

stccs *
secondary

ST THOMAS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL | INFORMATION PACKAGE



we know that "brand new" feeling *

'New' is a wonderful, confusing thing. It can bring out a hundred different feelings at once. In some ways, you might be thinking you were ready for something *new* about seven months ago - like you're standing on the sidelines, waiting to get into the game. But at the same time, it feels like you're trying desperately to hold on to everything familiar - known - comfortable. We hear you.

Welcome to our high school. This is something new, a change from what you're used to. It's new people, a new location, a new design: it's a lot of new - but it's 'new' with a purpose.

We want to walk with you to help prepare you to follow the Lord wherever He calls you. We're going to help you discover your gifts and talents. We're going to challenge you to reach new heights of academic excellence. We want you to surprise yourself, and we want to see you thrive spiritually, academically, and socially as you

navigate this new chapter in your life. We are committed to serving you with a high school education that gives you opportunities to pursue your gifts and passions, and to follow God's calling wherever He leads.

We're launching our first Grade 9/10 class this September, 2019. This is our 'new,' and we couldn't be happier to share it with you.

You should know - this is the real deal. Here are our commitments to you and your parents:




1. Our high school will be a Christian endeavour that is fiercely committed to sharing the Gospel with our students.
2. We are committed to maintaining an extremely high level of excellence in all educational programming.
3. We are committed to acquiring full accreditation with the Ministry of Education in order to 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 *

Our Discipleship Model is our way of reinventing high school. Following the example of Christ - the Ultimate Teacher - we're setting up our school to allow lots of time to get connected. We're going to work in smaller groups, with independent modules and creative assignments tailored to your skills and interests. Whole-class seminars will take place weekly, but you'll have a lot of time to direct your learning. Here's how it works. 

Every morning, you'll meet with your small group for Bible study, accountability, and prayer. This daily meeting will also be your spot to receive information from your different course leaders, feedback from instructors, and any special announcements you'll need. From there, you'll set up a plan for your day, run it by your Teacher Advisor for feedback, and then jump right in.

So just for fun, let's say it's a sleepy Tuesday morning. Not sure you can dive right into Math? Not a problem. Since you set up your schedule each day, you have the freedom to start where you can thrive. Maybe that means heading to the Gym to workout, or maybe that means scheduling an appointment with a teacher to tackle a tough concept: you set your priorities and you schedule your day around those goals. No bells dictate when you move from class to class - you're in charge - but you're not alone: hello, **accountability**.

so, what is accountability?

We've all been there. We set a goal, jump in with gusto, and find ourselves suddenly distracted - off-track, with no idea how it happened. That's where our Teacher Advisors (T.A.) come in again.

📌 Once a week, you're going to sit down for an individual meeting with your T.A. to get real about where you're at. You'll work together to assess your progress, identify any areas of concern, and set academic checkpoints for your upcoming week. Your T.A. is constantly connected to all of your course instructors and mark books, so they'll see your grades, completed assignments, and how you've been spending your time.

Beyond your academic progress, your T.A. is going to prayerfully

support you in your spiritual growth as well.

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

1 Corinthians 11:1

Even though you'll have time to connect every day with your small group, these one-on-one times to meet each week are designed to give you a space to ask your hard questions, or share things that are too personal to share with a group. This is your chance to get real with your T.A., and to reach out for help for any situation you face - related to school and academics, or not! Our mission at STCCS is 'to know and serve every student, encouraging them to reach their God-given potential.' This weekly T.A. meeting is a tool to help us do just

that: to get to know you, and to serve you as you grow. But obviously we're not trying to serve you on our own...and that brings us to the parentals.


hello, parents *

The other amazing part of your weekly T.A. meetings is that your parents will get a quick heads-up 📌 about your progress. Now hold on - before you raise your eyebrows about weekly parent contact - please trust us on this one: this isn't about babysitting or tattling - it's about connecting with your **first** support team. We really believe that God gifted you with a family and parents on purpose, so we want to do everything we can to keep them in the loop!



But our citizenship
is in heaven , and we
eagerly await a
Saviour from there,
the Lord Jesus Christ.
Phil 3:20

discipleship* because this world is not our home

Brace yourself for something scary:
according to a multi-year Lifeway study,
almost 70% of students who profess to 
live for Jesus in their childhood walk
away from Him and the church between
the ages of 16 and 19. People, that
should make us sit up and pay attention!
Your teen years are HARD and there are
so many things vying for your attention!
We're reminded in Philippians 3 that
"..many live as enemies of the cross...
their mind is set on earthly things. But
our citizenship is in heaven and we
eagerly await a Saviour from there, the
Lord Jesus Christ." (Phil 3:18-20). So
we're not of this world - but it sure can be
a distraction while we wait for the return
of our Saviour. We want to wait with you,
equipping you to serve and stand right
where you are. We're going to be
intentional about helping you
understand God's plan for the world He
created, and your purpose and calling in
it. You'll have lots of opportunities to
serve and put your unique gifts to work.

talk about extra*

So your school day is going to be epic - but what about all the extras? Well, again, we are all about trying to serve you - so that means we're going to be able to train you really specifically in your areas of interest.

Let's say you're a basketball player: first of all, we're going to provide sport-specific training and workouts in your Phys. Ed class. Then, we're going to find you a community team that plays at a really high level so you actually improve your skills and have an opportunity to compete. We're talking about raising the bar here: this is about helping you achieve your absolute best. So we'll give you the tools you need, set you up with opportunities to practice, and then we're going to walk with you as you live out your faith in the context of your sport. Pretty cool.

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





future*

steps

High School is such a key time in your life, and so much of it is actually about moving forward.

📌 One of the most important parts of high school is discovering what God is calling you to do, and preparing you to move on to post-secondary options. We are committed to offering you the pre-requisites and experiences that you

need in order to thrive and succeed in your future. Not only are we offering you a typical Ontario Secondary School Diploma - we are going to customize your educational programming to help you get on your way. Interested in engineering? Let's start a Robotics Team. Aiming for a Music degree? We'll make sure you have an opportunity to try all aspects of the industry. You'll see that the education we offer is more about equipping you than completing a checklist.



quality*

matters

Something amazing about our high school is that we are starting from scratch. As we set up your workspaces, we're thinking BIG: digital microscopes, 3D printers, and shiny new technology are all part of our plan to serve you and prepare you to thrive as you move on to post-secondary studies. It's different, we know - but that just gives us space to really invest in you and your learning.

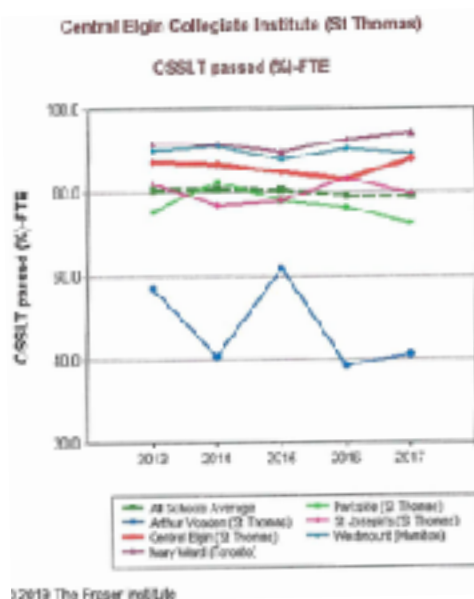
this is* different

Yes. Agreed, 100%. Like we said, we are reimagining high school. But the thing about us is that this isn't actually about being different: we did our homework and this is about serving you with our very best. Other high schools in Canada use a similar model, and their graduates are experiencing

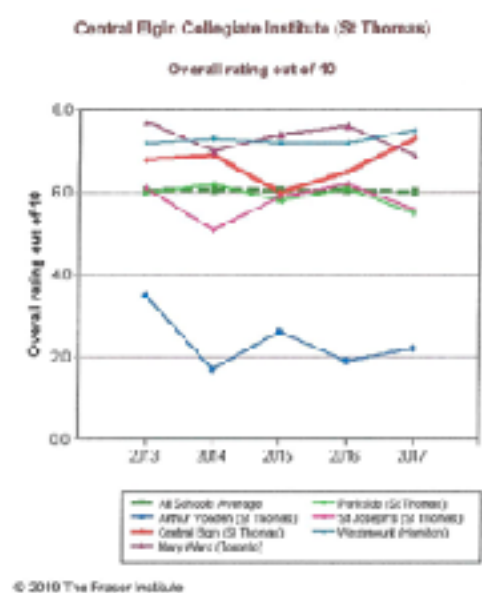
huge success. Their graduates are ready for University and the workforce with real-life skills.

The Fraser Institute reports that the two self-directed learning schools in Ontario are achieving higher overall academic standings than our local high schools. (See chart below) This 'different' is about pursuing your highest potential!

OSSLT - Literacy Test *



Overall Academic Standing *



so now * what?

Well, now you grab a snack, sit down with your parents, and pray about September! You might be itching for that registration form to choose your courses, or maybe you need to schedule a meeting to chat with us one-on-one. It's a lot of info to process, so we'd be happy to connect with you about this to answer any questions you might still have. We get it: this is one of those great-big-real-life decisions. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to

clarify your options or support you as you make your choices for September.

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

Registration forms are ready when you are! Until then, we're praying for you just like this:

"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

