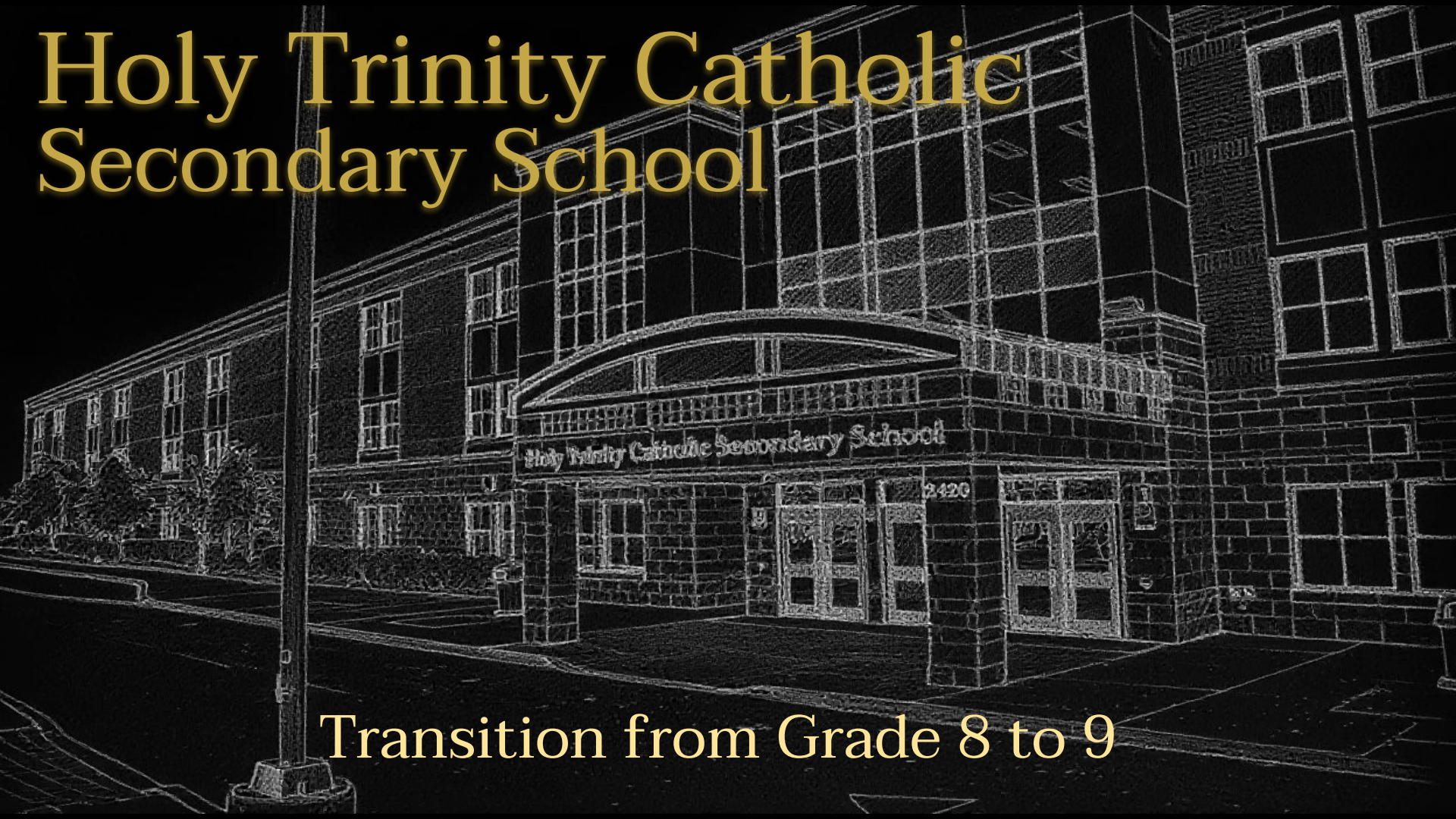


Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School



Transition from Grade 8 to 9

Honouring
the Land
and
Territory



Prayer



Loving God, as we come together, help us to become a true family, Your Family. We pray for the grade 8's, who are looking to their future. Guide them in their decisions, give them wisdom and faith. May they feel a welcoming atmosphere here at Holy Trinity. We pray for their teachers and school staff, may they continue to be good role models and examples for our young people to follow. We pray for the parents of our grade 8's. Give them grace and patience, wisdom and guidance, as they lead their children in the treacherous waters, we call adolescence. Jesus, in you we have the example of love and fellowship to follow as we create community. Help us to follow your example with determination and joy. Amen.

Love of Jesus, fill us. Holy Spirit, guide us. Will of the Father, be done.

School Chaplain:

Tina Drakeford



- Prayer and Liturgies
- Social Justice and Volunteer Opportunities
- Ministry of Presence
- Connection with local parishes
- All are welcome



Our Focus is...

...to ensure your child has a smooth transition from elementary to secondary

We are here to help!

- Administration
- Chaplain
- Child and Youth Counsellor
- Guidance Counsellors
- Social Worker
- Special Education Staff
- Teachers and Support Staff

School Administrative Team



HOLY TRINITY
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
EQUITY · DIGNITY · RESPECT.

Teresa Castellarin
Principal

Gary Laurin
Vice Principal

Jennifer Peer
Vice Principal

Mike Silvello
Vice Principal

Holy Trinity Department Heads



Business Studies/Arts
Canadian & World Studies/Civics
English/ESL/Moderns
Guidance/Cooperative Education
Health and Physical Education
Mathematics
Religion/Social Science
Science
Special Education
Technological Education

Mark Galante
Michelle Mowat
Sandra Moretta
Alicia Castiglione
Andrew Saulez
Michael Sluski
Teresa Tomaro
Paul Cushing
Jill Campbell
Edward Hiland

Guidance and Special Education



Student Services Team: (Guidance Counsellors)

Alicia Castiglione

Kayla Caruso

Darrell Joseph

Anand Pillai

Lisa Waechter

Special Education Team: (SERTs)

Jill Campbell

Allie Laforet

Jacqueline Martens

Natasha Novelo

Emily Perdue

Fontina Ungolo Ettore

George Zicarelli

Holy Trinity Support Staff



These staff members are in the school to help support students in a variety of ways...

Stephanie Howatt - Elementary Pathways Itinerant
for our Family of Schools

Siobhan Bernacki - Social Worker

Dania Srajeldin - Child and Youth Counsellor (CYC)

Holy Trinity Mission Statement



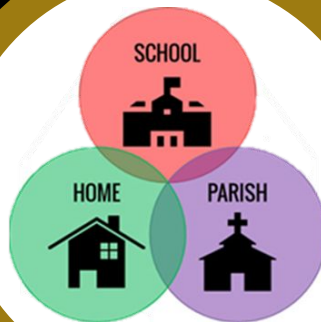
Guided by our Catholic values and teachings, and supported through student, parent, staff, parish and community partnerships, Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School is dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming, caring and inclusive school community.

With a focus on academic excellence, co-curricular activities and faith practices, we guide students toward varied pathways, while inspiring resiliency, critical thinking, collaboration and global citizenship as integral parts of the future of our Titan graduates.

Academic Excellence



Who we are & what we stand for...



Relationships
Contributing
Cooperating
Supporting
Empathy
Participating
Safe
Good
Respectful
Accepted
Valued
Connected
Wellcomed
Community
Engaged
Meaningful
Useful
Active

Catholic Graduate Expectations

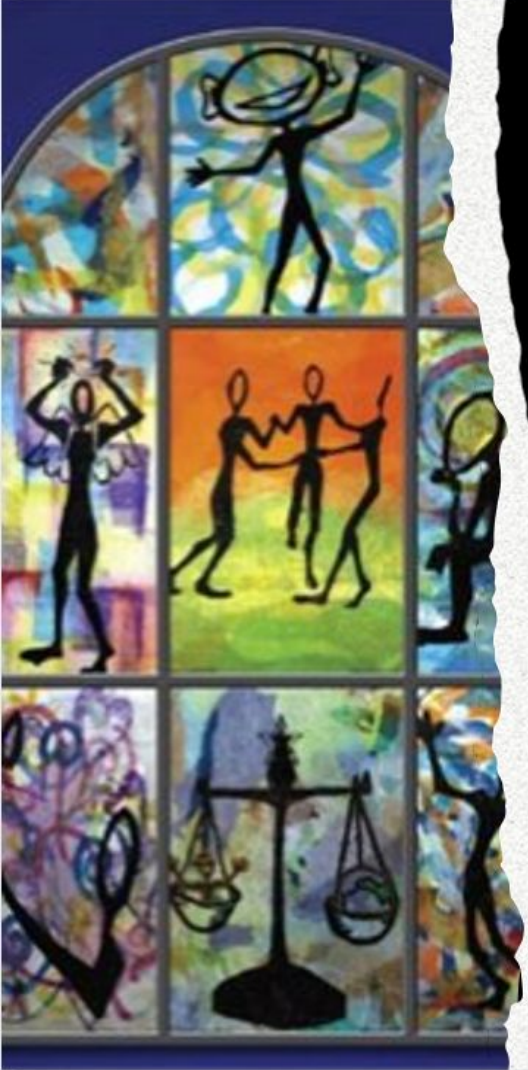


We stand for...

Equity, Inclusivity, Diversity

- Use equity as a lens to support student well-being and achievement
- Challenge staff and students to address systemic barriers/injustice that may exist at HT and in society
- Make Student Voice the driving factor in building community

"We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life." -Pope Francis



Our Goal as Catholic Educators

At the core of the Catholic school system is the unique framework for learners called the **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations**, which are integrated into the full Catholic school curriculum to help form graduates who are:

1. Discerning believers formed in the Catholic faith community
2. Effective communicators
3. Reflective, creative and holistic thinkers
4. Self-directed, responsible, lifelong learners
5. Collaborative contributors
6. Caring family members
7. Responsible citizens

What does this look like at Holy Trinity?

- Community! It centres all that we do... our valuing of one another, the language we use, approach we take, focus of our lessons, extra-curriculars...
- One Religion credit course taken each year. These courses require NO prior knowledge of the Catholic Faith
- School Chaplaincy Leader and Chapel
- Daily Prayer, Masses and Liturgies
- Retreat Program
- Community Outreach
- Social Justice Groups



How we Encourage Success:



- Provide a safe and caring environment
- Develop and promote a faith community
- Help students to develop resilience
- Provide connection to support staff: Social Worker, Child and Youth Counsellor, Chaplain
- Provide a safe space for all students to share their concerns and their successes

How Can Parents Get Involved & Stay Informed?

Research shows parent involvement is critical for student success. In addition to encouraging your child at home, you can get involved in school in many ways:

- **School Council:**

- Your connection to school information (learn what your kids don't tell you)
- Meets approx. 8x/year for 1.5 hours
- Any parent/guardian can attend
- Includes: Principal's update, upcoming events, how funds are spent in the school, give feedback where needed, etc.
- Asked by School and Board for input on key decisions
- Take on a role or be a member-at-large
- Note: Many large companies have Employee Volunteer Grant programs for community volunteering - school council membership usually qualifies for grants

- **Attend School Events:**

- Information nights, Parent/Teacher interviews, masses, sports games, fundraisers, drama and art shows, etc.

Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School



The Grade 9 Program

High School Format



- Students take 8 courses per year
- We are a semestered school
 - Semester 1: September to January (4 courses)
 - Semester 2: February to June (4 courses)
- Student have 4 classes a day (75 minutes each)
- Each day includes a 75 minute lunch period
- Exam/culminating activity take place at the end of each semester
- The school day runs from 8:00 a.m. – 2:35 p.m
- Holy Trinity is a uniform school

Ontario Secondary School Diploma Requirements



To earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), students must successfully complete:

- 30 credits:
 - 17 compulsory courses
 - 13 elective courses
- 40 hours of community involvement
- Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test and Financial Literacy Requirement
- 2 online learning classes (or completion of the opt-out form)

Secondary Diploma Requirements



Compulsory Credits (17)

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)
- 3 credits in mathematics (Grade 9, Grade 10 & Grade 11)
- 2 credits in science
- 1 credit in technological education (Grade 9 or Grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian history (Grade 10)
- 1 credit in Canadian geography (Grade 9)
- 1 credit in the arts
- 1 credit in health and physical education
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 0.5 credit in career studies
- 0.5 credit in civics and citizenship
- 1 credit from the STEM-related course group

Optional credits (13)

You must earn 13 optional credits by successfully completing courses from your school's program and course calendar.

STEM-related course group

Of the 17 compulsory credits, you must complete 1 from the following group:

- business studies
- computer studies
- cooperative education
- mathematics (in addition to the 3 compulsory credits currently required)
- science (in addition to the 2 compulsory credits currently required)
- technological education (in addition to the 1 compulsory credit required)

Community Involvement

40 Hours Required for Graduation

- Encourages civic responsibility and community values
- Provincial guidelines governing placements
- HT offers placement suggestions but student independently secure and complete their own community service hours.
- Hours must be properly documented. Information on how to complete and submit hours is available on the HT website.
- Students may begin community involvement on July 1, 2026

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

- Written in Grade 10
- Based on expectations up to and including Grade 9
- If a student is unable to meet standards in first attempt, they will either:
 - take the test again in Grade 11
 - be directed to complete the Ontario Literacy Course (OLC4O1)

Two Mandatory E-Learning Courses

- Students are required to complete two e-Learning courses to graduate.
- A student can OPT out of taking the two e-Learning courses by indicating this on their myBlueprint account when selecting their courses in grade 11 or by completing the opt-out form
- A student's graduation status will not be affected if they opt-out of the eLearning requirement

Pathway Planning



- Grade 9 destreamed courses equip all students with the knowledge, skills, and work ethic to be successful in academic or applied courses in Grade 10.
- Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to explore all post-secondary education pathways - apprenticeship, college, and university - starting in elementary school and in each year of secondary school.
- myBlueprint.ca, skilledtradesontario.ca, ontariocolleges.ca, ouinfo.ca, are all great sources of information.
- The sites above are excellent for reverse planning research that can be recorded on the high school planner in myBlueprint.
- Students will be supported in their pathway planning during secondary school by guidance counsellors, teachers, and other caring adults

De-streamed, Essential or Open Courses

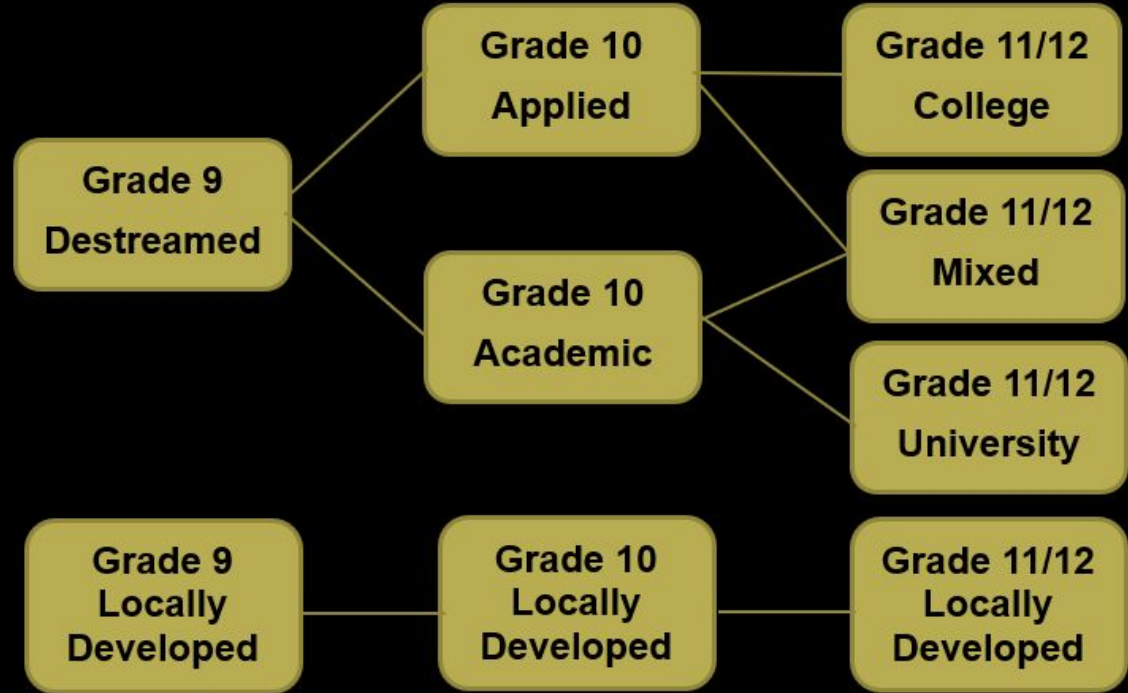


De-streamed (W) - Grade 9 Destreamed courses equip all students with the knowledge, skills and work ethic to be successful in academic or applied courses in grade 10. ("W" Indicates Destreamed) i.e., SNC1W

Locally Developed (L) Developed by HCDSB to meet educational requirements not met by provincial curriculum documents (Grade 9 and 10, Math, Science, English) ("L" Indicates Locally Developed) i.e., SNC1L

Open (O) These courses have one set of learning expectations. Students in all levels are able to take these courses ("O" Indicates Open) i.e., AMU1O, TFJ1O

Course Types



Grade 9 Compulsory Courses



Grade 9 students will take the following courses:

- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| 1. Religion | HRE1O1 |
| 2. Mathematics | MTH1W1 |
| 3. Science | SNC1W1 |
| 4. English | ENL1W1 |
| 5. Geography | CGC1W1 |
| 6. French | FSF1D1 |

*Students working on modified curriculum may choose locally developed courses in consultation with their SERT.

Grade 9 Elective Courses



Grade 9 students will select two elective courses from the following:

Course Name	Course Code	Subject Area
Drama	ADA1O1	Arts
Music	AMU1O1	Arts
Visual Art	AVI1O2	Arts
Expressions of Aboriginal Cultures	NAC1O1	Arts
Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset	BEM1O1	Business
Fun Fit	PAF1O1	Health & Physical Education
Healthy Active Living - Female	PPL1OF	Health & Physical Education
Healthy Active Living - Male	PPL1OM	Health & Physical Education
Soccer Focused Phys. Ed.	PAL1OS	Health & Physical Education
Football Focused Phys. Ed.	PAL1OT	Health & Physical Education
Food and Nutrition	TFJ1O1	Technological Education
Computers and Technology	TGJ1O1	Technological Education
Hairstyling and Aesthetics	TXJ1O1	Technological Education

Students must also select two alternative electives. These will be used if the first two choices cannot be accommodated

Academic Planning



Course	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
1	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion
2	English	English	English	English
3	Math	Math	Math	<i>elective</i>
4	Science	Science	<i>elective</i>	<i>elective</i>
5	Geography	History	<i>elective</i>	<i>elective</i>
6	French	Civics/Career Studies	<i>elective</i>	<i>elective</i>
7	<i>elective</i>	<i>elective</i>	<i>elective</i>	<i>elective or spare</i>
8	<i>elective</i>	<i>elective</i>	<i>elective</i>	<i>elective or spare</i>
Year Total:	8	8	8	6-8
Grand Total:	8	16	24	30-32

*Students are only able to take spare periods in their Grade 12 year

Specialty Programs Offered At Holy Trinity

PRE-AP & ADVANCED PLACEMENT



- Pre-AP / Advanced Placement is available to students who achieve high academic standing in Grades 7 & 8.
- For more information please attend our AP information Night.

Holy Trinity AP Information Night
Thursday October 16th at 6:30 pm
Holy Trinity School Cafeteria

Extended French at Holy Trinity



- Extended French is available to students who have successfully completed a similar program in their elementary school.
- Students in this program continue to develop French Language skills by taking one course in Extended each year along with one additional subject taught in French
 - Grade 9: Geography & Extended French
 - Grade 10: History & Extended French
 - Grade 11: Religion & Extended French
 - Grade 12: Extended French
- Upon completing a minimum of four Extended French courses and 3 additional subjects taught in French (total of 7 courses), students will receive an Extended French Certificate at graduation.



Holy Trinity Registration Information



Family Of School Students

(Holy Family • Our Lady of Peace • St. Andrew • St. Cecilia • St. Marguerite • St. Michael)

- Course selection for grade 8 students will be completed through myBlueprint
- Once your child submits courses, they will enter a parent/guardian email address for parents/guardians to approve these selections
- MyBlueprint will open November 10th, 2025

Students from Other Boards (Outside of HCDSB)

(Public or Private Schools)

- Complete the Holy Trinity Online School Registration form found on our school website:
 - Go to Parents -> Grade 8 Information & Registration
- After the online submission, our Student Services Department will contact you to finalize the registration.
- Registration link will be open by November 10th, 2025

Special Education

Jill Campbell - Department Head



“Special education is not a place. It’s a service.”

- Loretta Claiborne

Special Education at Holy Trinity

- The Holy Trinity student population is a diverse and accepting community
- Our team consists of 5 Special Education Resource Teachers, 2 Special Education Teachers, and 10 Educational Assistants
- All students with an IEP will be assigned a SERT at the start of Grade 9
- All incoming grade 9 students are offered a Transition Meeting to ensure a smooth entry to secondary school
- Our team provides accommodation supports, Resource Room supervision, GLE (Learning Strategies) courses and more!

Special Education at Holy Trinity

How Can we Support your Child?



- Supporting them in building advocacy skills to access accommodations in their IEP
- Providing a quiet space in Resource for assessments
- Providing additional support in various subjects
- Providing access to technology
- Working with teachers to implement accommodations
- Connecting families with community resources and supports (i.e. CYC)

Special Education at
Holy Trinity

HCDSB Elementary Students



- HCDSB students who have IEPs will have a transition meeting at their home school to discuss the transition and supports available
- Their IEPs will automatically transfer over from a HCDSB elementary school to an HCDSB high school
- We will have many consultation opportunities to review the IEP and update it as necessary to reflect current student needs at the secondary school level

Special Education at Holy Trinity

Non-HCDSB Elementary Students



- When a student comes from outside of the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) Parents sign a consent form, and the assessment documents are reviewed
- Recommendations are made on whether or not the student meets criteria for an identification or to move forward with a non-identified IEP
- A student's position on the psych-ed. wait list does not transfer between Boards
- We cannot review documentation until a student has registered to attend Holy Trinity
- With parent permission and a consent form, we can also speak to the previous school to share information and/or set up a transition meeting

Multi Language Learners (ELL/ESL)



ESL/ELL Teachers

Lindsay Andrews
Zrinjka Reeves

- Provide support and guidance for multilingual students
- Advocate for students and collaborate with subject teachers
- Collaborate with guidance counsellors with respect to course selection
- Provide individual support with assignments and language acquisition
- Monitoring Progress until language mastery

Student Success



Student Success Teacher

Jermaine Fletcher

What is Student Success?

- A support system to help students successfully meet diploma requirements, graduate from high school and reach their post secondary goals
- Supports students who may be performing at Level 1 or below, have attendance concerns or need additional guidance
- Provides support for students without an IEP
- Mr. Fletcher runs the Peer-Tutoring Program at Holy Trinity and supports our Grade 8 Transition Plan for our Family of Schools.



Holy Trinity Athletics & Clubs



Holy Trinity Extra-Curricular Activities



ATHLETICS

- S.A.C (Student Athletic Council)
- All are welcome!

FALL (Tryouts begin first week of school)

- Cross-Country (Co-Ed)
- Golf (Co-ed)
- Junior/Senior Boys Football
- Junior/Senior Boys Volleyball
- Junior/Senior Girls Basketball
- Junior/Senior Girls Field Hockey

WINTER (Tryouts begin first week of school)

- Curling (Co-Ed)
- Midget/Junior/Senior Boys Basketball
- Midget/Junior/Senior Girls Volleyball
- Swimming (Co-Ed)
- Varsity Girls/Boys Hockey
- Ski & Snowboard Team (Co-Ed)

EARLY SPRING (Tryouts begin Feb)

- Junior/Senior Badminton (7 on 7)
- Junior Boys Hockey
- Boys/Girls Touch Football

SPRING (Tryouts begin Feb through April)

- Boys Baseball
- Girls Softball
- Boys/Girls Field Lacrosse
- Junior/Senior Boys Soccer
- Junior/Senior Girls Soccer
- Track and Field (Co-Ed)
- Junor/Senior Girls Rugby
- Junor/Senior Boys Rugby

ARTS & CLUBS

- S.A.C (Student Athletic Council)
- SHIELD Leadership Program
- Trinity Art Club
- Trinity Tones
- Titan Tonics Robotics Team
- Peer Tutoring
- Best Buddies
- Titan for Life
- DECA Business Club
- Math Help/Homework Club
- Eco Team Environmental Club
- Team Unbreakable Girls Run Club
- Halton Skills Competition
- GSA Group
- LASA- Latin American Student Association
- UASA- United Arab Student Association
- SAU- South Asian Union
- BSU- Black Student Union
- HOSA- Health Occupations Students of America
- Equity & Change
- Concert/Jazz Band
- Tech Crew
- Yearbook Team
- Chess Club
- Weight Room Club
- Student Senate
- Student Council
- Science Research Club
- Baking Club
- Book Club

TITAN S.H.I.E.L.D

Serving
Helping
Including
Empowering
Leading
Discerning



HT's Mentorship Program

- Over 110 Senior Students looking out for your Future HT Student
- Each Grade 9 student will be matched up with a Grade 11 Mentor (that student will be a resource for the year)
- This older student is there to answer questions, help with transition, and will plan events with their Grade 9 students throughout the year
- Ratio: 1 Mentor: 6-10 Grade 9's
- We also have Grade 12 Trailblazers who oversee the Mentors
- They wear shirts that identify them and can also act as a resource for new students.



Student Activity Fee



- The student activity fee for the 2026-2027 school year is \$65.00
- All families are able to pay this fee through School Cash Online
- The Student Activity Fee is an annual fee that is used to offset costs for school initiatives, materials, and activities such as, but not limited to:
 - Student Agenda / Lock
 - Academic Awards
 - School Yearbook
 - Student Leadership Opportunities
 - Guest Speakers
 - Special Student Events
 - Co-curricular Activities

Registration Process

Holy Trinity Family of Schools

- Holy Family • Our Lady of Peace
- St. Andrew • St. Cecilia
- St. Marguerite • St. Michael



HCDSB Non-Family Schools

- St. Bernadette • St. Gregory
- St. Joan of Arc • St. John Paul
- St. Mary • St. Matthew
- St. Teresa • St. Dominic • St. Luke • St. Nicholas • St. Vincent



Non HCDSB Schools (Public or Private Schools)



Important Dates



November 10th, 2025:

- Online registrations for families outside of HCDSB is available
- myBlueprint course selection for HCDSB students will open
- Advanced Placement (AP) online Application opens

December 12th, 2025:

- All Holy Trinity Registration and Course Selections are due for Holy Trinity
- Holy Trinity AP online Application closes (midnight)

June 5th, 2026:

- Now you are a Titan Event
- Communication will be sent to families of all registered future HT Grade 9 students in Spring 2026.

August 2026:

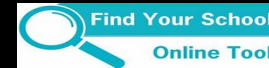
- Grade 9 Orientation Day
- Details will be sent out to families in the spring (typically occurs the last week of August prior to the start of school)

Useful Information/Links

- Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School: <https://secondary.hcdsb.org/holytrinity>



- Find your School: <https://schoolplanning.hcdsb.org/find-your-school/>



- Halton Bus: <https://www.haltonbus.ca/>



- MyBlueprint: www.myblueprint.ca/hcdsb



- Entering Secondary School Transition Guide for Grade 8 Students:

<https://www.hcdsb.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/HCDsb-Transition-guide-2025-26-web.pdf>



- Ontario Secondary School Requirements: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/earning-your-high-school-diploma>



- McCarthy Uniforms: 2501 Beryl Road | Oakville ,ON | L6J 7X3 <https://mccarthyuniforms.ca/>



- SchoolCashOnline: <https://hcdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>



Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you soon. If you have any questions you can contact our offices Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30am and 3:00pm.

Please visit our school website for updated school information regarding 2026-2027 school registration.



Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School

Want to Receive Information?



SCAN ME

