



# 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: 2010-2011

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### School Community Information

**Principal:** Linda Thomas

**Vice Principals:** John Milne  
Diana Van Bommel

**Head Secretary:** Catrina Thomas

**School Council Chair:** Marjorie Braatz

**Parish Information:** St. Georges Parish  
Holy Family

**Feeder Schools:**

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| St. Georges         | St. Paul    |
| Our Lady of Lourdes | Jean Vanier |
| Notre Dame          | St. Theresa |

**School Superintendent:** Sharon Wright-Evans

**School Trustee:** Linda Steel

**Director of Education:** Wilma de Rond

### Quick Facts About Our School

**School Hours:** 8:00am-2:10pm

**Grade Distribution:**

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Grade 9 -  | 293 |
| Grade 10 - | 302 |
| Grade 11 - | 304 |
| Grade 12 - | 362 |

**Student Enrolment:** 1261



## 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 and foremost.

### **Mission Statement**

“We the staff of the 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 152,314.31 sq. 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 school community include a CrimeStopper’s programme, Safe Schools Committee, pre-set 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, Lunchpaloozas (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.