



School Philosophy

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School is dedicated to academic excellence, the development of each individual's interests and talents and the nurturing of the Catholic Faith. Students are taught to think critically, work independently, communicate effectively, and show respect for themselves, for others, and for the environment. By accepting the challenge of education now, our students will be prepared to meet the future with faith, confidence and a strong sense of their own self-worth.



Achieving: Meeting the Needs of All Learners

- 1) St. Thomas Aquinas will explicitly focus on skill based instruction and transferable skills (organizing ideas with clarity, inferencing)
- 2) St. Thomas Aquinas will use descriptive feedback and collaboration to increase student success and generalize learning
- 3) St. Thomas Aquinas will continue to use differentiated learning experiences, based on student, need to support all learners

Believing: Celebrating our Catholic faith and aspiring to be models of Christ

- 1) St. Thomas Aquinas will continue to provide a learning experience that is distinctly Catholic, rooted in Gospel Values
- 2) St. Thomas Aquinas students will be provided with a diverse number of opportunities to be immersed in the Catholic faith, to allow them to develop their charisms as demonstrated by the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations

Belonging: Embracing relationships and sustaining safe, welcoming schools

- 1) St. Thomas Aquinas will continue to provide a welcoming and safe environment in school where students feel empowered and included .
- 2) St. Thomas Aquinas will increase student engagement in school co-curricular activities (sports, arts, clubs, community service)
- 3) St. Thomas Aquinas will increase access to information, embedded school based supports (Tier 1) and the facilitation of the available community supports to support student social and emotional needs

Foundational Elements: Optimizing organizational elements

- 1) Communication at St. Thomas Aquinas will be clear, transparent and responsive.
- 2) St Thomas Aquinas promotes the use of collaborative teaching practices, responsible access to technology and student opportunity.