

Accreditation School Profile

Knox Christian School (Bowmanville)

June • 2010

The boards of the 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 Durham 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 provide each student with opportunities to grow and develop within the community of learners to be equipped to serve God and others.

2. Governance:

Knox Christian School is owned by the Bowmanville District Christian School Society and operated on its behalf by an elected board of 12 directors. The Bowmanville District Christian School Society is a registered charity (#11898 4681 RR 0001) and membership in the society is open to all adults who meet the criteria.

3. Community Demographics of School

- a) The families supporting Knox Christian School come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. A total of 125 different occupations are represented as well as a large economic range, from needy to wealthy families.
- b) The general statistics for Durham County taken from Stats Canada Reports (2005), which provide the following:

● Average (full-time income all families)	\$80,872
● Average (income single/parent families)	\$43,322

4. Admission Policies for Students

- a) The Knox Christian School (Bowmanville) 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) Knox Christian School has 8 full-time and 8 part-time teaching staff, 50% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate, 69% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 25% hold both the Ontario Teacher's Certificate and the Christian Teacher's Certificate.
- b) The average teaching experience of the staff is 11 years (full time equivalent). The board requires an annual program of professional development for all teachers.
- c) The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is 20:4 for 2009/10.

6. Student Achievement

Knox Christian School has a student body of 220 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.

Knox Christian School (Bowmanville) CTBS Test Results, "2008" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	97	81	50
4	76	77	50
5	78	76	50
6	70	73	50
7	69	76	50
8	71	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) Knox Christian School graduates attend Durham Christian High School, Clarington Central High School, St. Stephens Catholic High School where students score 100% (Durham Christian High School), 83% (Clarington Central High School), and 87% (St. Stephens Catholic High School) on the Provincial Literacy Test.
- d) Other significant awards given at Knox Christian School are Valedictorian, Historian, Citizenship Award, Geoffrey Dykstra Memorial award (Ability to make people welcome and loved), Laura Heeringa Memorial Award (contribution to sports), Gauss math contest awards, Speech contests, Science Fair awards.

7. Programs of Study

- a) 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) 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) Knox Christian School obtains its income from several sources, notably:
 - 90% from tuition;
 - 3% from donations;
 - 0% from government grants;
 - 5% from fundraising events;
 - 2% other
- b) 2009/2010 Year the tuition rate was \$11,350. (Knox Christian School offers a graduated scale depending on grade level and number of students.)
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance in the form of grants.
- d) The official budget is approved each spring at a general membership meeting. The budget expenditures are as follows:

● education, salaries and benefits	62%
● transportation	13%
● facilities, operating	11%
● facilities capital & mortgage interest	0%
● program	5%
● administration	9%
● other	0%

9. Membership

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

Knox Christian School has been pivotal in the character and academic development of our 14 year old child. Our daughter has just graduated from a ceremony that inspired and motivated her toward seeking excellence in her future aspirations.

Knox Christian School has demonstrated the highest level of integrity in fulfilling their mission and vision statement. The teachers from JK to grade 8 have served the wholistic needs of our daughter in ways that illustrate an educational system that consistently strives for excellence while supporting the family. For nine years our daughter's teachers have created an atmosphere where children are encouraged to think critically and to take ownership of their belief structures relative to a godly philosophy of compassion, respect, honour and optimism. Knox emphasized our daughter's strengths rather than her weaknesses. In so doing, our daughter's understanding of right behaviours enriched her academic capacities. This fostered a safe environment where learning could thrive.

The leadership of Knox Christian School brought a sense of 'fun' making learning enjoyable. This feature added to the optimum performance within the staff culture and the attitudes of the children.

We don't believe our daughter could have done as well in any other environment than Knox Christian School. This school illustrates "how it should be done" by integrating balanced godly character while in pursuit of knowledge. Our daughter loved her nine years and cherishes every grade and every teacher with fond memories. As parents we are eternally grateful.

- Dr. Ronn and Heather Young

After homeschooling our boys for a number of years, we felt the Lord leading us to send our boys to Knox Christian School. During our first encounters with Knox, any apprehensions that we had about the boys transitioning from homeschooling to formal education were kindly removed. We also were very impressed with the means in which Knox determined the placement of grade levels for our boys. Instead of focusing on the age to determine grade level, they focused on the whole child (i.e., academically, physically, socially, and developmentally). Over the years that we have sent our boys to Knox, we have never been disappointed nor questioned the Lord's choice for our boys. Knox has high academic standards, a superb music program, a diverse extracurricular program, a strong community, and a caring, dedicated staff. Those are all wonderful attributes but that is not what we like best about Knox. It is the strong Christian values that are taught both directly and indirectly every day and that support our home values. Next year's grade 8 graduation will be significant to our family, for not only will our youngest be graduating but we will also be saying goodbye to Knox. In our opinion, there is no other school like Knox!

- Karen Folkerson

11. Contact Persons

For further information contact:

- Mr. Paul Winkelhorst Board Chair for the Society Information
- Mr. Terry VanLeeuwen 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*