

# Accreditation School Profile

## John Knox Christian School

**October • 2009**

The boards of the John Knox 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:

John Knox 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 John Knox Christian School come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. A total of 230 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 John Knox 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 98% composed of Canadian citizens.

## 5. Faculty

- a) John Knox Christian School has 7 full-time and 4 part-time teaching staff, 20% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate, 16% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 64% 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 20:1 for 2009/10.

## 6. Student Achievement

John Knox Christian School has a student body of 135 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.

John Knox Christian School CTBS Test Results, "2008" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	88	81	50
4	77	77	50
5	81	76	50
6	84	73	50
7	78	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) John Knox Christian School graduates attend Smithville District Christian High, Hamilton District Christian High and Great Lakes Christian High School where students score above average on the Provincial Literacy Test.
- d) Other significant awards given are Discipleship, Stewardship, Academic Honours, and Valedictorian.

## 7. Programs of Study

- a) John Knox 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) John Knox 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) John Knox Christian School obtains its income from several sources, notably:
  - 85% from tuition;
  - 9% from donations;
  - 0% from government grants;
  - 5% from fundraising events;
  - 1% other
- b) 2009/2010 Year the tuition rate was \$10,600, family rate (add \$650 for second child, \$650 for third child, no additional cost for more than that).
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance in the form of a bursary based on financial need.
- 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	5.5%
● facilities capital & mortgage interest	2%
● program	2.5%
● other	1%

