

## Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

School Year: 2009-2010

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### School Community Information

**Principal:** Dan Howard  
**Vice Principal:** Nick Vecchio  
**Head Secretary:** Judy Farr  
**School Council Chair:** DoraLynn Melnik

**Parish Information:**  
All Saints, Strathroy  
St. Charles Brenier, Glencoe  
Sacred Heart, Parkhill  
Sacred Heart, Delaware

**Feeder Schools:**  
Our Lady Immaculate, Strathroy  
St. Vincent de Paul, Strathroy  
St. Charles, Glencoe  
Sacred Heart, Parkhill  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Delaware

**School Superintendent:** Sharon Wright-Evans  
**School Trustee:** Anne Kavelaars  
**Director of Education:** Wilma de Rond

### Quick Facts About Our School

**School Hours:** 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Grade Distribution:** 9 to 12  
**Student Enrolment:** 602  
**Motto:** Fortis in Concordia (Together we are stronger.)  
**Team Name:** Centurions  
**School Colours:** Black, White and Gold



## About our School

### **Description**

Holy Cross was opened in September 2002. It was the first Catholic Secondary School in Western Middlesex County. The school opened with a student population of 126 students in Grades 9 and 10. The school added Grade 11 in 2003 and Grade 12 in 2004.

Holy Cross is unique to the LDCSB in that it is part of shared community complex partnered with the Thames Valley District School Board and the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc. HCC and complex partner Strathroy District Collegiate Institute (SDCI – population 1350 students) have a positive and creative relationship that is appreciated in the local community.

### **Mission Statement**

To celebrate and serve in a Christ-like way, the diverse and unique gifts of the Holy Cross Catholic community by nurturing an inclusive, welcoming and loving spirit as we learn and grow in our journey of faith with God.

### **Staffing Information**

As of September 2009, Holy Cross C.S.S. has a total of 36 full time teachers, including 8 Department Heads and Assistant Department Heads, and 5 part time teachers. The school also has a Librarian, a Chaplain, a Social Worker, 7 Educational Assistants, and 3.4 secretarial support staff members. Custodial staff is shared with SDCI under the direction of a facility manager. An on-site audio-visual technician and a computer technician service the day-to-day needs of a highly complex infrastructure.

### **Facilities**

Holy Cross is designed for a total population of 600 students. HCC shares some facilities with SDCI, such as the Cafeteria, Auditorium, outside playing fields and some specialized classrooms including Technology, Family Studies, Drama, Library and some Computer Labs.

### **Transportation Information**

Over 80% of our students are bussed to Holy Cross. The students share busses with students from SDCI. The routes are mainly within the Strathroy area. They also extend to our feeder schools in Glencoe, Parkhill, Delaware and Mt. Brydges. Lang's and McNaughton's bus companies are the providers of transportation for Holy Cross.

### **School Safety**

All students at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School follow the System Code of Conduct, which is outlined in our student agenda handbook. All parents and students sign an agreement form concerning these expectations during the registration process. As a progressive "small" secondary school, there is a positive and engaging school culture. Students are encouraged to discuss personal issues and resolve any concerns at an early stage to avoid serious problems in the future. Holy Cross students are in uniform, which provides a greater degree of safety at our school. The uniforms allow students to focus on what makes us similar rather than what makes us different. All emergency procedures have been carefully worked out in co-operation with the administration of SDCI and municipal authorities.

## Living our Faith

### Links to the Community

Holy Cross is closely linked to our various parishes within Middlesex County. Priests from the various parishes are encouraged to visit our school and share celebrations with our students and staff. All Saints Parish in Strathroy is the largest parish in our community. The Pastor from the church assists and celebrates masses with us on a regular basis. The Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League of Strathroy have assisted us during the building of our school. Our Chapel is the focal point of our school. Many members in our community assisted during the building of the chapel. This included donations of material, artifacts, and financial support. Our Co-operative Education program reaches out to our community with placements in local businesses and industry.

During the summer of 2008 a memorial Garden was built at Holy Cross C.S.S. This garden was made possible by donations from TD Friends of the Environment, the HCC School Council, the HCC staff, and the HCC Student Council.

## Programs and Services

### Curriculum Program

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School offers "big school" programming in a "small school" environment. Holy Cross has a full range of courses at all education levels.

### Co-Curricular Program

The school offers a wide variety of co-curricular activities for students. This includes a lunchtime Intramural program for all students of various talents, interests, and abilities. As a full member of the Thames Valley Regional Athletic Association, we compete at the Junior and Senior divisions. Teams include Boys and Girls Hockey, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Football, Cross Country and Track and Field. Other sports include Tennis, Badminton and Archery. We also have a variety of clubs, including Music, Drama, French, Knitting, Yearbook, Chess, Audio-Visual, Student Council, Anchors and Peer Helpers.

### School Events

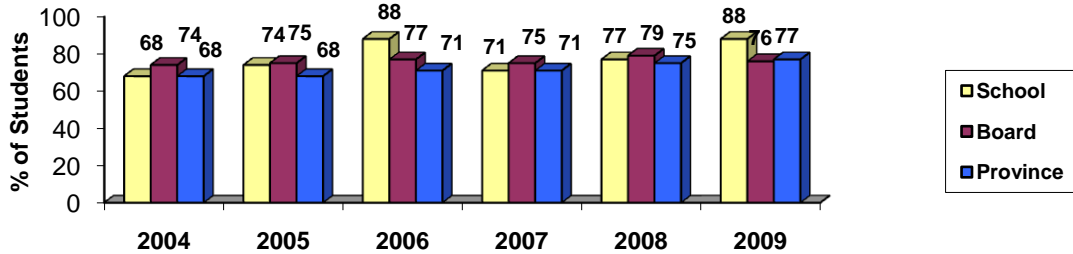
Throughout the year, our school has hosted several events that involve the entire community. These include Academic Awards, Graduation, Grade 9 Orientation evenings, regular masses and liturgies, and eight School Council meetings. We also conduct two Parent-teacher conference nights in October and March.

HCC has a strong relationship with its feeder schools, hosting the annual Terry Fox Run in September, and track competitions in the spring. Both these events regularly attract over 1,000 elementary students.

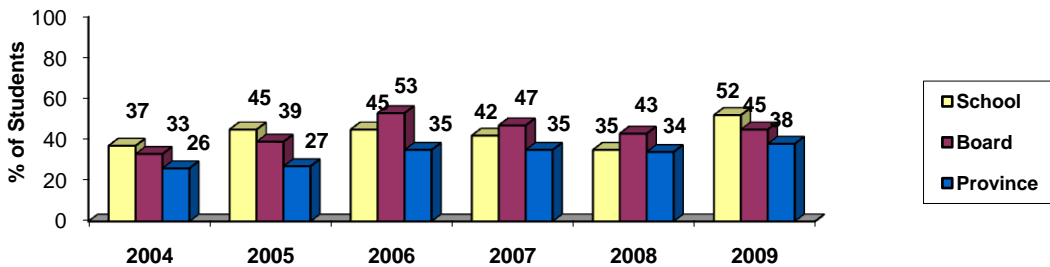
Our Catholic School Council is an incredibly active and dedicated group of parents, staff and students. In May of 2009 the school council hosted the first Annual Memorial Golf Tournament. This tournament was founded in memory of Daniel Medeiros, Jonathan Desa, and Mr. Paul Furfaro. The proceeds of the tournament have created two technology scholarships and have assisted with many other facets of the school.

## Results of Province-Wide Assessments

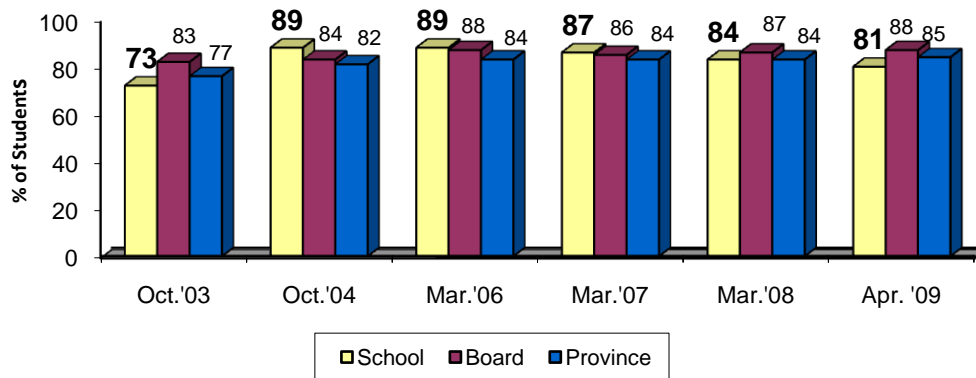
**Figure 1. Year-to-Year Comparisons for Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics - Academic Math (Percentage of students at Levels 3 and 4)**



**Figure 2. Year-to-Year Comparisons for Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics - Applied Math (Percentage of students at Levels 3 and 4)**



**Figure 3. Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Successful - Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students**



## Spotlight On Success

### GRADUATING STUDENT DESTINATIONS (%)

|           | UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE | WORK | OTHER |
|-----------|------------|---------|------|-------|
| 2008-2009 | 31 %       | 42%     | 26%  | 0     |

### STUDENTS LEAVING WITHOUT AN OSSD (%)

|           | WITHIN BOARD | OTHER BOARDS | WORK | OTHER |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|------|-------|
| 2008-2009 | N/A          | N/A          | N/A  | N/A   |

### AVERAGE CREDIT ACCUMULATION BY THE END OF EACH YEAR

|           | YEAR 1 | YEAR 2 | YEAR 3 | YEAR 4 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2008-2009 | 99.2%  | 99.1%  | 99.4%  | 98.3%  |

## School Improvement Planning 2009-2010

The achievement of children and the professional growth of our school communities are directly linked to a school improvement plan that proceeds with precision and focus. The London District Catholic School Board is committed to fostering excellence in achievement through informed understanding and practice with the dynamic objectives that are identified in the School Improvement Plan.

Throughout the school year, our school team will establish goals in the School Improvement Plan that integrate student achievement data, EQAO assessments, report cards and other relevant assessments. The School Improvement Plan will outline our priority goals, strategies and success indicators towards improving student learning and achievement from the coming school year.

Please note that the School Improvement Plan for 2009-2010 will be posted on our school website for your information and consideration. You are most welcome to view all of our documentation at [www.centurions.ca](http://www.centurions.ca).

