

Accommodation Review Committee

November 18, 2008

Report: Valuation Instrument – Schools

By: Mrs. Bernadette Gray, Principal – St. Patrick's Catholic High School

1.1 – Presence and prominence of the Catholic faith

Both St. Christopher and St. Patrick's are faith-centred secondary schools. The development of our faith is woven through everything that we do in our schools and in our community. Both schools:

- have a full-time chaplain
- have a chapel, where students can find quiet space for reflection and prayer
- invite students to pray at the beginning of the school day and at the beginning of class
- organize retreats for students from grade 9 – grade 12
- have imbedded the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations (OCGE) into all courses offered at the school and by practicing our values in co-curricular activities
- celebrate the faith through the school-wide Masses and acknowledge the Liturgical calendar – Advent and Lent
- provide opportunities for students to avail themselves of the sacraments – Eucharist and reconciliation. Parish priests are regularly invited into the school. We are also most fortunate in that we have some priests who regularly visit classrooms and celebrate additional Masses for individual classes.
- Provide opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding of our place in society and our need to be aware of and committed to social justice concerns.

We do this through:

- Cyclone Aid
- Irish Miracle
- Leaf raking for seniors
- "Leave a Legacy"
- Kingdom Project
- Weekly mission collections to support a number of community, local and global causes

The community as a whole has come to rely on the assistance of our schools.

1.4 – Range of Programs Offered

Both St. Patrick's and St. Christopher work diligently to offer a wide-range of programs that will provide students with the best opportunities to follow their pathways, whether it be apprenticeship, college, university or the workplace.

Both schools:

- offer courses as the essential (locally developed) applied and academic levels for compulsory courses
- St. Patrick's offers courses for the Developmentally Handicapped students
- High Skills Major Courses:
 - St. Christopher – information technology
 - St. Patrick's – manufacturing and construction
- offer a variety of co-op experiences and have also been able to officially register apprenticeships through the *Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program* (OYAP)
- are participating in the "Magnet School Program"

- St. Christopher – cosmetology, retailing, CISCO
 - St. Patrick's – manufacturing, construction, IDC 30 (pop culture) IDC 40 (Women in Canadian Society), Spanish, Italian
- E-learning opportunities:
 - St. Patrick's – economics
 - St. Christopher – writer's craft
- offer Arts (music, visual arts, drama)
- offer Business (leadership, business technology, law)
- offer Technology (communication, horticulture, design, manufacturing, construction, cosmetology)
- offer French, Italian, Spanish
- offer Society Sciences (parenting, anthropology, philosophy)
- offer Physical Education (weight lifting, anatomy, First Responder Training, People Program)
- offer English (also IDP4U team teaching between English and History), IDC4U (images, icons and ideology)
- offer Religion, grade 9 – 12
- offer Math
- offer Computer Technology

Both St. Christopher and St. Patrick's have centrally located Student Services areas to offer assistance to students in:

- course selection
- long-range goal setting
- time tabling
- determining pathway destinations
- scholarships, awards and bursary information
- university and college applications

St. Christopher has two Guidance Counsellors. St. Patrick's has three Guidance Counsellors. The two schools share:

- one Youth and Attendance Counsellor
- one Child and Youth Worker

Each school also has a Librarian.

Both St. Patrick's and St. Christopher:

- organize guest speakers, who present a number of topical issues, ranging from anti-bullying to MADD to Motivation for Success
- offer students opportunities for same-day trips and longer field trips, which enhance the curriculum taught
 - visits to the courthouse
 - Ottawa
 - The Science Centre
 - Remembrance Day Services at the Cenotaph
 - Music Festivals and musical events in Ottawa, Chicago and New York
 - Exchange Programs

Both schools offer an Alternative Education Program at the Lochiel Centre.