

ST. THOMAS MORE C.S.S.

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Principal: S. Fortino-Bozzo

Vice-Principals: P. Hargot, T. Hogan, A. Hubbard

www.STMCSS.ORG



OUR SCHOOL: Striving for excellence during its thirty-seven year history, St. Thomas More has achieved a well-deserved reputation for offering many opportunities for students who wish to develop their potential in many areas. The school of choice for many, our large population allows us to offer a wide array of academic programs, numerous extracurricular activities, opportunities for social growth, many support systems, and a rich spiritual life. With a well-equipped modern facility on a 15 acre campus, on Hamilton's west mountain, a dedicated professional staff of 150, and a vision that focuses on Catholicity, community and commitment, we are well-positioned to deliver a vibrant, authentic high school program in an inviting school climate.

REGISTRATION: Gr. 8 students from our feeder schools will go through a thorough orientation program delivered by our Guidance staff from November through May.

- Other Grade 8's can register through Guidance, preferably by February 28 and, along with their parents, will also be given an orientation and assistance with course selection, etc.
- Transfer students in other grades should make appointments for intake interviews by contacting the school office before the beginning of each semester.

ACADEMICS: A wide variety of courses is offered in each subject area, at the academic, applied, open and locally developed levels in Gr. 9-10, and leading to the university, college and workplace/apprenticeship destinations at the senior level.

Arts: Full programs are offered in Music (vocal, instrumental, guitar, keyboard), Visual Arts, Drama and Dance at each grade level, with various bands, ensembles, clubs, productions and teams to provide extended opportunities.

Business: Information technology, marketing, accounting, entrepreneurial studies, business leadership and international business studies are available to all.

Computer Studies: Almost 400 computers in many labs provide for the varied software applications and computer engineering courses. The programming team, gaming club and Internet club provide extended opportunities to develop new skills.

English/Languages: A full array of compulsory English courses at all levels is available, along with optional courses in Media, Writing and Public Speaking and full ELL program. Writing skills are also practiced through the school newspaper, yearbook and writing contests. Courses in French, Spanish and Italian are also offered.

Social Sciences: Programs in History, Politics, Economics and Law, various types of Geography, and Family Studies (Nutrition, Fashion Design, Parenting, Sociology and Resource Management) are offered at different levels of ability. Many field trips and school-wide projects enhance this area.

Mathematics: An up-to-date and relevant program serves the needs of all students, from those who are challenged in this area to those preparing for sophisticated math contests. The investment in manipulatives, modern technology and teacher tutoring time enhance this program.

Physical Education: Traditional programs, focus courses (eg. PAF 2OG – Girls Fitness, PAF 301 – Fitness, PAI 401 – Community Recreational Activities) and a well-developed PSE 4U1- Exercise Science are all offered.

Religion: All students benefit from a Religion course each year. Our unique IDC 4U1 course, focusing on Peace Studies from a global perspective, is popular among our many students committed to Social Justice. The Gr. 12 retreat program – one day or overnight – is an invaluable component of that Religion course.

Science: Students may take general science courses in all four grades, or specialize in chemistry, physics, biology, and earth and space courses in Gr. 11-12. Knowledge and skills can be supplemented through science fairs, university/college sponsored programs, contests and engineering competitions.

Technology: Full programs are offered in transportation, construction, design, communications (video and graphics), computers and cosmetology. We are a leader in the CISCO certification process in our computer engineering programs (ICE), whereby successful students earn college/industry equivalent credits. **A SHSM [Specialist High Skills Major] is being offered in Construction.**

PROGRAM AREAS:

Guidance/Coop: Grade-specific counsellors follow students through-out their careers, offering assistance with course selections, career planning and personal decision-making. Specific courses in Peer Helping (GPP 301), Navigating the Workplace/Co-op (GLN 401/C), and Discovering the Workplace – Coop (GLD 201/C), provide good career learning opportunities beyond the compulsory course (GLC 209). A very successful Co-op program is available to students in all pathways in Gr. 10-12, including the OYAP (apprenticeship) program, to assist with transition to the work-place. One credit, in-school Co-op program working with Special Needs and ELL Students are also available.

Special Education Resource: Aside from the normal assistance provided by our 4 S.E.R.T.'s and 30 E.A.'s, various staff are involved in delivering Gr. 9-12 Learning Strategies courses, a unique Peer Helping co-op, and courses utilizing Assistive Technology. Integration, dignity and community are key elements in this area.

Student Success: This program, designed to assist students at risk of not graduating, include early identification, monitoring, advocacy and special programs (eg. Credit Recovery, Credit Rescue). Tutoring is available through after school programs, by qualified teachers, peer tutors, prefects, department programs and study halls. Credits may be available through night school, summer school and the ILC. OSSLT supports are also offered (remediation, OLC and in-class preparation).

COINSTRUCTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Athletics: A full program in all sports is offered through competent teacher-coaches and marked by perennial success, including several provincial championships. Students must comply with policies relating to academic achievement, transfers, department and commitment.

Intramurals: Opportunities for wide-scale participation are offered throughout the year.

Clubs: Various interest groups form clubs under teacher advisors to develop interests and skills, to socialize, and to participate in school life beyond the class-room.

Leadership: Opportunities are provided through membership in the Student Council, Athletic Council, Coinstructional Council, Prefects, or many outreach programs (eg. Utopia, Halloween for Hunger, Christmas Miracle, Diversity, Ecology, etc.)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MORE:

- visit our web-site www.STMCSS.org
- read our Course Selection Guide
- navigate this site
- attend our Gr. 8 orientation or Parents' Night (Jan.)
- attend our Gr. 9 Parent Curriculum Night (Sept.)
- read our Newsletters (Sept., Nov., Jan., Apr., June) posted on the school website
- read our Gr. 8 Parents Handbook
- talk to a student or teacher, parent or alumnae
- call our Guidance, Resource or Student Success department
- read stories about S.T.M. in the media
- phone a principal or vice-principal
- visit us
- read our Agenda book.

