

REPORT

TO: SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL PROFILE
ST. MARY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL**

DATE: JUNE 20, 2023

ORIGIN

Director of Education

BACKGROUND

A School Profile program was established in January 2019 to recognize and celebrate school excellence. Each month, one school in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is highlighted at the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

This month's report highlights St. Mary Catholic Secondary School.

COMMENT



In September 1994, St. Mary Catholic Secondary School moved into a new 156,600 sq. ft. 2-storey facility on a 14.5 acre site on Rifle Range Rd. and Whitney Ave. in West Hamilton.



In April 1980, St. Mary Catholic Secondary School moved into a temporary site at the former Hamilton Teachers' College on the west corner of McMaster University campus. In 1992, the property was transferred to McMaster University and funding was awarded to the HWCDSB for a new, permanent St. Mary Catholic Secondary School.

Address

200 Whitney Ave.
Hamilton, ON L8S 2G7

Trustee

Mr. M. Valvasori

School Administration

Principal: Ms. C. D'Elia
Vice-Principal: Mr. S. Esposto
Vice-Principal: Mrs. T. Toth
Superintendent: Mrs. T. Ferrie

Grades

Grade 9-12

Enrolment

of students: 869 (as of October 31, 2022)

Family of Schools

St. Mary Catholic Secondary School

Feeder Schools

Canadian Martyrs CES

Guardian Angels CES

Our Lady of Mount Carmel CES

St. Augustine CES

St. Bernadette CES

St. Joseph CES

St. Thomas the Apostle CES

About St. Mary CSS

In the spring of 1970, Loretto Academy announced that after more than a century in Hamilton it would be closing its doors in June, owing to the unmanageable costs of repairing a worn-out facility. The school was folded into St. Mary Catholic Secondary School, which opened in September 1970 to serve the students of West Hamilton and the surrounding area. The school was housed on a temporary basis at the Diocese of Hamilton Chancery Office, next to the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, and shared classroom space with Christ the King Catholic Elementary School located directly behind the school on Hunt Street. The intention was that it would remain there for two years until the construction of a new school.

Within a few years, the student population grew from 350 to more than 900 students, and two years stretched into ten. In March 1980, St. Mary High School moved into its new site at the former Hamilton Teachers' College on the west corner of the McMaster University campus. An official opening and blessing, officiated by The Most Reverend Paul Reding, Bishop of Hamilton, was held on May 4, 1980. The site was a temporary measure by the provincial government to address accommodation pressures through the transfer of surplus public facilities to the separate school board, a process that became known as the Burkett Hearings. After a second round of negotiations, in 1992 the Ministry of Education announced that the St. Mary's school building would be transferred to McMaster University and funding would be provided for the building of a new St. Mary Catholic Secondary School.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on March 5, 1993 and in September 1994, St. Mary Catholic Secondary School moved into its third and final home on a 14.5-acre site on Rifle Range Rd. and Whitney Ave with an initial enrolment of 1,310 students. Designed by Moffat Kinoshita Architects, the new \$16.36-million school had a GFA of 156,600 sq. ft. and, in addition to numerous classrooms, featured art, music and theatre studios, automotive construction and electronic shops, and special education classrooms. The new St. Mary Catholic Secondary School was blessed by His Excellency, Anthony Tonnos, Bishop of Hamilton on October 16, 1994 on the school's 25th anniversary.

In 2002, the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board approved the construction of a new secondary school in Ancaster to alleviate overcrowding at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School in West Hamilton and St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School on the West Mountain. By 2003, enrolment at St. Mary had peaked at 1,740 students, 67.63% above the school's Ministry rated capacity of 1,038 students. With the

opening of Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School in 2004, enrolment at St. Mary dropped to a more manageable 1,333 students and by 2006, the school had 1,068 students.

In June 2017, the HWCDSB Board of Trustees approved the installation of a new artificial turf athletic field at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School. The field was officially opened in October 2018.

School Motto

“Live, Love, Learn”

PREPARED BY: M. JADON
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

SUBMITTED BY: D. HANSEN
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION