

Accreditation School Profile

Chatham Christian School (Elementary)

November • 2009

The boards of Chatham 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 Chatham 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:

Providing Christ-centred learning in all areas of schooling for Christ-like service in all areas of life.

2. Governance:

Chatham Christian School is owned by the Calvin Christian School Society of Chatham and operated on its behalf by an elected board of 12 directors. The Calvin Christian School Society of Chatham is a registered charity (#106833312RR0001) and membership in the society is open to all adults who meet the criteria.

3. Community Demographics of School

- a) The families supporting Chatham Christian School come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. More than 20 different occupations are represented as well as a large economic range, from needy to wealthy families.
- b) The general statistics for Chatham-Kent County taken from Stats Canada Reports (2005), which provide the following:
 - Average (full-time income all families) \$63,388
 - Average (income single/parent families) \$33,436

4. Admission Policies for Students

- a) The Chatham Christian School 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 97% composed of Canadian citizens.

5. Faculty

- a) Chatham Christian School has 11 full-time and 13 part-time teaching staff, 80% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate, 75% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 50% hold both the Ontario Teacher's Certificate and the Christian Teacher's Certificate.
- b) The average teaching experience of the staff is 13 years (full time equivalent). The board requires an annual program of professional development for all teachers.
- c) The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is 20:1 for 2009/10.

6. Student Achievement

Chatham Christian School has a student body of 208 and a complete JK-8 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.

Chatham Christian School CTBS Test Results, "2008" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	83	81	50
4	81	77	50
5	71	76	50
6	73	73	50
7	74	76	50
8	65	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) Chatham Christian School graduates attend Chatham Christian High School as well as some local public and separate high schools where students score well on the Provincial Literacy Test.
- d) Other significant awards given are Governor Generals Award, Ontario Scholar Award.

7. Programs of Study

- a) Chatham 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) Chatham 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) Chatham Christian School obtains its income from several sources, notably:
 - 84% from tuition;
 - 11% from donations;
 - 0% from government grants;
 - 1% from fundraising events;
 - 4% other
- b) 2009/2010 Year the tuition rate was K = \$5000, K-8 = \$9240, family rate.
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance based on yearly family income.
- d) The official budget is approved each spring at a general membership meeting. The budget expenditures are as follows:

● education, salaries and benefits	71%
● transportation	6%
● facilities, operating	8.5%
● facilities capital & mortgage interest	3.5%
● program	4%
● administration	2%
● other	5%

9. Membership

Chatham 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. Chatham 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 Chatham Christian School. They have agreed to submit the following statements and are willing to discuss them.

As parents involved with Chatham Christian School for 9 years and currently having 3 children enrolled, we have experienced a dynamic Christian learning community of students, teachers and parents. Our children are receiving a high-quality education from a distinctly Christian perspective. The school fosters an environment which supports Christian values, reinforcing those taught at home. The staff is dedicated, caring and committed to the education of the students, while working in partnership with the parents. All of this we believe amounts to EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE!

-Suzanne & Rick Wiersma

Chatham Christian School is a genuine community, where parents and their children are united by their Christian walk. When I see test scores that are significantly above national averages, I know that students are receiving a first-rate education. Then there's Bible learning, which is equipping our children with a solid foundation upon which to base all knowledge and personal discipline. Combine those elements in a Christ-centred environment and I know we will produce young adults who are going to have a much better chance of doing Christ's work in an increasingly hostile world.

Bottom line: no school is perfect, but when our curriculum, governance and lifestyle is based on basic Christian values, I am completely confident that our children are getting the best possible preparation for beginning their adult lives.

-Andy Cornell

11. Contact Persons

For further information contact:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| ● Mr. John DeBoer | Board Chair for the Society Information |
| ● Mr. Phil Teeuwssen | Principal for School Information |
| ● Mrs. Linda Wolting | Admissions 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*