, courses and IEP to ensure academic success.

Advanced Placement Program

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program is designed to give students a head start on university/college while still in the supportive environment of a secondary school classroom. Taking the end-of-course AP Exam sends a powerful message to colleges and universities that students are ready for them, and can enable students to gain admission, credit (university/college specific), scholarships and placement into advanced courses. Currently, St. Michael offers AP Exam preparation as part of its Grade 12 University Biology and History programs.

Grade 11 and 12 Courses

WORKPLACE PREPARATION (coded “E”)

Workplace Preparation Courses are intended to prepare students to move directly into the workplace after secondary school or to be admitted into some apprenticeship programs or other training programs. Courses focus on employability skills and on practical workplace applications.

COLLEGE PREPARATION (coded “C”)

College Preparation Courses are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the requirements for entrance to most college programs or for admission to apprenticeship or other training programs. Courses focus on concrete applications of theoretical material.

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE PREPARATION

(coded “M”) University/College Preparation Courses are intended to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to meet the requirements for entrance to most college programs and admission to apprenticeship or other training programs. Courses focus on concrete applications of theoretical material.

UNIVERSITY PREPARATION (coded “U”)

University Preparation Courses are intended to provide students with the knowledge and skills to meet entrance requirements for university programs. Courses focus on theory as well as investigate related applications. These courses are also required for entrance into Applied Degree Programs offered at all Community Colleges.

Special Programs

Dual Credits Program: Get College Credits while still in High School

Dual Credits allow students to participate in college courses while still in high school. Courses count towards both a high school diploma and a post secondary diploma or certificate. Dual Credit programs may provide new and varied learning opportunities by exposing students to the college setting and culture. Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is partnered with Fanshawe College, Conestoga College, and Lambton College in the delivery of dual credit programs.

All Dual Credit programs will be packaged with Co-operative Education. Speak to your Guidance counsellor or Student Success teacher about the availability of programs in your area.

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

Students participating in a trade-related co-operative education placement qualify for the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. While on placement earning credits, developing knowledge and skills, a student can be registered as an apprentice. An apprenticeship is an agreement between the student (who wants to learn a skilled trade), the employer (who teaches the skills), the school and the Ministry of Training (Apprenticeship branch). Students will get a head start on becoming a fully qualified journeyman with a skill that is in demand. Apprenticeships are an excellent way of learning valuable work skills and are a viable alternative to traditional post-secondary programs. There are over 200 skilled trades that are formally recognized in Ontario. To meet the needs of employers, new trades are being introduced annually, and established programs are always being upgraded. To begin an apprenticeship during secondary school, a student must:

- have successfully completed 16 credits
- be enrolled full-time in secondary school

To remain in the program, students must complete all requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The apprenticeship will continue after secondary school graduation with a sponsoring employer.

Making Sense of Course Codes

Every subject is identified by a common course code designated by the Ministry of Education. The code consists of 5 mandated characters and a 6th character for school use.

English, Grade 9, Academic, Regular

ENG1D1

The first three letters identify the subject.
The first letter identifies the department:

A=Arts	B=Business
C=Canadian & World Studies	E=English
F=French	G=Guidance
H=Humanities & Social Sciences	L=International Languages
M=Mathematics	P=Physical Education
S=Science	

This number identifies the grade:

1=Grade 9
2=Grade 10
3=Grade 11
4=Grade 12

The fifth character identifies the course type:

C=College*	M=University/College*
D=Academic	O=Open
E=Workplace*	P=Applied
L=Locally Developed	U=University*

* These types are offered in grades 11 and 12

The school specific code is used to distinguish course characteristics and specialized programs:

I=Regular/1 Credit	K=Non-credit granting
M=Male	
F=Female	

PPL1OM

Physical Education, Grade 9, Open, Males

Course Selection & Registration

Introducing My Blueprint

Build a customized high school course plan, instantly identify post-secondary opportunities that you have unlocked and explore valuable information for every destination in Canada.

You may log in with the Activation Key *huron-perth*

The Activation Key is entered into the green box on the left side at www.myBlueprint.ca.

Every user (students, educator and parents) enters this exact same Activation Key.

Once logged in, simply follow the step-by-step instructions presented to you.

Step 1

press the "myProfile" tab and create a personal Username and Password.

Step 2

Log into the Portfolio. Your username and password is unique to you. Write it down in a safe place so you remember it later. Always log in the same way to access all your own personal information.

Step 3

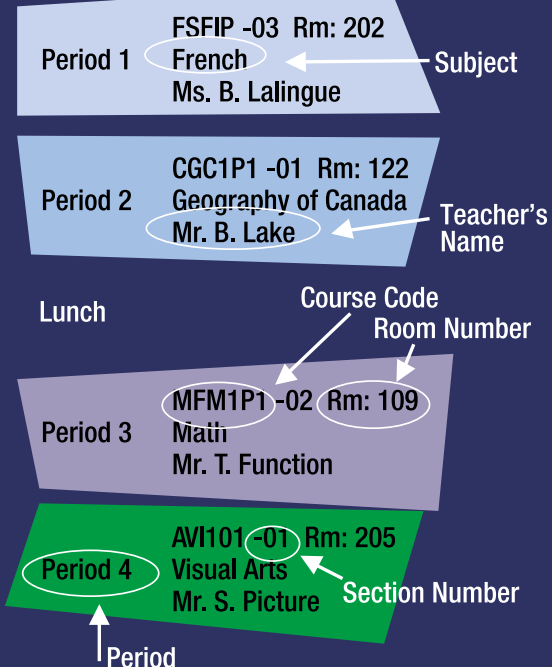
Go to Matchmaker, Careers, or other tabs to help you decide your pathway. These tools will help connect you to career areas you are interested in.

After doing some research, you are ready to plan the courses you should select for Grade 9.

On the Portfolio Homepage click on Course Planner to make your selections.

Note: your teacher is available to assist you in making appropriate decisions regarding grade 9 course selections. Remember to involve your teacher, and parents/guardians in the course selection process.

What is a Timetable?



Note: Some schools may have more than four periods and more than one lunch.

“I took different courses than all of my friends because I wanted to learn about Construction and the Apprenticeship Pathway.”

Terms you should know...

Career Cruising

Portfolio Completion Standards - Your personal portfolio will become your education plan. As you complete all the requirements for each grade, you will be planning your pathway to your post secondary plans and future careers of interest.

Co-curricular Activities

Learning can happen in more places than just the classroom. Co-curricular activities, such as band, sports teams and Me to We initiatives offer unique opportunities for students to broaden their horizons and learn new skills. Get involved and make new friends at the same time!

Compulsory Courses

Refers to a specific course students must take and which fulfills part of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements (OSSD).

Course Calendar

The school course calendar is available on the school website or in a printed version at the school. The calendar describes courses, diploma requirements, etc. It has a lot of information for you and your parents/guardians.

Course Code

All high school courses are identified by a course code. For example, grade 9 Applied English is coded ENG 1P. Course codes have 6 digits, and each digit serves a specific purpose. Additional information about course codes can be found on page 8 and in the course calendar.

Credit

A credit is what you earn after successfully completing a course. A one-credit course is scheduled for a minimum of 110 hours.

Credit Recovery Programs

These are available to a student who has completed a course but has not been successful in demonstrating achievement of the curriculum expectations to a passing level. This program is available only after consultation with the principal, teachers, parents and the student.

Credit Rescue

Credit Rescue may be offered to a student who is at risk of not successfully completing a course that he/she is presently enrolled in. This is available only after consultation with the principal, teacher, parents and student.

Elective Courses

Students will select 8 elective courses that are of specific interest to them and which will count towards the 12-credit OSSD requirement.

Homework Club

The Homework Club is available to all students who require extra help with their homework assignments. The club is run by a classroom teacher and is open two days a week after school.

Individual Education Plan (IEP)/Accommodations

An Individual Education Plan (IEP) puts strategies and supports in place to help struggling students succeed in their program. The plan can include accommodations that are universal (i.e., extra time on tests and assignments) or others that relate specifically to an individual subject or course (i.e., English or Mathematics) and are reviewed each semester by the student's parent/guardian and resource teacher.

Learning Lab

Facilitated by a classroom teacher, the learning lab is available to students throughout the school day. The lab offers a quiet area for studying, finishing assignments, or seeking extra help on school work. Computers, scanners and printers provide the technology necessary for students to work effectively.

Learning Style

Everyone is different and this applies to the way we learn. As a student, knowing whether you are a kinesthetic (hands-on), visual, or auditory learner will help you succeed in the classroom.

Ontario Student Transcript

Your OST is an official record of all the courses you successfully completed (It will also include any unsuccessful courses attempted in Grade 11 or 12.) It serves as an official record of the successful completion of the Literacy Test and Community Service hours.

OSR

Your Ontario Student Record is the official record of your school career. It contains registration forms, personal portfolio, report cards, test results and your high school transcripts. Parents and students have access to the OSR at any time.

Prerequisite

A prerequisite course is a course that you must pass before moving on to the next level. For example, you must pass Grade 10 Applied English before you take Grade 11 College English.

Semester

The school year is divided into two semesters. A student will take 4 courses in each semester.

Student Planner

You will receive a copy of the student planner which outlines school policies and includes a calendar of school events. This is to be used as a personal planning tool.

Study Hall

Study Hall is another support mechanism in place to help students succeed in school. A teacher is on hand three lunch periods a week to clarify course concepts, or provide extra help where needed.

Timetable

You will receive a timetable that will indicate the courses you take, what time each class takes place, the room number and your teacher's name.

Websites you should check out...

Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board
www.huronperthcatholic.ca
 Student Success
www.yourmission.ca
 Guidance - High School and Beyond
www.guidance.hpcdsb.ca
 6 Ways - Transforming High School in Ontario
www.ldao.ca/documents/SEAC/Transforming%20High%20School%20in%20Ontario-1.pdf

Get involved...

There are several ways you can get involved and stay in the “know” when it comes to your child’s education:

- Read our monthly newsletter. “Rejoice!” is available online or through email. Visit www.huronperthcatholic.ca to sign up. Hardcopy versions are also available from your school’s office.
- Check out our website. view school calendars, bus cancellations and latest news.
- Check your child’s Student Planner. Homework assignments and due dates, should be clearly marked.
- Attend parent information sessions held at your child’s school.
- Join the School Advisory Council. The School Advisory Council is made up of parents, teachers, non-teaching staff, and parish community residents. You can get involved in your child’s education either by attending council meetings or becoming part of the elected board. Contact your school’s principal for more details.



Helpful Hints for Parents

Below are three important areas to focus on to ensure your child’s success. Each area lists recommendations, potential warning signs, and some strategies to help you manage and address any potential issues.

*Note: Both schools have auto-dialer which will call home and leave a message reporting student absences

Attendance

Recommendations	Warning Sign	Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students attend school each day. • Students arrive to class on time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child is missing school. • School contacts you about your child’s attendance. • Your child’s report card shows more absences than you expected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss your child’s attendance record with the school administration and plan to ensure regular attendance. • If your child is absent, ensure work is brought home, completed and submitted. • Call the guidance counsellor.

Homework and Submission of Assignments

Recommendations	Warning Sign	Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 9-10 students should spend 4 to 6 hours a week on homework. • Grade 11-12 students should spend 8 to 10 hours a week on homework. • Students should complete and submit all assignments for evaluation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you do not see your child doing homework regularly or your child says, “I don’t have any homework” on a regular basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call the school or teacher and get informed about the situation. • A student should be reading and reviewing for the time recommended each day. • Remove distractions.

Organization and Time Management

Recommendations	Warning Sign	Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should take accurate notes and keep organized binders. • Students should use a student planner for assignments, projects, quizzes and tests. • Students should set aside appropriate study time to prepare well in advance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child does not have or use a student planner. • Your child’s notebooks are disorganized and appear incomplete. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a student planner for your child. • Talk with your child to set up a time management and organizational plan. • Monitor the use of the student planner and notebooks.

Used with permission from York Catholic District School Board

FAQs Commonly Asked Questions About Entering High School

What dates do I need to know?

- Deadline for course selections in Career Cruising-Course Planner
- Open House nights
- School registration day
- First day of school and holiday dates
- Examination schedule
- Professional development days
- Parent, teacher, student interviews
- Grade 9 Welcome Day

Don’t worry, an information package with all you need to know will be sent to you in the summer!

How do I get home from after-school activities if I get bussed to school?

St. Michael runs a late bus Monday-Thursday nights for students living out of the city who are involved in co-curricular programs after school hours. The late bus leaves St. Michael at 4:45 p.m.

The late bus from St. Anne’s Catholic Secondary School leaves at 4:50 pm and drops students off at various central locations in towns and villages throughout Huron County from Monday to Thursday. A sign-up is required by 2:00 p.m. in the main office.

Why do I need to wear a uniform?

The school uniform is a visual symbol that has been part of the tradition of Catholic high schools in Ontario for over a century. Its purpose is to eliminate competition and to develop a unique school spirit. The uniform policy applies only to students at St. Anne’s.

Dress Code Policy

Students who choose to attend HPCDSB Secondary Schools are agreeing to abide, unconditionally, by the school’s uniform, or dress-code regulations established and reviewed periodically by the school community. You may also require a uniform for physical education.

Uniform Attire

Please check your student planner, your school website, or the school directly for school-specific regulations.

If I have a question, where should I go?

Every student has the support of a guidance counsellor, administrator, and a chaplain. Some students may also receive special assistance from learning resource teachers or the student success teacher. Don’t be afraid to ask questions. All of these teachers are there to help you!

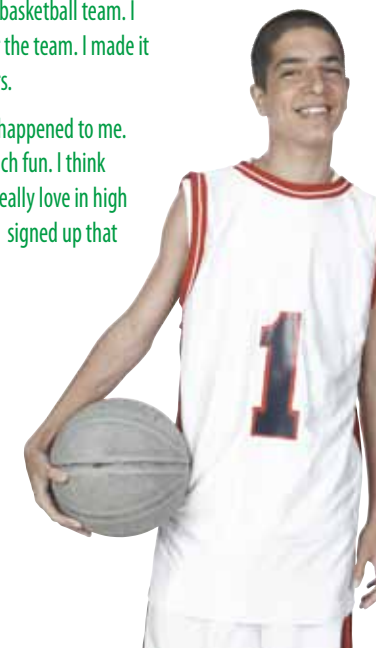
My elementary school was pretty small... What if I get lost?

It will probably take a couple of days for you to get used to the school at first. Try to get to school early and look around for the classrooms. If you can’t find a room, teachers and other students will be happy to help out. Just ask someone!

Try to attend the Open House session, tour the school, listen to presentations, and ask questions.

“I was so scared to go to high school. The first day of school, I noticed a sign-up sheet for the junior basketball team. I wrote down my name and tried out for the team. I made it and have played for the past three years.

The team was the best thing that ever happened to me. I made new friends and we have so much fun. I think everyone should find something they really love in high school and use their skills. I’m so glad I signed up that first day!”



Thriving in Grade 9 Get Involved & Get Ready...

Make sure you get involved in co-curricular activities. Explore the opportunities at your school and get involved in activities that interest you. This is a great opportunity for you to build friendships, develop skills and grow as an individual. Each school offers a wide variety of opportunities including Student Government, Faith Leadership, Liturgical Involvement, Athletics, Yearbook, Drama, Cooking, Music, Social Justice and many more. Check out the activities that interest you!

Helpful Hints...

To ease your transition from grade 8 to 9, each school has transition activities and supports to assist you. Here are some tips to help you get started:

- ✓ Attend the Open House at your secondary school.
- ✓ Discuss the information that you receive with your parents when the high school guidance counsellor visits your grade 8 class.
- ✓ Ask questions about courses, the different levels, and the different pathways that are available.
- ✓ Get involved in the grade 9 Welcome BBQ in late August.
- ✓ If you are required to wear a school uniform, purchase your uniform in advance.
- ✓ Plan your travel to and from school in advance.
- ✓ Get involved in activities or clubs that interest you.
- ✓ Develop good study habits and organizational skills.
- ✓ Enjoy your transition to secondary school, it is one of the most exciting times of your life!

Our Secondary Schools



ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL



St. Michael Catholic Secondary School is the only Catholic high school in Stratford, Ontario. It is one of three high schools in the Stratford area, and one of only two high schools in the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board.

It has approximately 900 students in attendance with approximately 55 percent coming from the City of Stratford with the remainder coming from other areas of Perth County. The school is fully accessible - the multi-level building is equipped with ramped access entrance, electric door operator, an elevator/lifting device, barrier free washrooms and accessible parking. A fully inclusive program is offered to all students.

St. Mikes is well known for its successful extra curricular program. Athletics and the Arts share a high profile within the school. A strong technology program (coupled with Co-operative Education) provides students the opportunity to develop abilities in the area of skilled trades. A French Immersion program is also offered at the school. Students can participate in SHSM programs in the arts and culture, green energy, and construction technology. Advanced placement courses are available in the math, science and social sciences. Please see a counsellor for more information about these specialized opportunities.

St. Michael prides itself in providing a faith based education in an inclusive learning environment.

Office Hours Monday to Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Meet those that will help you find your way:



Tim Doherty
Principal



Dan Peters
Vice-Principal



Karen Tigani
Acting School
Administrator



Mary Flanagan
Student Success



Sandie Ennett
Student Services



Natanael Mateus-Ruiz
Chaplain



ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL



St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School is located in Clinton, Ontario and serves all of Huron County. The towns that are within the school's catchment area include Clinton, Goderich, Seaforth, Bayfield, Exeter, Wingham, Blyth, Hensall, Grand Bend, Zurich and Brussels.

St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School was built in 1995 with an enrolment of 139 students - in 2010 the enrolment stood at 600 students. The school is a dual track school that offers a distinctively Catholic and faith-based English speaking program of study as well as a French Immersion program.

We have programs that meet the needs of students that are studying at every level. We pride ourselves on our commitment to a faith-centred learning environment with a commitment to superior standards for all of our programs in a safe and welcoming school.

Office Hours Monday to Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Meet those that will help you find your way:



Jodi Kuran
Principal



Lina Cupido
Vice-Principal



Bonnie Grace
Special Education



Bill Whalen
Student Success



Lisa Phillips
Chaplain

353 Ontario Street, P.O. Box 490
Clinton, ON N0M 1L0
Phone: (519) 482-5454

Principal: Jodi Kuran
Vice-Principal: Lina Cupido
<http://sacss.hpccsb.edu.on.ca/>

Know Yourself Learn about your skills, interests and abilities.

Explore Opportunities Learn about a variety of occupations. Search specific occupations related to the different pathway destinations after high school: Apprenticeship, College, Community, University or Work.

Build Pathways Begin with your destination in mind and plan your individual path. Use the Pathway Planner to help discover your combination of courses.

Get Experience Learn about a variety of opportunities, programs and supports that will enhance your career planning. Talk to your high school's guidance counsellor about these opportunities.



Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board
87 Mill St., Dublin ON N0K 1E0
Telephone: (519) 345-2440 or 1-800-265-8508
www.huronperthcatholic.ca