stccs secondary

ST THOMAS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL | INFORMATION PACKAGE



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we know that "brand new" feeling

'New' is a wonderful, unsettling thing. As a parent, it can bring a hundred different thoughts and emotions at once. You might find yourself wondering how much this decision will matter in the long run and whether choosing the right high school will shape your child's future in ways you can't yet see.

You may feel excited for what's ahead, while at the same time wishing you could hold on just a little longer to what is familiar, known, and comfortable.

And underneath it all, there can be that quiet question: *What's next?*
What will these years look like for my child? Will they find their place? Will they grow into who God is calling them to be?

We understand that tension. We've walked with many families who have stood right where you are now.

Welcome to our discipleship-focused high school.

This is something new for your child, and for you. It's new people, new challenges, and a new way of learning. It's a lot of new, but it's *new with purpose*.

We want to walk alongside your family as you prepare your child to follow the Lord wherever He calls. We are committed to helping them discover their gifts and talents, to challenging them toward excellence, and to creating an environment where they can grow and thrive spiritually, academically, and socially.

Our desire is that, over these years, you will see your child gain confidence, deepen their faith, and step into the person God has created them to be.

Here are our commitments to you as parents:

1. Our high school will provide Christ-centred education that is fiercely committed to sharing the Gospel with our students, and to students finding their place in God's grand Biblical story.

2. We are committed to maintaining an extremely high level of excellence in all educational programming.

3. We are fully accredited with the Ministry of Education and offer our students an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and access to all post-secondary options.

To God be the glory in all of this 'new.'



high school, reimagined

We have designed our high school model with a clear purpose: to prepare students for life after high school, while creating space for strong, meaningful relationships with their teachers.

As a parent, you may be wondering what this kind of learning really looks like and whether your child will have the structure, support, and guidance they need to succeed. It's a fair question. Our blend of teacher-led and self-directed time can sound like a lot of responsibility for a teenager. But at its core, this model is not about leaving students on their own - most of the week is spent in teacher-led classes. This is where new concepts are taught, questions are worked through, and students are guided step by step in their learning. Alongside this, students are given scheduled self-directed blocks (SD blocks) throughout the week to support their understanding of concepts and ideas taught to them during their teacher-led classes.

Each morning, your child will begin the day by connecting with their small group for a time of Bible study, prayer, and accountability. This daily rhythm helps ground students before they step into their learning and creates a consistent space where they are known and supported.

This time also serves as a practical starting point for the day. Students receive important updates, hear from their teachers, and are given the direction they need for their coursework. From there, students will create a plan for their scheduled self-directed blocks and review it with a Teacher Advisor before getting started. With guidance and support, they learn how to set priorities, manage their time well, and take meaningful ownership of their learning.

Within an SD period, students take responsibility for managing their time, but they are not alone:

hello, **Teacher Advisors**.

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so, what are Teacher Advisors?

Each day begins with a 40-minute Teacher Advisory (T.A.) class, which is central to our discipleship model. We begin in God's Word and create space for meaningful connection with peers, helping students start their day grounded and focused.

T.A. classes include students from Grades 9 through 12, giving younger students the opportunity to be encouraged and mentored, while older students grow in confidence and leadership as they support those coming behind them. Students pray together, share life experiences, and build relationships that help them navigate their high school years with wisdom and support.

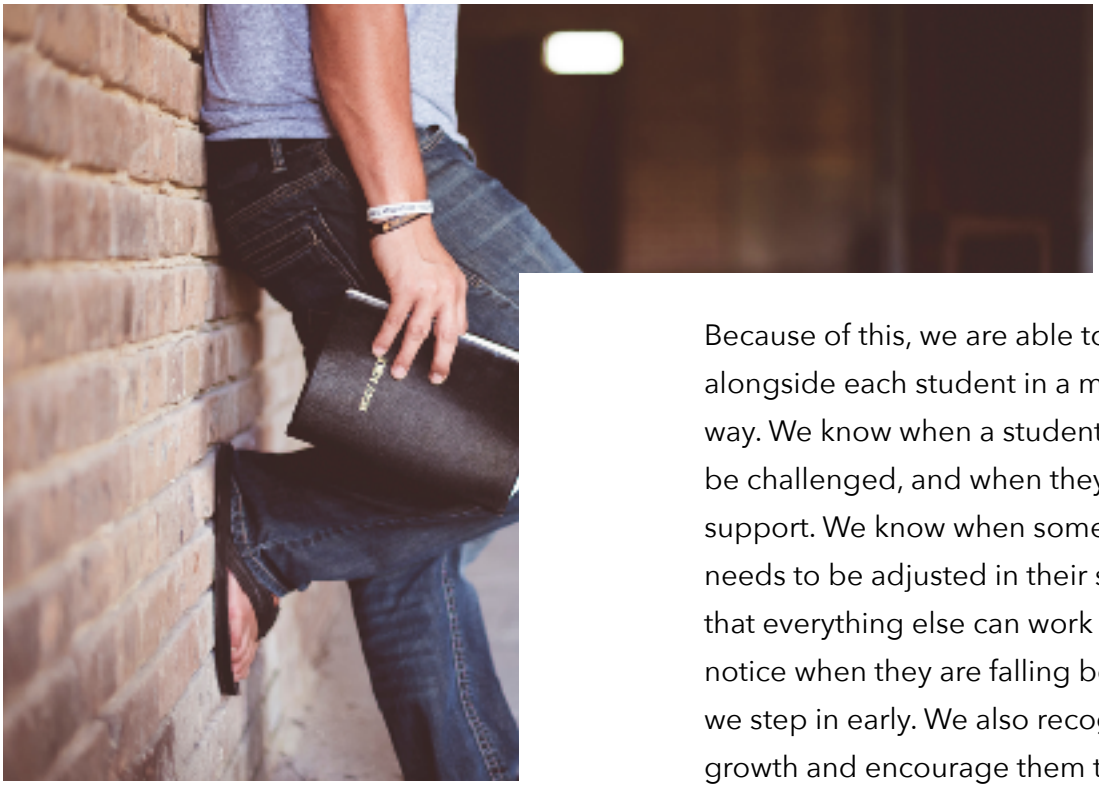
We aim to keep students with the same Teacher Advisor throughout their four years of high school. This continuity allows relationships to deepen over time, creating lasting bonds among students and between students and staff. Each year, the group welcomes new Grade 9 students and celebrates its graduating members, building a sense of belonging that carries through the high school experience.

This time is also an important academic checkpoint. Students work with their Teacher Advisor to assess their progress, identify any areas of concern, and set clear goals for the days ahead. Because teachers stay closely connected to course instructors and grade books, they are able to monitor grades, track completed work, and help students stay on top of assignments while developing strong time-management habits.

Just as importantly, T.A. creates space for teachers to truly know each student. Our staff wants to understand what makes your child tick - whether that's which NHL team they're cheering for, or who their favourite author is. Getting to know students as people, not just as learners, is a meaningful part of who we are as a school.

As Paul instructed the church in Corinth, our T.A. invitation is clear: 'Follow me as I follow Christ…'

1 Corinthians 11:1



discipleship. because this world is not our home

When you hear the word *discipleship*, you might immediately think of Bible classes, Scripture memory, or growing in faith. And while those things are deeply important to us, discipleship at STCCS is much more than that.

It means your child is not just another student moving through a system, but a person who is understood, supported, and guided with intention. It means we take the time to truly know who they are. We learn what excites them, what discourages them, and where they feel most confident.

We pay attention to how they learn best, where they struggle, and what they need in order to succeed.

Because of this, we are able to walk alongside each student in a meaningful way. We know when a student needs to be challenged, and when they need support. We know when something needs to be adjusted in their schedule so that everything else can work well. We notice when they are falling behind, and we step in early. We also recognize their growth and encourage them to keep going.

Discipleship also means relationship.

Our students are known not just by one teacher, but by our entire staff. With a smaller student body, every student has multiple staff members who are invested in them. This creates a community where students feel safe, supported, and seen. It is not uncommon for students to open up about what is going on in their lives, because those relationships have been built on trust, consistency, and care.

And yes, discipleship also means pointing students to Christ. We open God's Word together. We pray together. We encourage students to grow in their faith and to understand who they are in Him.

But we believe discipleship is not just something that happens in a Bible lesson. It is woven into every conversation, every class, and every moment of the day.

why is self-directed time important?



Our self-directed blocks are designed to support discipleship and prepare students for life after high school.

Self-directed (SD) time is built into each course, accounting for approximately one-third of its mandated 110 hours, with teacher-led instruction making up the remaining two-thirds. It does not add extra class time; it shapes how the course's required hours are used.

Self-directed time creates something that is often hard to find in a traditional schedule: space. Space for a teacher to sit down with a student, talk through a challenge, ask good questions, and really listen. Without the pressure of moving through a lesson, these are often the moments where trust is built and students feel most known and supported. This is where the relationship piece of discipleship has room to grow.

It also helps students develop the soft skills they will rely on after graduation. Both students who are excelling and those who need extra support benefit from the structure and flexibility of a model that blends teacher-led instruction with self-directed learning.

For high-achieving students, self-directed time removes the ceiling. They are not held to the pace of their peers. They have the freedom to move ahead, set ambitious goals, and push themselves further. It creates space for growth, challenge, and ownership at a level that matches their ability.

For students who find school more difficult, self-directed time is not a disadvantage. In many ways, it is exactly what they need. If a student struggles with focus, time management, or completing work on time, the goal is not to avoid those challenges, but to address them. High school is the place to build those habits, not after graduation when the stakes are higher and the support is lower.

Within our model, students are never left on their own. They are guided, supported, and held accountable. They learn how to plan their time, make wise decisions, and follow through on their responsibilities, all with the consistent presence of our teaching staff, who know them well.

Our blend of teacher-led instruction and self-directed time doesn't just serve one style of learning. It serves all students and prepares them for what comes next.

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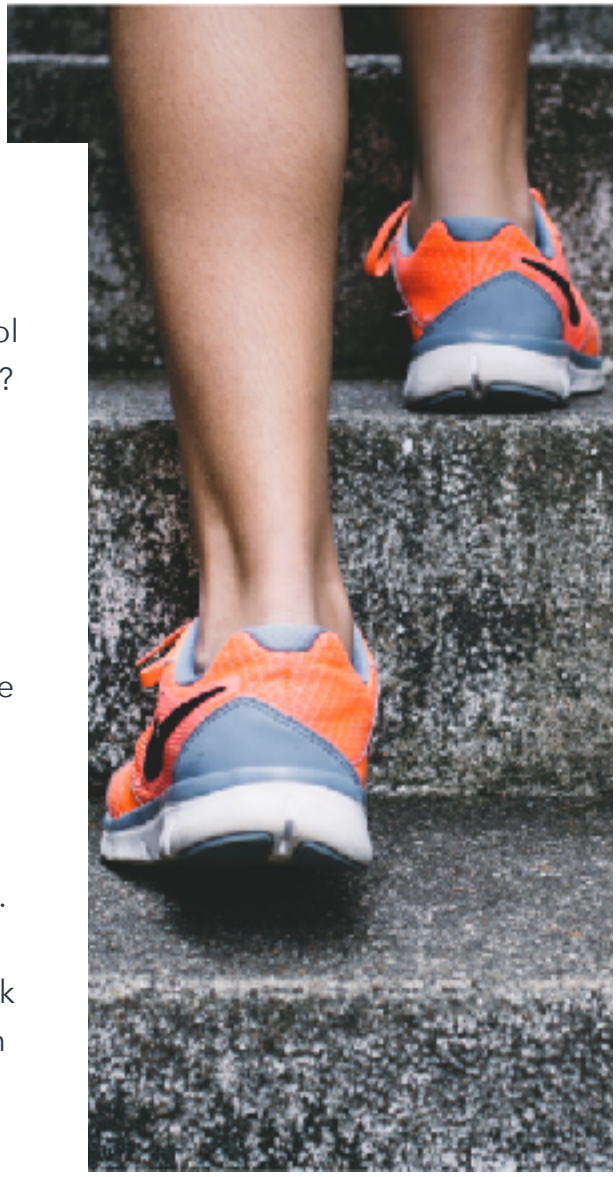
talk about extra



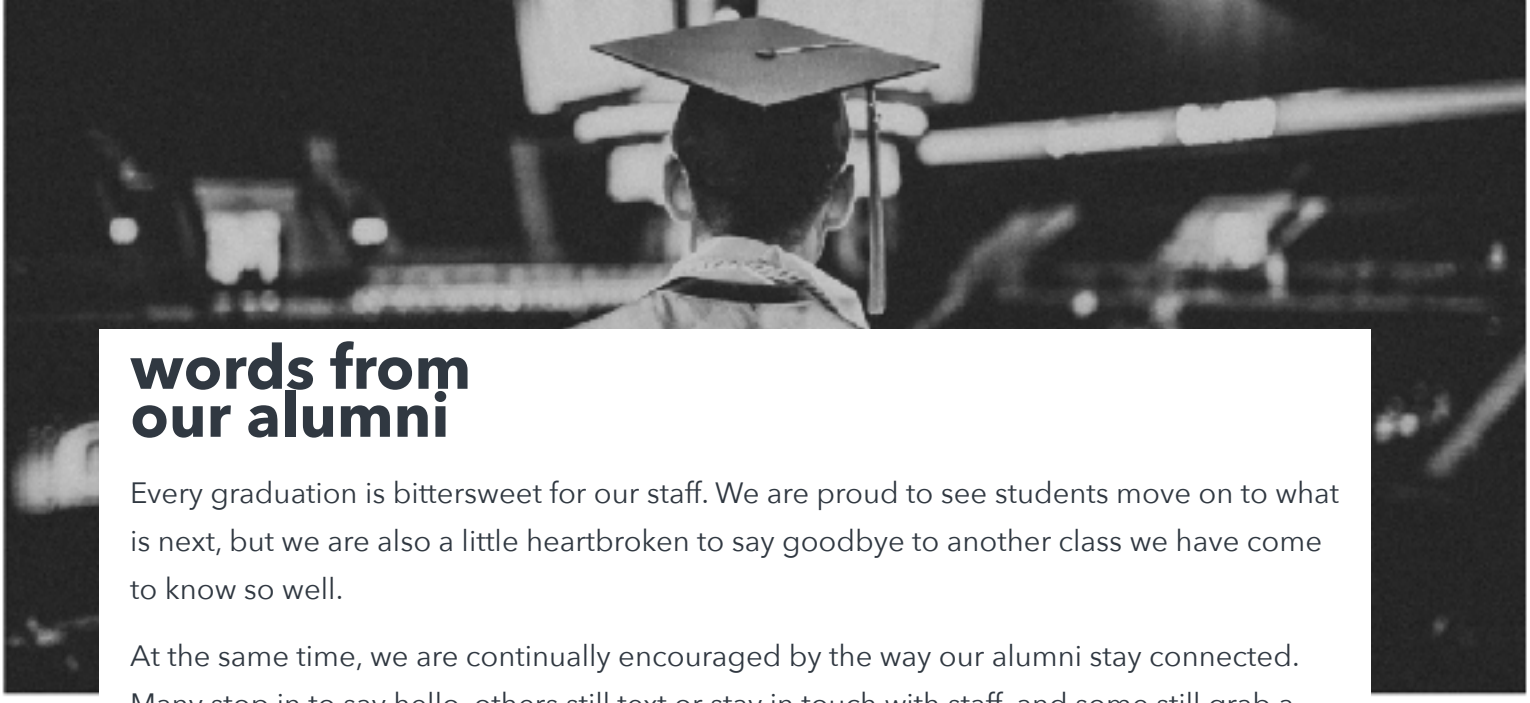
So we've talked about their school day, but what about all the extras?

We want every student to find opportunities that interest them, whether that means joining the basketball team, worship team, chess club, or bringing us an outside-the-box idea. We promise to listen.

Our high school has started a variety of clubs and teams based on our current students' interests. Over the last few years, a flag football team popped up, a shrink art club was formed, and a javelin was purchased. We want to hear from our students and help them follow their passions.

We also have an active student council that plans spirit days, T.A. activities and our large events like the winter banquet and prom.

So that's the concept across all areas - we want to help our students discover their passions, and then be intentional about creating the opportunities they need to grow. Drama, music, photography, robotics, sports, service trips: you name it, we can help launch it!



words from our alumni

Every graduation is bittersweet for our staff. We are proud to see students move on to what is next, but we are also a little heartbroken to say goodbye to another class we have come to know so well.

At the same time, we are continually encouraged by the way our alumni stay connected. Many stop in to say hello, others still text or stay in touch with staff, and some still grab a coffee with their T.A. teachers to share life updates.

These ongoing relationships are one of our greatest joys.

We can describe our school in many ways, but we believe the most honest and meaningful testimony comes from the students who have experienced it firsthand. The words that follow come from those who have lived it.

"STCCS created an environment where I learned discipline, accountability, and developed time management skills. I grew stronger in my faith at STCCS, and practiced leaning on God in all aspects of my life. The relationships I built there keep me connected to the community that shaped me, and continue to encourage me as I navigate my studies at UWO. The habits, and strong foundation have helped me persevere through the demands of the Medical Sciences program."

-Ethan, Class of 2024

"STCCS didn't just prepare me for the next step; it taught me how to show up with discipline, accountability, and faith every single day. The teachers here invested in me as a whole person, not just a student. I still lean on the habits and values I built here into my day-to-day life. "

-Harrison, Class of 2024

"At STCCS I appreciated how we learned important study habits like organizing school work in T.A., which helped me create strong time management skills moving into University. I am also deeply grateful for how supportive the teachers at STCCS were towards me. I always felt that they wanted me to succeed, and that they did their absolute best to make me feel seen and heard. They truly set a Christian example, and the opportunity to be discipled by the teachers throughout high school has had a positive lasting impact on my faith.

-Eden, Class of 2024

"I didn't realize how well STCCS prepared me for college in regard to SD. My two hour block between classes, in my head, means SD time. All my work is prioritized and done on time. I find a spot and get to work. So many friends in my college program are struggling with how to manage their time, and are near failing."

-Reeve, Class of 2025

"I can't begin to express how grateful I am for the care I had experienced throughout my four years of high school. The amount of love that has been poured into me through this community is so incredible. STCCS's mission statement is "to know and serve every student", and they've stood true to that in every moment. STCCS prepared me for the responsibility of a university-style workload, especially allowing me to exercise autonomous work and discover how I study effectively. I am able to keep up with a busy schedule in UWO Medical Sciences and frequently use the strategies I developed in high school to work efficiently and successfully."

-Emily, Class of 2025



so now what?

At this point, we encourage you to take some time, talk it over as a family, and pray about September.

You may be ready to move ahead with registration and course selection, or you may want to sit down with us for a conversation before making your final decision. Either way, we are here to help.

We understand that this is a lot of information to take in. If you have questions, or if anything needs clarification, we would be more than happy to connect with you. Our goal is to support you well as you make decisions for the year ahead.

Questions? Email info@stthomaschristian.org to connect with us, or to schedule an appointment to meet together.

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Eph. 3:14-19