

Accreditation School Profile

Dunnville Christian School

September • 2011

The boards of Dunnville Christian School and Canadian Hallmarks Institute (CHI) are pleased to publish this *Accreditation Profile* as a public service promoting independent faith-based education in the greater Hamilton area. The format of this profile follows CHI standards: The contents of this profile were developed using local information obtained as part of the successful accreditation review.

1. Mission:

The official mission of the school is:

To provide quality Christian Education within a loving and secure environment. Students are equipped to grow in knowledge and wisdom and challenged to develop the gifts in service to God and others.

2. Governance:

Dunnville Christian School is owned by the Dunnville Christian School Society and operated on its behalf by an elected board of 9 directors. The Dunnville Christian School Society is a registered charity (#107270415RR0001) and membership in the society is open to all adults who meet the criteria.

3. Community Demographics of School

- a) The families supporting Dunnville Christian School come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. A total of 36 different occupations are represented as well as a large economic range, from needy to wealthy families.
- b) The general statistics for Haldimand County taken from Stats Canada Reports (2005), which provide the following:
 - Average (full-time income all families) \$61,776
 - Average (income single/parent families) \$26,835

4. Admission Policies for Students

- a) The Dunnville Christian School Board has adopted a policy of non-discrimination in support of the Ontario Human Rights Code. In promoting its distinctive Christian character, the policy requires that students should:
 - be able to benefit from the programs offered and that parents should
 - declare their (his/her) support of the school's religious identity as evident in official documents.
- b) The student body is 100% composed of Canadian citizens.

5. Faculty

- a) Dunnville Christian School has 4 full-time and 4 part-time teaching staff, 100% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent, 100% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 86% hold both the Ontario Teacher's Certificate and the Christian Teacher's Certificate.
- b) The average teaching experience of the staff is 17 years (full time equivalent). The board requires an annual program of professional development for all teachers.
- c) The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is 23:1 for 2011/12.

6. Student Achievement

Dunnville Christian School has a student body of 116 and a complete JK-8 program. The faculty follows a defined evaluation program to monitor the academic and social progress of each student.

- a) Basic Skills - The school participates in the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS) student assessment program on an annual basis. In 2010, Grades 3 - 8 participated in the Canadian Tests of Basic Skills (CTBS) with outstanding results.

Dunnville Christian School CTBS Test Results, "2010" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	83	82	50
4	77	77	50
5	78	77	50
6	58	72	50
7	90	76	50
8	82	75	50

- b) Literacy Test from Province - The school does not participate in the elementary provincial tests sponsored by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) because of the fees levied on non-funded private schools by the EQAO as a cost of participation.

- c) Dunnville Christian School graduates attend Smithville District Christian High School where students score an average of 91% on the Provincial Literacy Test, Lakeshore Catholic High School where students score an average of 83% on the Provincial Literacy Test and Dunnville Secondary School where students score an average of 75% on the Provincial Literacy Test.
- d) Other significant awards given are the Principal's Plaque, French Award, Citizenship Award, Speech Award, Spelling Award, Geography Challenge, and Valedictorian Award.

7. Programs of Study

- a) Dunnville Christian School offers a complete range of academic programs for all eight grades. The curriculum follows the outline developed by the OACS. This design follows the official Ministry of Education curriculum in content requirements.
- b) The board and faculty are committed to the integration of Christian perspectives throughout the entire program of studies.
- c) Dunnville Christian School has a special education resource program and a special needs program. It provides technological studies at many grade levels to ensure that students acquire computer literacy before graduation.

8. Finances

- a) Dunnville Christian School obtains its income from several sources, notably:
 - 63% from tuition;
 - 22% from donations;
 - 0% from government grants;
 - 10% from fundraising events;
 - 5% other
- b) 2011/2012 Year the tuition rate was \$10,200 which is the full family rate (includes transportation). Dunnville Christian School has a Kindergarten rate of 33% of the full family rate, and a JK rate of \$1985.00 for the year.
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance in the form of tuition reduction.
- d) The official budget is approved each spring at a general membership meeting. The budget expenditures are as follows:

● education, salaries and benefits	65%
● transportation	18%
● facilities, operating	8%
● facilities capital & mortgage interest	2.5%
● program	0%
● administration	1%
● other	5.5%

9. Membership

Dunnville Christian School is part of a large family of schools known as the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS). This provincial organization provides general policy guidelines on all matters relevant to operating a school in Ontario. Dunnville Christian School is also a member of Christian Schools Canada (CSC) and Christian Schools International (CSI). The school is registered as a private school with the Ontario Ministry of Education and submits annual reports as required by law.

10. Testimonials

The board has asked parents and those who frequent the school to provide their opinion about the education provided at Dunnville Christian School. They have agreed to submit the following statements and are willing to discuss them.

Our family has spent the last 8 years at Dunnville Christian School. Our kids have grown academically and spiritually in so many ways, and they were well prepared for what lay ahead of them in high school. We have to say it was because of the foundation that was laid during their years of being surrounded by loving and caring staff, friends and family. The journey was not always easy but it was worth it.

- Andrew & Liz Schilstra

As a piano/voice teacher at DCS I find myself thanking God each day I enter the school. The sound of children's voices singing God's praise (or even the alphabet) filters outside to lighten one's heart and step.

The beautiful flowers are also welcoming as are the smiles and cheerful "hellos" from those within. The school spirit (students and staff) gives a sincere welcome to all who enter the doors.

I am both honoured and humbled to be able to instill a love of music in the children. Please let me tell you that after teaching piano/voice for 40 plus years, that this is what education should be for all.

- Janet Balent-Corlett

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dunnville Christian School, the staff, students and board members for the warm welcome and awesome school year that both our children have had. Not only have we not had any issues whatsoever in regards to any type of bullying, both children have improved academically. Our daughter, who we thought had dyslexia is now reading, and loving math. Our son has been able to go to school without fear and has been able to participate in all kinds of extra-curricular activities like joining the school hockey team and the Battle of the Books. Our recommendation to those concerned with school closures or with bullying, or your child not learning to their potential is to consider DCS as an alternative. DCS's motto is "Live, Learn, Love" and they truly follow this motto every day.

- Dan & Ciara Garbutt

I have been an elementary school teacher for the public school board for 31 years. In my retirement I am volunteering at Dunnville Christian School.

I have experienced the students to be friendly and polite. I hear prayers and Christian songs being sung—values that are being instilled at home and church are being reinforced at school. The classrooms are bright and well equipped. The computer lab is very current in its equipment.

The staff is friendly and works together well, often helping each other. Even though they have no prep time, lots of yard duty, and many extra activities going on for the students, they are a positive group. The secretary is always friendly and helpful, and very efficient. The principal does an amazing job. She teaches half time, knows all the students by name, and is on top of all situations. Parents are involved in their children's education through various committees that help run things at school.

I would recommend Dunnville Christian School to anyone who wants to have a good education in a Christian setting.

- Maria Klassen

11. Contact Persons

For further information contact:

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| ● Ralph DeBoer | Board Chair for the Society Info. |
| ● Joyce Koornneef | Principal for School Information |
| ● Marjorie Hoekstra & Mike Lessard | Admissions Information |

12. Public Information

Any member of the public is welcome to request a copy of the following documents:

- *Official Bylaws*
- *School Calendar*
- *Admission Policy*
- *Financial Statements*
- *Membership Policy*