

stccs *
secondary

ST THOMAS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL | INFORMATION PACKAGE



we know that "brand new" feeling *

'New' is a wonderful, confusing thing. It can bring out a hundred different feelings at once. In some ways, you might be thinking you were ready for something *new* about seven months ago - like you're standing on the sidelines, waiting to get into the game. But at the same time, it feels like you're trying desperately to hold on to everything familiar - known - comfortable. We hear you.

Welcome to our high school. This is something new, a change from what you're used to. It's new people, new classes, a new way of learning: it's a lot of new - but it's 'new' with a purpose.

We want to walk with you to help prepare you to follow the Lord wherever He calls you. We're going to help you discover your gifts and talents. We're going to challenge you to reach new heights of academic excellence. We want you to surprise yourself, and we want to see you thrive spiritually,

academically, and socially as you navigate this new chapter in your life. We are committed to serving you with a high school education that gives you opportunities to pursue your gifts and passions, and to follow God's calling wherever He leads.

You should know - this is the real deal. Here are our commitments to you and your parents:

1. Our high school will be a Christian endeavour that is fiercely committed to sharing the Gospel with our students.
2. We are committed to maintaining an extremely high level of excellence in all educational programming.
3. We have acquired full accreditation with the Ministry of Education and offer our students an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and access to all post-secondary options.

To God be the glory in all of this 'new.'

high school, reimagined *

Our Self-Directed Model is our way of reinventing high school. Following the example of Christ - the Ultimate Teacher - we're setting up our school to allow lots of time to get connected. We're going to work in smaller groups, with independent modules and creative assignments tailored to your skills and interests. Whole-class seminars will take place weekly, but you'll also have time *called self-directed time* to direct your own learning. Here's how it works.

Every morning, you'll meet with your small group for Bible study, accountability, and prayer. This daily meeting will also be your spot to receive information from your different course leaders, feedback from instructors, and any special announcements you'll need. From there, you'll set up a plan for your day, run it by your Teacher Advisor for feedback, and then jump right in.

So just for fun, let's say it's a sleepy Tuesday morning. On today's schedule you have a 1 hour period of self-directed time to tackle your work. Not sure you can dive right into Math? Not a problem. Maybe you need to head to the Gym to shoot a few hoops to get your blood pumping, or maybe that means connecting with a teacher to tackle a tough concept: you set your priorities and get to work. No bells dictate when you move from subject to subject within a SD period - you're in charge - but you're not alone: hello, **Teacher Advisors.**

so, what are Teacher Advisors?

We've all been there. We set a goal, jump in with gusto, and find ourselves suddenly distracted - off-track, with no idea how it happened. That's where our Teacher Advisors (T.A.) comes in. Each day begins with a 40 minute T.A. class. You'll work together to assess your progress, identify any areas of concern, and set academic checkpoints for your upcoming week. Your T.A. is constantly connected to all of your course instructors and grade books, so they'll see your grades, completed assignments, and how you've been spending your time.

Our daily T.A. morning meetings are also an important part of our discipleship model. Not only will we start our day by studying God's word, but this is also a time to connect with your peers. Our T.A. classes combine students from all grades, allowing you to get to know students in grade 10, 11, and 12. You can encourage each other, pray for each other, and walk through your teen years with students who have already experienced some of what you're going through right now. TA class also give your TA teacher a time outside of class to get to know YOU.

Our staff wants to know what makes you tick, which NHL team you're rooting for, or who your favourite author is.

Getting to know you, as a person - not just as a student - is important to us.

As Paul instructed the church in Corinth, our T.A. invitation is clear: 'Follow me as I follow Christ...'

1 Corinthians 11:1



discipleship* because this world is not our home

But our citizenship
is in heaven, and we
eagerly await a
Saviour from there,
the Lord Jesus Christ.
Phil 3:20

Brace yourself for something scary: according to a multi-year Lifeway study, almost 70% of students who profess to live for Jesus in their childhood walk away from Him and the church between the ages of 16 and 19. People, that should make us sit up and pay attention! Your teen years are HARD and there are so many things vying for your attention! We're reminded in Philippians 3 that "...many live as enemies of the cross... their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven and we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Phil 3:18-20). So we're not of this world - but it sure can be a distraction while we wait for the return of our Saviour. We want to wait with you, equipping you to serve and stand right where you are. We're going to be intentional about helping you understand God's plan for the world He created, and your purpose and calling in it. You'll have lots of opportunities to serve and put your unique gifts to work.

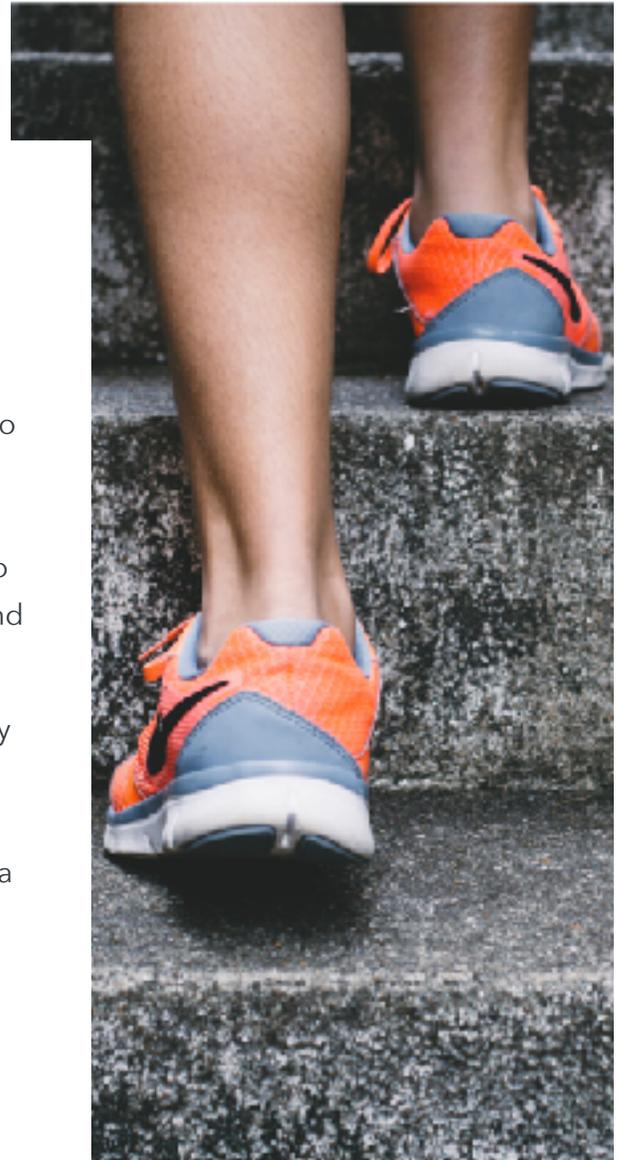
talk about extra*

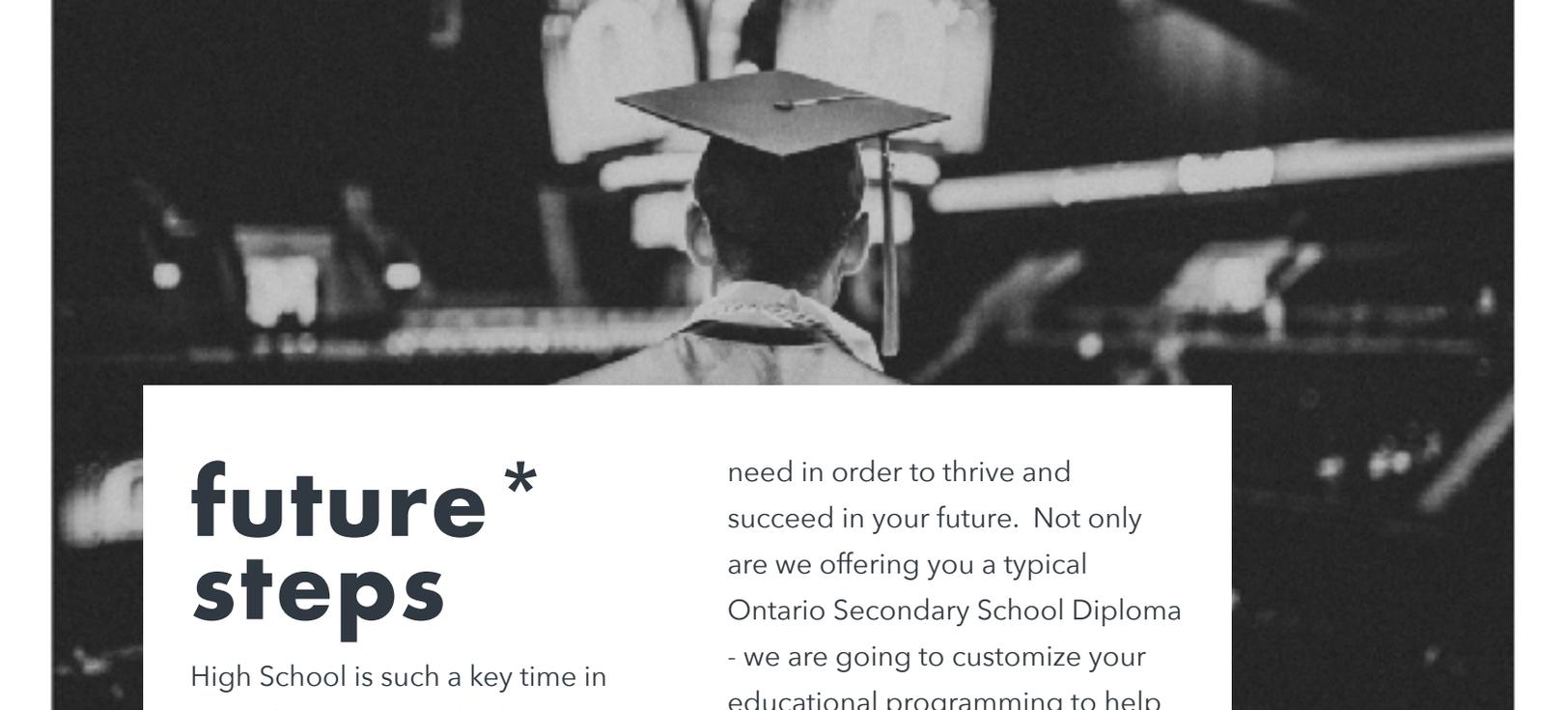
So your school day is going to be epic - but what about all the extras? Well, again, we are all about trying to serve you - so that means you can join the basketball team, worship team, chess club, OR, you can talk to us about an outside-the-box idea and we promise to listen.

Our high school has started a variety of clubs and teams based on our current student's interests. A Flag Football team popped up last year, a shrink art club was formed, and a javelin was purchased. We want to hear from you and help you follow your passions.

We also have an active student council who plans spirit days, T.A. Battles, and our large events like the winter banquet and spring formal.

So that's the concept across all areas - we want to help you discover your passions, and then be intentional about creating the opportunities you need to grow. Drama, music, photography, robotics, sports, service trips: you name it, we can help you launch it!





future* steps

High School is such a key time in your life, and so much of it is actually about moving forward. One of the most important parts of high school is discovering what God is calling you to do, and preparing you to move on to post-secondary options. We are committed to offering you the pre-requisites and experiences that you

need in order to thrive and succeed in your future. Not only are we offering you a typical Ontario Secondary School Diploma - we are going to customize your educational programming to help you get on your way. Interested in engineering? Join our Robotics Team. Aiming for a Music degree? We'll make sure you have an opportunity to try all aspects of the industry. You'll see that the education we offer is more about equipping you than completing a checklist.



beyond highschool*

We know that what you do in high school matters for the rest of your life. You might not ever need to remember the parts of cell once you're out of science class, but all the other soft skills you learn and develop while in high school will impact your success as a plumber, doctor, missionary, or any other field that God is calling you to.

Learning how to manage your time is a key part of future success. Keeping track of due dates, upcoming tests and extracurriculars now will prepare you for the work world, post secondary school, and life in general. We want you to sharpen these skills now, in grade 9, when it's okay to make a mistake or two. We've got you and will help prepare you for the real world.

course ^{*} options

STCCS
SECONDARY

When it comes to building your schedule, we've got you covered! Throughout your high school journey at STCCS you can take all the courses you need to properly prepare you for your next step. Take a look at the course options below to help you loosely plan for the 4 years you'll be here.

GRADE 9

COMPULSORY:

Bible
English
Math
Science
Phys Ed: Active or Competitive
Geography
French

ELECTIVES (choose 2)

Drama
Art
Music
**Food & Nutrition
**Exploring Technologies
**Business
Learning Strategies

GRADE 10

COMPULSORY:

Bible
English - Academic or Applied
History
Math - Academic or Applied
Science
Career Studies & Civics and Citizenship

ELECTIVES (choose 3)

Phys Ed: Active or Competitive
Drama
Art
Music
**Food & Nutrition
**Exploring Technologies
**Business
Learning Strategies
French

GRADE 11

COMPULSORY:

Bible
English - College or University
Math - College or University
ELECTIVES (choose 6)
Biology - University or College
Chemistry
Co-op (2 credits)
Ancient Civilizations or US History
Phys Ed: Active or Competitive
Visual Art
Drama
Music
Learning Strategies
Law
Travel & Tourism
French

GRADE 12

COMPULSORY:

Bible
English - College or University

ELECTIVES (choose 5-7)

Advanced Functions (U)
Vectors/Calculus(U)
College Math (C)
Biology (U)
Chemistry (U)
World History (U)
Kinesiology (U)
Families in Canada (U)
French (U)
Recreation & Healthy
Active Living Leadership (M)
Visual Art (M)
Drama (M)
Music (M)
Learning Strategies (O)

**Courses are offered every other year and can be taken in either grade 9 or grade 10.

U=University level course

C=College level course

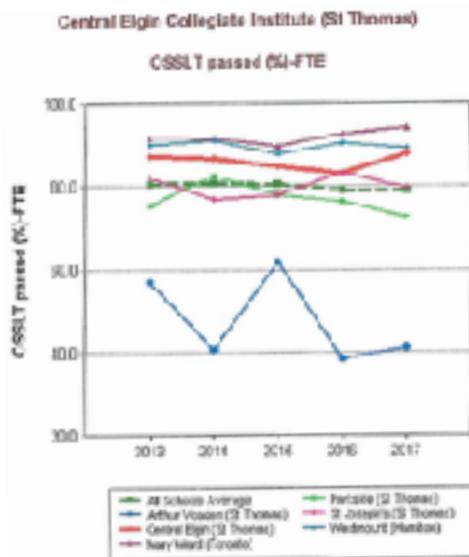
M=College and University level course

this is* different

Yes. Agreed, 100%. Like we said, we are reimagining high school. But the thing about us is that this isn't actually about being different: we did our homework and this is about serving you with our very best. Other high schools in Canada use a similar model, and their graduates are experiencing

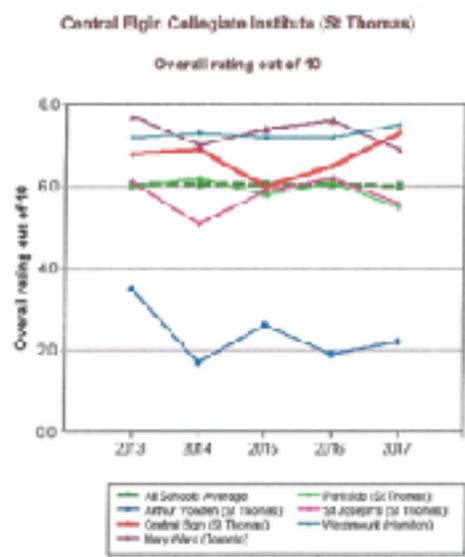
huge success. Their graduates are ready for University and the workforce with real-life skills. The Fraser Institute reports that the two self-directed learning schools in Ontario are achieving higher overall academic standings than our local high schools. (See chart below) This 'different' is about pursuing your highest potential!

OSSLT - Literacy Test *



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Overall Academic Standing *



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so now * what?

Well, now you grab a snack, sit down with your parents, and pray about September! You might be itching for that registration form to choose your courses, or maybe you need to schedule a meeting to chat with us one-on-one. It's a lot of info to process, so we'd be happy to connect with you about this to answer any questions you might still have. We get it: this is one of those great-big-real-life decisions. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to

clarify your options or support you as you make your choices for September.

Questions? Email jenpennings@stthomaschristian.org to connect with us, or to schedule an appointment to meet together.

Registration forms are ready when you are! Until then, we're praying for you just like this:

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Eph. 3:14-19