

REPORT

TO: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL PROFILE
CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020

ORIGIN

Director of Education

BACKGROUND

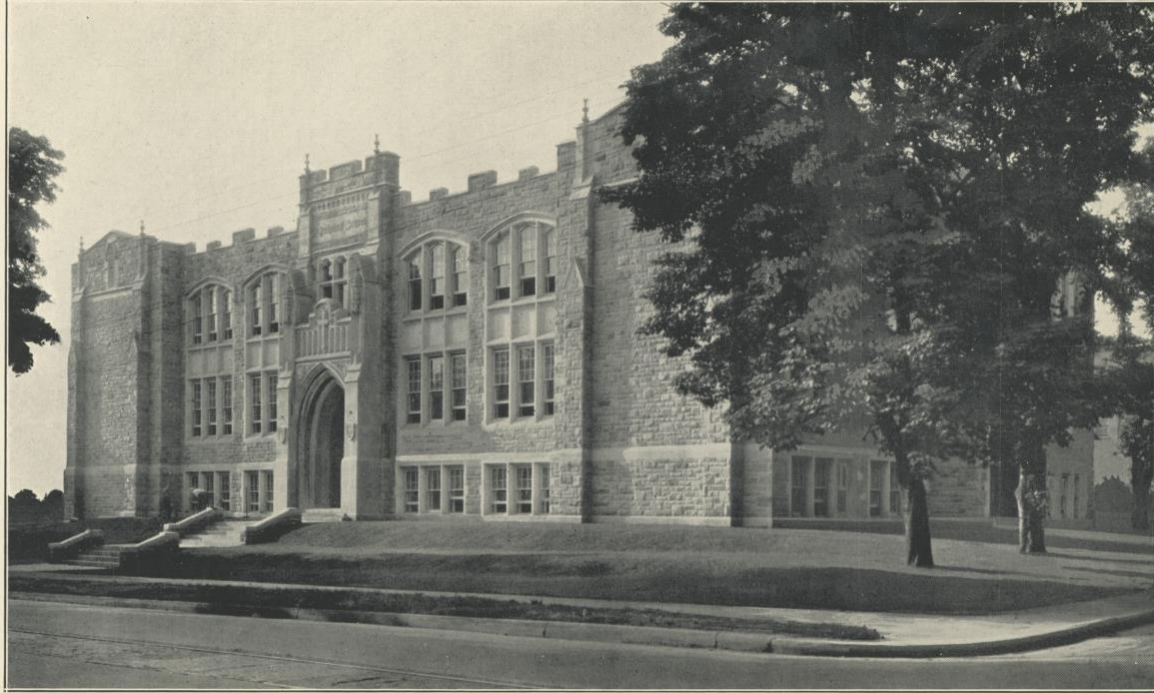
A School Profile program was established in January 2019 to recognize and celebrate school excellence. Each month, one school in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is highlighted at the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

This month's report highlights Cathedral High School.

COMMENT



In 1992, Cathedral Boys' School and Cathedral Girls' School came together to form Cathedral High School. In 1995, a new school facility was constructed on a 6.68 acre property on Wentworth Street North. The 17,658 m² state-of-the-art building was officially blessed by Bishop Anthony Tonnos on October 1, 1995.



Cathedral Boys' High School opened in September 1928 at the corner of Main and Emerald Streets. An official blessing and dedication was celebrated by His Eminence, Luigi Cardinal Sincero of Rome on September 2, 1928.



In 1955, Cathedral Girls' High School moved from St. Patrick School to a new building on Main Street across the street from the Boys' High School. A blessing and dedication was officiated by Bishop Joseph F. Ryan and Rev. Paul F. Reding.

Address

30 Wentworth St. N.
Hamilton, ON L8L 8H5

Trustee

Mr. A. Perri

School Administration

Principal: Mr. M. Daly
Vice-Principal: Mrs. C. Defend-Ionico
Vice Principal: Ms. S. Moretuzzo
Vice-Principal: Mr. K. John
Superintendent: Mrs. T. Kovach

Grades

Grade 9-12

Enrolment

of students: 1,242 (as of October 31, 2019)

Family of Schools

Cathedral High School

Feeder Schools

Holy Name of Jesus
St. Ann (Hamilton)
St. Lawrence
St. Patrick
Sts. Peter and Paul
St. Joseph
St. Eugene

About Cathedral HS

Cathedral is the board's oldest secondary school, dating back to 1912 when high school classes leading to matriculation were set up at St. Mary's Lyceum on Mulberry Street. The school was known as the Cathedral School because of its proximity to St. Mary's Church where the "cathedra" – Bishop's seat – was held. The school opened with an inaugural enrolment of 30 boys. Courses were open to boys, however, girls were allowed to participate in commercial classes (bookkeeping, shorthand, typing, penmanship, arithmetic, commercial law). Teaching was primarily provided by the Sisters of St. Joseph, with Sister Thecla serving as the school's first principal. In 1913, John Bennett assumed the principalship at an annual salary of \$1,000.

Cathedral's first and only graduate from the class of 1914 was Neville Anderson, who was later ordained into the priesthood and served the Diocese of Calgary for 63 years as pastor, church archivist and historian. By 1915, the graduating class had grown to eight. In 1919, the first female students graduated from Cathedral, accounting for six of the school's nine graduates. In 1921, as enrolment grew, the boys' school was moved to the upper floor of St. Patrick School while the girls' classes remained at St. Mary's Lyceum.

In 1925, the girls' commercial department relocated to the old St. Vincent School which had recently been renovated.

Soon both facilities proved inadequate and an appeal by Bishop John T. McNally was sent out to the Catholic community for funds to build a new school. Cathedral Boys' High School was officially opened at the corner of Main and Emerald Streets by His Eminence, Luigi Cardinal Sincero of Rome at a solemn blessing and dedication on September 2, 1928. The Gothic-inspired stone building was designed by Hutton & Souter Architects and built by the Pigott Construction Company. It featured 10 classrooms, a science lab, library and auditorium. In 1951, a new wing was added on the south end of the building and was dedicated to Cathedral students who had fought in the two World Wars. An official opening and dedication of the memorial wing was celebrated by Bishop Joseph F. Ryan on September 9, 1951.

With the departure of the boys from St. Patrick, Cathedral Girls' School took over the top floor of the elementary school as well as the St. Patrick's Club House across the street, while the commercial department continued to operate out of St. Vincent School. In 1947, Grade 9 and 10 classes were moved to St. Ann School due to space constraints. Gym and science classes were held at Cathedral Boys'. In 1955, a new Cathedral Girls' High School opened on Main Street across the street from the Boys' High School. An official blessing and dedication was celebrated by Bishop Joseph F. Ryan and Rev. Paul F. Reding, Chancellor for the Diocese of Hamilton. In 1964, the girls' school was renovated to include a music room, biology lab and staff room. In the 1970's, an alternative education program for at-risk teens was established at Cathedral Girls' School. Wilma's Place, named after its founder Wilma Scherloski, is currently located at the former St. Columba School.

In 1992, the boys' and girls' schools came together to form Cathedral High School. In March 1994, the Board of Trustees awarded a construction contract in the amount of \$19,394,813 to Aquicon Construction Co. Ltd. for a new, three-storey, 17,658 m² combined boys' and girls' school. On April 14, 1994 a ground breaking ceremony was held on the site of the former Hamilton Street Railway depot, a 6.68 acre property on Wentworth Street North. Cathedral High School opened in September 1995, followed by an official opening and blessing on October 1, 1995 celebrated by Bishop Anthony F. Tonnos. The state-of-the-art facility was designed by Architect John Harkness.

On June 20, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved the installation of new artificial turf athletic field at Cathedral High School. The field, named after former football coaches, John McPhee and Thomas Gallagher, was unveiled at a blessing and dedication on September 19, 2018, officiated by Rev. Jarek Pachocki.

School Motto

"Probitas et Scientia" – "Goodness/Uprightness and Knowledge"

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MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION