



SCHOOL PROFILE

Mission of the London District Catholic School Board

To serve the Catholic student of London District in a community that nurtures a living faith and provides a quality Catholic education that enables the individual to become a contributing member of the Church and Society.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

School Year: 2009-2010

Address: 1360 Oxford Street West
London, Ontario
N6H 1W2

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E-mail: p.digby@ldcsb.on.ca

Website: www.ldcsb.on.ca/schools/sta



School Community Information

Principal: Paul Digby

Vice Principals: John Milne
Linda Thomas

Head Secretary: Catrina Thomas

School Council Chair: Linda Weir

Parish Information: St. Georges Parish
Holy Family

Feeder Schools:

St. Geroges	St. Paul
Our Lady of Lourdes	Jean Vanier
Notre Dame	St. Theresa

School Superintendent: Sharon Wright-Evans

School Trustee: John Ferris

Director of Education: Wilma de Rond

Quick Facts About Our School

School Hours: 8:00am-2:05pm

Grade Distribution:

Grade 9 -	309
Grade 10 -	322
Grade 11 -	338
Grade 12 -	413

Student Enrolment: 1382



About our School

Description

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School is located in the north-west sector of London, Ontario, adjacent to a popular subdivision known as “Byron”. The school was built with the expectation that it would house 945 (“on the ground”) students. Its peak capacity hit approximately 1800 students (in the late 1990’s), and has since subsided to 1300 students – about 133% of its capacity. The school is well known throughout South-Western Ontario as a school with a proud tradition of strong academic focus, tremendous athletic successes, and magnificent artistic performances and programmes, all embedded within a community that celebrates its Catholic faith first

Mission Statement

“We the staff of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School will provide a Catholic Learning Environment in the service of Christ, which promotes the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth of each student in partnership with parents, the church, and the global community.

Staffing Information

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School employs 115 people. This includes a Principal, 2 Vice-Principals, 13 Department Heads and a Secretarial compliment of 7 people. We also employ a full time Chaplain, Librarian, Commissionaire, as well as a full compliment of Educational Assistants, we also employ a part time Computer Support Technician, Media Technicians, Social Worker and Community Resource Officer. Our teacher to student ratio is 22:1.

Facilities

St. Thomas Aquinas was built in 1994. The school building constitutes 152, 314.31sq.ft., and the site encompasses 8.180 hectares. Due to overcrowding, there are 8 Port-a-Pak rooms, and 6 portables on site. The school has a double gym, fitness room, televisions wired into every classroom, and an indoor track.

Transportation Information

Approximately 65% of our students are registered as school bus riders. Students living more than 3.2 kilometers from the school, and living within the school boundary, are eligible for Board-sponsored bussing.

School Safety

St. Thomas Aquinas has a uniform policy, and a strict local Code of Conduct. The school also has a Commissionaire, in addition to two vice-principals. Presently, the Catholic School Council is spearheading an initiative in hope of upgrading its security video system. Supports for STA’s strong commitment to nurturing and maintaining a safe community include a CrimeStopper’s programme, Safe Schools Committee, present suspension programme aimed at deterrence, part-time Nurse and Social Worker assignments, Chaplain, and three Guidance Counsellors.

Living our Faith

Links to the Community

The Chaplaincy programme supplies the greatest link with our community. Students regularly attend the London Food Bank to assist in their mission. Our “Coats of Kids” programme has assisted in providing warm clothing for the poor children in our city. Our “Angel Campaign” provided many gifts for our community’s needy families. Our commitment to Share Lent is significant: our school is raising funds for the “Canadian Food Grains Project” to help the poor overseas, as well as the “Hamburgers for Haiti” fundraiser each spring. Our entire community works diligently to help the marginalized in the society. The fact that our school works so hard to assist those in need, certainly proves that they are active messengers of Christ and have love for us all! Our students and staff deserve to feel proud of their efforts.

Programs and Services

Curriculum Program

St. Thomas Aquinas offers wonderful system programmes, such as “FNN”, or “Flames News Network”. Students involved in this media programme produce a 15 minute programme televised throughout the school every two weeks. A new Co-op programme at STA focuses on two areas of permanent study and need – Health Sciences and Engineering. This Co-op has met with tremendous successes. STA’s Tech Theatre programme also provides significant support for our school shows. STA has more than 400 up-to-date computers available for student use, and an effective resource Centre for their use.

Co-Curricular Program

St. Thomas Aquinas is known throughout the Province as a top-notch school for both athletics and artistic accomplishments. Our athletic program offers a wide range of sports for male and female. These include:

Fall Season

Jr. Football
Sr. Football
Jr. Basketball
Sr. Basketball
Jr. Volleyball
Sr. Volleyball
Cross Country
Golf

Winter Season

Curling
Jr. Basketball
Sr. Basketball
Jr. Volleyball
Sr. Volleyball
Girls Hockey
Boys Sr. Hockey
Wrestling
Swimming

Spring Season

Jr. Badminton
Sr. Badminton
Jr. Hockey
Girls Soccer
Boys Soccer
Track and Field
Golf
Tennis
Baseball – Girls & Boys
Mountain Biking Club

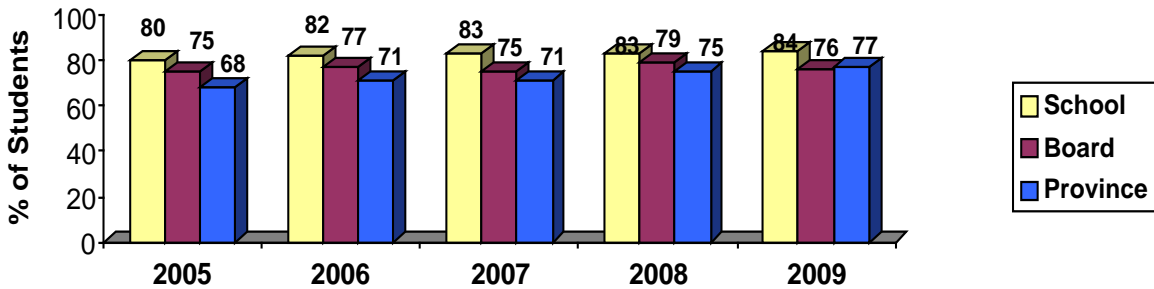
School Events

There are a wide variety of opportunities available to incoming students interested in the Arts. STA offers courses from Grade Nine to Twelve in all three Arts – Dramatic Arts, Visual Arts, and Instrumental Music. In addition to the regular stream, each Arts area offers additional diversity. Visual Arts offers a Grade Twelve course in Photography, while Dramatic Arts offers a two-credit course at both the Grade Eleven and Twelve levels in Technical Theatre. Music students can opt for Vocal Music at the Grade Ten level and up, or for two specialty courses at the Grade Eleven and Twelve level – Stage Band and Vocal Jazz. Admission to the Tech Theatre, Stage Band and Vocal Jazz courses requires an audition and /or interview with the instructor, as they are courses which require both ability and dedication.

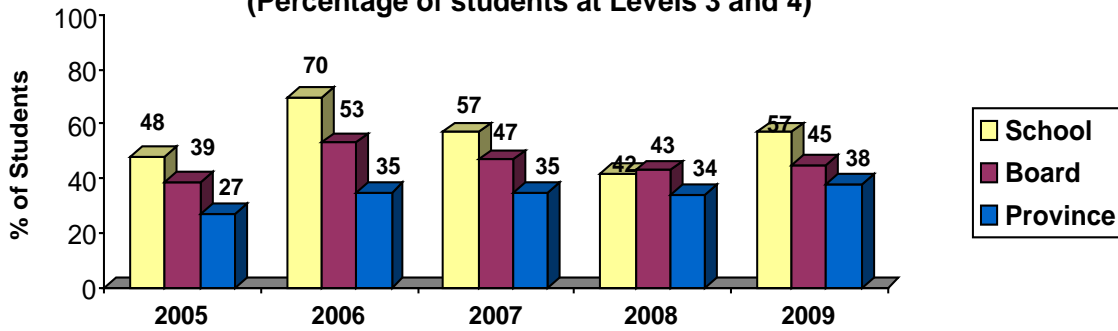
In addition to our course offerings, we take pride in our eclectic and high quality extracurricular programs. Each fall, the Arts Department produces a Broadway-style play or musical, with student cast, orchestra, and crew. In fact, it is students in the Technical Theatre class who both build the set and crew the show. In the spring, we produce ‘Cabaret’ – a two-evening variety show of student talent, and at various other times run Entertainment Assemblies, Music Nights, Lunchapaloozas (noon-hour rock shows featuring STA students), and a Battle of the Bands. The Music Department runs three extracurricular Concert Bands, a Vocal Jazz Ensemble and a Jazz Band. Students involved in these ensembles perform at Music Festivals, elementary schools, and take an annual trip to destinations as varied as New York, Montreal, and camping on the Bruce Peninsula. It is our hope to involve every STA student as a student, performer, or an audience member in one of our programs or productions.

Results of Province-Wide Assessments

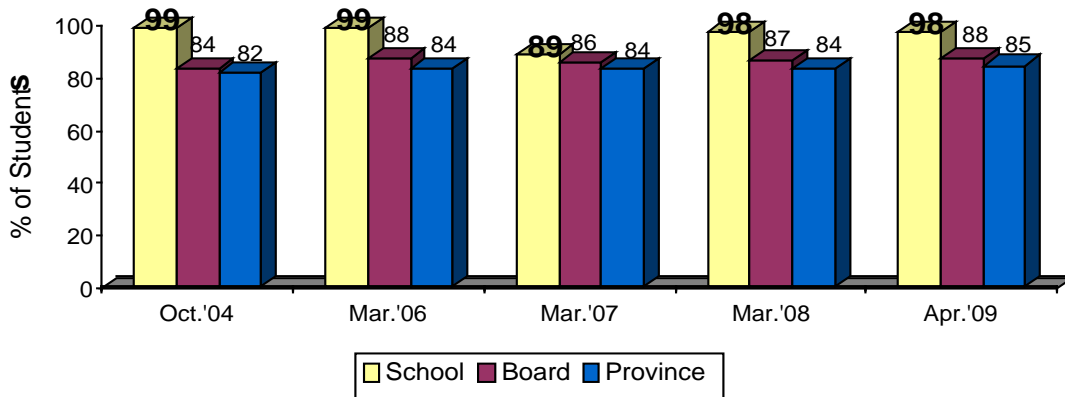
**Figure 1. Year-to-Year Comparisons for Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics - Academic Math
(Percentage of students at Levels 3 and 4)**



**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	57%	30%	12	%

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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

School Improvement Planning 2009-2010

Smart Goal(s)

Catholic Faith, Community & Culture – To incorporate, Catholic Graduate Expectations into all curriculum, including the revised Field Trip Policy

Literacy – To improve the success rate of grade 10 English students at the applied level by 2% at the end of each semester.

Numeracy – To reduce the student failure rate in Mathematics from 7% to 5% by June 2010.

Pathways – Increase the number of students enrolled in Apprenticeship programs/Cooperative Education by 10% for 2009-2010.

