

Accreditation School Profile

Calvin Christian School (Hamilton)

October • 2009

The boards of the Calvin Christian School and Canadian Hallmarks Institute (CHI) are pleased to publish this *Accreditation Profile* as a public service promoting independent faith-based education in the greater Hamilton area. The format of this profile follows CHI standards: The contents of this profile were developed using local information obtained as part of the successful accreditation review.

1. Mission:

The official mission of the school is:

... to assist parents by providing for each student a Bible-based elementary education in a supportive Christian classroom community that nurtures growth in knowledge, maturity and commitment to God for sharing in the life and work of His people in the world.

2. Governance:

Calvin Christian School is owned by the Calvin Christian School Society and operated on its behalf by an elected board of 13 directors. The Calvin Christian School Society is a registered charity (#118825900RR0001) and membership in the society is open to all adults who meet the criteria.

3. Community Demographics of School

- a) The families supporting Calvin Christian School come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. Over 60 different occupations are represented as well as a large economic range, from needy to wealthy families.
- b) The general statistics for Hamilton County taken from Stats Canada Reports (2005), which provide the following:
 - Average (full-time income all families) \$55,312
 - Average (income single/parent families) \$26,492

4. Admission Policies for Students

- a) The Calvin Christian School (Hamilton) Board has adopted a policy of non-discrimination in support of the Ontario Human Rights Code. In promoting its distinctive Christian character, the policy requires that students should:
 - be able to benefit from the programs offered and that parents should
 - declare their (his/her) support of the school's religious identity as evident in official documents.
- b) The student body is 95% composed of Canadian citizens.

5. Faculty

- a) Calvin Christian School has 16 full-time and 9 part-time teaching staff, 65% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate, 100% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 65% hold both the Ontario Teacher's Certificate and the Christian Teacher's Certificate.
- b) The average teaching experience of the staff is 18 years (full time equivalent). The board requires an annual program of professional development for all teachers.
- c) The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is 22:1 for 2009/10.

6. Student Achievement

Calvin Christian School has a student body of 473 and a complete JK-8 (pre-school program also on-site) program. The faculty follows a defined evaluation program to monitor the academic and social progress of each student.

- a) Basic Skills - The school participates in the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS) student assessment program on an annual basis. In 2008, Grades 3 - 8 participated in the Canadian Tests of Basic Skills (CTBS) with outstanding results.

Calvin Christian School (Hamilton) CTBS Test Results, "2008" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	82	81	50
4	82	77	50
5	84	76	50
6	71	73	50
7	73	76	50
8	77	75	50

- b) Literacy Test from Province - The school does not participate in the elementary provincial tests sponsored by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) because of the fees levied on non-funded private schools by the EQAO as a cost of participation.

- c) Calvin Christian School graduates attend Hamilton District Christian High School, Bishop Tonnos CSS, St. Thomas More CSS, and Westmount SS where students score above average on the Provincial Literacy Test.
- d) Other significant awards given are Kiwanis Festival, Ancaster Fair, Science Fair, Healthy Living, Renaissance Award, Fine Arts, Gauss Math, Optimist Club Speech, Renaissance, Servant, Participation, Writer's and Athletic awards.

7. Programs of Study

- a) Calvin Christian School offers a complete range of academic programs for all eight grades. The curriculum follows the outline developed by the OACS. This design follows the official Ministry of Education curriculum in content requirements.
- b) The board and faculty are committed to the integration of Christian perspectives throughout the entire program of studies.
- c) Calvin Christian School has a special education resource program and a special needs program. It provides technological studies at many grade levels to ensure that students acquire computer literacy before graduation.

8. Finances

- a) Calvin Christian School obtains its income from several sources, notably:
 - 85.7% from tuition;
 - 2% from donations;
 - 0% from government grants;
 - 5.7% from fundraising events;
 - 6.6% other
- b) 2009/2010 Year the tuition rate was \$8,100/family rate. Jubilee School (JK) has its own tuition of \$1,900 for 2 full days/week for the school year.
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance in the form of tuition assistance depending on family needs.
- d) The official budget is approved each spring at a general membership meeting. The budget expenditures are as follows:

● education, salaries and benefits	81.7%
● transportation	3%
● facilities, operating	5.5%
● facilities capital & mortgage interest	4.8%
● program	3%
● other	2%

9. Membership

Calvin Christian School is part of a large family of schools known as the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS). This provincial organization provides general policy guidelines on all matters relevant to operating a school in Ontario. Calvin Christian School is also a member of Christian Schools Canada (CSC) and Christian Schools International (CSI). The school is registered as a private school with the Ontario Ministry of Education and submits annual reports as required by law.

10. Testimonials

The board has asked two parents to provide their opinion about the education provided at Calvin Christian School. They have agreed to submit the following statements and are willing to discuss them.

Having graduated three children from CCS, I could speak at length about the many things Calvin has to offer. CCS is an established, well-run school, with experienced, dedicated and qualified staff, great facilities, a positive atmosphere, a well-developed Christian curriculum, with a wide-range of activities. CCS is the complete package.

However, what has impressed me the most is how committed the school is to doing all this in a biblically-grounded, Christ-centered way. Calvin has remained focused on providing a solid Christian education, taught from the reformed perspective, that Jesus is Lord over all.

- Theo Boven

I sit here at the Calvin Christian School (Hamilton) annual walk/bike-a-thon writing my thoughts about the education at CCS and I see that even this event, although not in a classroom, is also part of our children's education. They are learning to participate in, take ownership of and contribute to their school in their own way. Awesome! What a fantastic community to be involved with—glory be to our Father!

As a student, I always loved CCS but it wasn't until I was a parent with the opportunity to enrol my own children did I realize why. Christ-centered education is seeping from every facet of the school. From the outstanding curriculum taught by believing, loving, impressively qualified staff to the many opportunities for students to participate on sports teams, fine arts festivals, band programs and concert band, Christmas and spring programs, battle of the books ... and the list goes on! Everything here at Calvin Christian School is carefully planned to educate all God's children in the ways of our Lord and prepare them for their life in the world.

None of this would be possible without the blessing and grace of our Lord who has provided the school community with extremely faithful, devoted and talented administrative personnel, staff, support staff and volunteers. I continuously praise God for these gifted people in whom we entrust our children to guide them, teach them, love them and help prepare them for a life of loving and living for Christ our Saviour.

- Esther Roukema

11. Contact Persons

For further information contact:

- Rob Vertesi Board Chair for the Society Information
- Ted Postma Principal for School Information

12. Public Information

Any member of the public is welcome to request a copy of the following documents:

- *Official Bylaws*
- *School Calendar*
- *Admission Policy*
- *Financial Statements*
- *Membership Policy*