

Accreditation School Profile

Covenant Christian School (Smithville)

October • 2009

The boards of Covenant 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 Niagara 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:

Living for Jesus; Learning for Life; Serving with Gladness

2. Governance:

Covenant Christian School is owned by the Niagara Association for Christian Education and operated on its behalf by an elected board of 9 directors. The Niagara Association for Christian Education is a registered charity (#132521675RR0001) and membership in the society is open to all adults who meet the criteria.

3. Community Demographics of School

- a) The families supporting Covenant Christian School come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. A total of 115 different occupations are represented as well as a large economic range, from needy to wealthy families.
- b) The general statistics for Niagara County taken from Stats Canada Reports (2005), which provide the following:
 - Average (full-time income all families) \$64,965
 - Average (income single/parent families) \$36,745

4. Admission Policies for Students

- a) The Covenant 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 100% composed of Canadian citizens.

5. Faculty

- a) Covenant Christian School has 8 full-time and 5 part-time teaching staff, 77% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate, 77% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 62% hold both the Ontario Teacher's Certificate and the Christian Teacher's Certificate.
- b) The average teaching experience of the staff is 14 years (full time equivalent). The board requires an annual program of professional development for all teachers.
- c) The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is 19:1 for 2009/10.

6. Student Achievement

Covenant Christian School has a student body of 184 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.

Covenant Christian School CTBS Test Results, "2008" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	91	81	50
4	75	77	50
5	84	76	50
6	81	73	50
7	53	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) Covenant Christian School graduates attend Smithville District Christian High School where students score an average of 93% on the Provincial Literacy Test, South Lincoln High School where students score an average of 88% and Eden where students score an average of 95%.
- d) Other significant awards given are Principal's Plaque, Valedictorian's Award, and the Sunshine Award.

7. Programs of Study

- a) Covenant 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) Covenant 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) Covenant Christian School obtains its income from several sources, notably:
 - 89% from tuition;
 - 5% from donations;
 - 0% from government grants;
 - 4% from fundraising events;
 - 2% other
- b) 2009/2010 Year the tuition rate was \$10,600/family rate.
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance in the form of a bursary.
- d) The official budget is approved each spring at a general membership meeting. The budget expenditures are as follows:

● education, salaries and benefits	75%
● transportation	14%
● facilities, operating	5%
● facilities capital & mortgage interest	2%
● program	2%
● administration	1%
● other	1%

9. Membership

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

We are very pleased with the education our child is receiving, and the concepts are overflowing into our home. I find myself singing her songs well after she goes to bed. The staff and teachers are always more than willing to lend a hand with various situations. Our daughter is living and growing in her faith everyday and she believes this to be normal, that everyone experiences the same thing. She has no idea how blessed she really is to be receiving this educational experience. Thanks Covenant!

- a current Covenant parent

Our son faced some significant challenges with some autism spectrum conditions. The teachers and principal worked very hard to educate themselves and adapt things so that he could grow and develop at school. It wasn't always easy, but the partnership between home and school was a powerful, positive, influence for our son.

- parents or a recent Covenant graduate

11. Contact Persons

For further information contact:

- Richard Hoiting Board Chair for the Society Information
- Sid Bakker 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*