

Accreditation School Profile

Sarnia Christian School

September • 2009

The boards of the Sarnia 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 Sarnia/Lambton 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:

“Foundation, Challenge, Preparation”

As a Christian school in partnership with families and community we:

- ***Deliver an education, which integrates faith and learning within a safe environment.***
- ***Challenge students to discover their gifts and use them to serve God and Community.***
- ***Equip students with the skills and discernment required to interact with contemporary culture.***

2. Governance:

Sarnia Christian School is owned by the Lambton Christian School Society and operated on its behalf by an elected board of 11 directors. The Lambton Christian School Society is a registered charity (#129904264RR0001) and membership in the society is open to all adults who meet the criteria.

3. Community Demographics of School

- a) The families supporting Sarnia Christian School come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. A total of 55 different occupations are represented as well as a large economic range, from needy to wealthy families.
- b) The general statistics for Sarnia/Lambton County taken from Stats Canada Reports (2006), which provide the following:

● Average (full-time income all families)	\$69,731
● Average (income single/parent families)	\$35,881

4. Admission Policies for Students

- a) The Sarnia 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) Sarnia Christian School has 5 full-time and 3 part-time teaching staff, 100% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate, 88% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 88% hold both the Ontario Teacher's Certificate and the Christian Teacher's Certificate.
- b) The average teaching experience of the staff is 10 years (full time equivalent). The board requires an annual program of professional development for all teachers.
- c) The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is 16:1 for 2009/10.

6. Student Achievement

Sarnia Christian School has a student body of 97 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.

Sarnia Christian School CTBS Test Results, "2008" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	81	81	50
4	75	77	50
5	49	76	50
6	91	73	50
7	68	76	50
8	75	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 (EQAQO) because of the fees levied on non-funded private schools by the EQAQO as a cost of participation.
- c) Sarnia Christian School graduates attend London District Christian High School where 100% of students passed the Provincial Literacy Test.

- d) Other significant awards given are Athletic, Long Distance Running, Track and Field, Geography, Valedictorian, Academic.

7. Programs of Study

- a) Sarnia Christian School offers a complete range of academic programs for all 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) Sarnia 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) Sarnia Christian School obtains its income from several sources, notably:
- 76% from tuition;
 - 9% from donations;
 - 0% from government grants;
 - 7% from fundraising events;
 - 8% other
- b) 2009/2010 Year the tuition rate is \$3,636 - 12,558 (family rate is based on grade and number of children).
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance in the form of needs-based grants, church grant, and/or volunteer grant.
- d) The official budget is approved each November at a general membership meeting. The budget expenditures are as follows:
- | | |
|--|-----|
| ● education, salaries and benefits | 64% |
| ● transportation | 9% |
| ● facilities, operating | 7% |
| ● facilities capital & mortgage interest | 1% |
| ● program | 4% |
| ● administration | 6% |
| ● other | 9% |

9. Membership

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

Making the decision to enrol our children at Sarnia Christian School was effortless. We knew that our children would not only be getting a first-rate education, but they'd be getting an education where Christian fundamentals would be at the centre of their learning. Realizing that the individuals teaching our children shared the same beliefs and values as our family made it the logical alternative to public school.

- Michelle Hall

Sarnia Christian School has been a true blessing for our entire family. We enrolled our children in the school after a series of struggles and let downs in the public education system. The fact that our children were going to be safe at Sarnia Christian School was our top priority and we considered the "Christian Education" simply "a bonus". But a funny thing happened. As our children's faith grew and flourished with the Christian teachings at the school, both in and out of the classroom, our entire family became more spiritual and closer to God. The kids started asking if they could attend Christian functions in the community and wanted to read the Bible at home as a daily practice. We are a more Godly and loving family thanks to Sarnia Christian School and our gratitude cannot be adequately expressed in words.

- Chris Stevens

11. Contact Persons

For further information contact:

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| ● Pete VanderHeide | Board Chair for the Society Information |
| ● Len Smit | Principal for School Information |
| ● Jenny Douma | 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*