

Accreditation School Profile

John Knox Christian School (Oakville)

October • 2011

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 Halton 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 equip children for service in God's world through a Christ-centred education.

2. Governance:

John Knox Christian School is owned by the John Knox Christian School Society and operated on its behalf by an elected board of 10 directors. The John Knox Christian School Society is a registered charity (#131800278RR0001) 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 75 different occupations are represented as well as a large economic range, from needy to wealthy families.
- b) The general statistics for Halton County taken from Stats Canada Reports (2005), which provide the following:
 - Average (full-time income all families) \$92,410
 - Average (income single/parent families) \$51,109

4. Admission Policies for Students

- a) The John Knox Christian School (Oakville) 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) John Knox Christian School has 13 full-time and 5 part-time teaching staff, 61% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate, 65% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 40% hold both the Ontario Teacher's Certificate and the Christian Teacher's Certificate.
- b) The average teaching experience of the staff is 9.8 years (full time equivalent). The board requires an annual program of professional development for all teachers.
- c) The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is 17:1 for 2011/12.

6. Student Achievement

John Knox Christian School has a student body of 305 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 2010, Grades 3 - 8 participated in the Canadian Tests of Basic Skills (CTBS) with outstanding results.

John Knox Christian School (Oakville) CTBS Test Results, "2010" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	87	82	50
4	81	77	50
5	81	77	50
6	73	72	50
7	79	76	50
8	73	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 King's Christian Collegiate, Trafalgar High, Appleby and other various local high schools where students score above average on the Provincial Literacy Test.
- d) Other significant awards given are Christian Discipleship Award, Music Award, Valedictorian, Athletic Awards, Academic, and Arts.

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:
 - 91% from tuition;
 - 1% from donations;
 - 0% from government grants;
 - 2% from fundraising events;
 - 6% other
- b) 2011/2012 Year the tuition rate was 1 full-time \$9,775, 2 students \$14,318, 3 students \$16,137, 4 students \$17,956.
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance in the form of bursaries and grants.
- d) The official budget is approved each spring at a general membership meeting. The budget expenditures are as follows:

● education, salaries and benefits	61%
● transportation	7%
● facilities, operating	8%
● facilities capital & mortgage interest	2%
● program	6%
● administration	13%
● other	3%

9. Membership

John Knox 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. John Knox Christian School (Oakville) 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 John Knox Christian School (Oakville). They have agreed to submit the following statements and are willing to discuss them.

We are eager to write this letter of reference on behalf of John Knox Christian School in Oakville, Ontario. We have had two children attending John Knox for the past year—a son in Grade 7 and a daughter in Grade 2. The experience has been a positive one for both children.

The aspects of the school that we have appreciated the most have been the quality and dedication of the teaching staff, the high level of parental involvement, an excellent music program and the care that the staff took in handling our son's special education needs.

Our son has been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and ADHD and John Knox assisted us with finding a full-time teaching assistant for him in the classroom. After some initial testing, Josh was put into a Grade 4 level spelling and grammar curriculum, but by the end of the year, he was participating with his classmates at the Grade 7 level. His teachers helped set achievable goals and to find ways to motivate Josh to work hard. I was impressed by their willingness to accommodate his needs while always looking for ways to challenge him and to bring out his strengths. In addition, they focussed on increasing his degree of independent work.

Our daughter benefited from her year in Grade 2. After we requested that she receive more challenging work, she was given advanced spelling, math and grammar lessons. She responded well to accelerated instruction. The classroom was well run and provided a stimulating environment for learning.

The school provided a safe and secure learning environment for both of our children despite their different needs. In all areas, parental involvement is strongly encouraged and we experienced a healthy and respectful school community. We would highly recommend John Knox Christian School to others.

- Doug and Pat Treff

Our three children attend JKCS. Four years ago, after sending our eldest son to an expensive private school for grade one, we made the decision to move him to JKCS. Though the other school was known for its high academics, we were not satisfied with the holistic experience the school offered—in things such as personal growth, spiritual growth, healthy student interactions and the overall school management. In short, he spent a very unhappy and stressful year there, and we found the teachers' and administrators' response to his anxiety was quite indifferent.

JKCS on the other hand, has given our children a balanced and loving environment in which to learn. Academically, the school is strong. Our children have thrived and grown under the care of their teachers. Their personal interactions with other students have been positive and the school environment, which takes a positive and proactive approach to issues such as bullying and peer respect, has been very healthy. Spiritually, they have been led in their growth by teachers who are genuinely compassionate, nurturing and committed in their faith. All three children have spent happy and satisfying years at JKCS.

