

# Accreditation School Profile

## Halton Hills Christian School

**October • 2009**

The boards of the Halton Hills Christian Schools and Canadian Hallmarks Institute (CHI) are pleased to publish this *Accreditation Profile* as a public service promoting independent faith-based education in the greater Toronto 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:

*We confess that the goal of education is to nurture children to grow into the sure knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord of life. We equip children with the skills necessary to develop their gifts and talents to their full potential. We challenge them to serve God according to His Word and teach them to discern their role in responsible service.*

### 2. Governance:

Halton Hills Christian School is owned by the Georgetown District Christian School Society and operated on its behalf by an elected board of 13 directors. The Georgetown District Christian School Society is a registered charity (#134883982 RR0001) and membership in the society is open to all adults who meet the criteria.

### 3. Community Demographics of School

- a) The families supporting Halton Hills Christian School come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds, blue collar, professionals, and self employed
- b) The general statistics for Halton Hills County taken from Stats Canada Reports (2005), which provide the following:
  - Average (full-time income all families) \$92,398
  - Average (income single/parent families) \$51,379

## 4. Admission Policies for Students

- a) The Halton Hills 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 95% composed of Canadian citizens.

## 5. Faculty

- a) Halton Hills Christian School has 11 full-time and 7 part-time teaching staff, 78% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate, 83% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 56% hold both the Ontario Teacher's Certificate and the Christian Teacher's Certificate.
- b) The average teaching experience of the staff is 15 years (full time equivalent). The board requires an annual program of professional development for all teachers.
- c) The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is 15:1 for 2009/10.

## 6. Student Achievement

Halton Hills Christian School has a student body of 259 and a complete Nursery School -Grade 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.

Halton Hills Christian School CTBS Test Results, "2008" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	82	81	50
4	94	77	50
5	72	76	50
6	83	73	50
7	84	76	50
8	81	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) Halton Hills Christian School graduates attend Toronto District Christian, King's Christian, Christ the King Catholic Secondary School, Georgetown District Secondary School, Bishop Redding, Acton Highschool and Woodlawn Christian Secondary School where students score high on the Provincial Literacy Test.
- d) Other significant awards given are Valedictorian, Outstanding Academic Achievement, Honour Roll, Athletes of the Year, Most Improved Student and Christian Leadership.

## 7. Programs of Study

- a) Halton Hills 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) Halton Hills 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) Halton Hills Christian School obtains its income from several sources, notably:
  - 88% from tuition;
  - 6% from donations;
  - 0% from government grants;
  - 4% from fundraising events;
  - 2% other
- b) 2009/2010 Year the tuition rate was \$10,308, family rate.
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance in the form of assistance up to 50% of tuition. Families must have one year of paid up tuition to qualify .
- d) The official budget is approved each spring at a general membership meeting. The budget expenditures are as follows:
 

● education, salaries and benefits	71.2%
● transportation	8.1%
● facilities, operating	5.5%
● facilities capital & mortgage interest	1%
● program	7.3%
● administration	1.2%
● other	5.7%

## 9. Membership

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

*GDCS has impacted our lives and the lives of our children. GDCS is a place where they are not only receiving an education but they are also being spiritually nurtured. Subjects are continually given a Christian perspective to encourage and challenge our kids to take the material that they are studying and reflect on what it further means as a Christian.*

*Staff and volunteers make GDCS a great place to be. Concerns are dealt with in a caring and loving manner and success is celebrated.*

- M & T Schaafsma

*When asked, how our son is doing in kindergarten, the answer comes so easy to both of us, "Great!" GDCS has been a wonderful experience for our family. Having my first born start school was a big step in our family life but sending him to GDCS felt like coming home as I had attended there myself as a child. From the principal, to the teachers, to the board, we have felt a part of the community of saints that God has given us in helping to raise our children. God has blessed Georgetown with this school and we are grateful that we are able to share in this blessing.*

- J & L Blaauwendraat

## 11. Contact Persons

For further information contact:

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|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| ● Glenn Hofland    | Board Chair for the Society Information |
| ● Marianne Vangoor | Principal for School Information        |
| ● Tinsy Braam      | 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*