

Accreditation School Profile

Laurentian Hills Christian School

October • 2009

The boards of the Laurentian Hills 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 Kitchener/Waterloo 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:

For the children of Christian parents, Laurentian Hills Christian School provides Christ-centered quality education to the whole child in a supportive, loving, diverse, dynamic and growing parent-run school.

2. Governance:

Laurentian Hills Christian School is owned by the Kitchener-Waterloo Christian School Society and operated on its behalf by an elected board of 9 directors. The Kitchener-Waterloo Christian School Society is a registered charity (#0206599-20) and membership in the society is open to all adults who meet the criteria.

3. Community Demographics of School

- a) The families supporting Laurentian Hills Christian School come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds as well as a large economic range, from needy to wealthy families.
- b) The general statistics for Kitchener-Waterloo County taken from Stats Canada Reports (2005), which provide the following:
 - Average (full-time income all families) \$58,920
 - Average (income single/parent families) \$30,867

4. Admission Policies for Students

- a) The Laurentian 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 99% composed of Canadian citizens.

5. Faculty

- a) Laurentian Hills Christian School has 8 full-time and 15 part-time teaching staff, 74% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate, 78% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 52% hold both the Ontario Teacher's Certificate and the Christian Teacher's Certificate.
- b) The average teaching experience of the staff is 11.5 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

Laurentian Hills Christian School has a student body of 335 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.

Laurentian Hills Christian School CTBS Test Results, "2008" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	85	81	50
4	75	77	50
5	77	76	50
6	75	73	50
7	71	76	50
8	76	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) Laurentian Hills Christian School graduates attend Woodland Christian High School, Rockway Mennonite, local public and Catholic high schools where students score above average on the Provincial Literacy Test.
- d) Other significant awards given are Fine Arts, Sportsmanship, Honour Roll, Academic Achievement, and Student of the Year.

7. Programs of Study

- a) Laurentian 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) Laurentian 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) Laurentian Hills Christian School obtains its income from several sources, notably:
 - 84% from tuition;
 - 4% from donations;
 - 0% from government grants;
 - 8% from fundraising events;
 - 4% other
- b) 2009/2010 Year the tuition rate was \$1 Full-Time \$6,760, 2 Full-Time \$10,160, 3 Full-Time \$11,300.
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance in the form of tuition reduction of up to 1/3 as per tuition assistance committee deems feasible.
- d) The official budget is approved each June at a general membership meeting. The budget expenditures are as follows:

● education, salaries and benefits	78%
● transportation	1%
● facilities, operating	10%
● facilities capital & mortgage interest	1%
● program	1%
● administration	6%
● other	3%

9. Membership

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

Our children started out their education in the public school system. Like all parents starting this stage, we had no basis of comparison. Throughout the next four years, we realized this was not the environment we wanted for our children. We longed for a school environment that would reinforce the values we held at home and that provided a consistent message for our children regarding our Christian beliefs.

God was clearly leading us to examine other options. My first impression at LHCS was such a positive one! I dropped in, unannounced, to gather my first bit of knowledge. I was greeted with warmth and felt that my unannounced presence was a welcomed visit not an inconvenience. Mr. Marcus took the time to provide me with a tour and review curriculum. He helped me to understand the school's commitment to a Christ-centered education.

Our eldest son had experienced great difficulty with literacy. He had received passing grades in the public system and we were told he was an average student. It was apparent to us that he could not read and was falling farther and farther behind. When we started at LHCS, we chose not to advise his teacher of our concerns. We wanted an objective opinion on his abilities. Within the first week of school, his teacher very delicately pulled us aside and expressed her concerns and the strategies she thought might help him. We were delighted! He now has the extra resource support he requires. He thoroughly enjoys his time in resource and his confidence in the classroom has improved because of this support. He now enjoys reading and continues to make positive gains every year.

Our experience the past two years has been wonderful. We have had the opportunity to watch our children flourish with God's word. We have experienced teachers who go above and beyond and willing to extend themselves to reach the students. In addition to academics, our children have been given the opportunity to develop their abilities and talents in music, the piano program and sports. Through these activities, they have been encouraged to develop a Godly character. School assemblies, spirit day, sports, and music encourage the students to become the individuals God has created them to be. Fundraising and bake sale days help them to develop a global awareness of God's creation, his people and their needs. These are but a few of the activities at LCHS that make up the education our children receive.

Our experience at LCHS has been tremendous! There is a strong sense of school community and support that extends well beyond the classroom. LHCS is committed to teaching children to become all that Christ has created them to be, to glorify Him in all that they do and to equip them for their place in the world.

-Barrie & Lisa Hummel

