

# Accreditation School Profile

## Holland Marsh District Christian School

**December • 2011**

The boards of the Holland Marsh District 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 York County 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 equip students to positively impact society through a Christ centered education in a supportive and dedicated community.*

### 2. Governance:

Holland Marsh District Christian School is owned by the Holland Marsh District Christian School Society and operated on its behalf by an elected board of 12 directors. The Holland Marsh District Christian School Society is a registered charity (#118959154RR0001) and membership in the society is open to all adults who meet the criteria.

### 3. Community Demographics of School

- a) The families supporting Holland Marsh District Christian School come from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. A total of 68 different occupations are represented as well as a large economic range, from needy to wealthy families.
- b) The general statistics for York County taken from Stats Canada Reports (2005), which provide the following:
  - Average (full-time income all families) \$52,833
  - Average (income single/parent families) \$30,639

## 4. Admission Policies for Students

- a) The Holland Marsh District 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 99.9% composed of Canadian citizens.

## 5. Faculty

- a) Holland Marsh District Christian School has 9 full-time and 4 part-time teaching staff, 58.3% of whom have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate, 63% hold the Christian Teacher's Certificate and 27% hold both the Ontario Teacher's Certificate and the Christian Teacher's Certificate.
- b) The average teaching experience of the staff is 10 years (full time equivalent). The board requires an annual program of professional development for all teachers.
- c) The pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) is 20:1 for 2011/12.

## 6. Student Achievement

Holland Marsh District Christian School has a student body of 221 and a complete preschool and 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.

Holland Marsh District Christian School CTBS Test Results, "2010" (percentile)			
Grade	School Ranking	OACS Norm	Canadian National Norm
3	83	82	50
4	76	77	50
5	77	77	50
6	67	72	50
7	74	76	50
8	73	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) Holland Marsh District Christian School graduates attend Toronto District Christian High School, Unity Christian High School, public and local Catholic High Schools where students score above the average on the Provincial Literacy Test.
- d) Other significant awards given are Billy Rupke Memorial Award, Sue Lise Memorial Award, Sylvia Claydon Sportsmanship Award, Rotary Club Award for Creative Expression, Scholastic Achievement Award, Athletic Award, Lions Club of Bradford for Most Improved Student Award, Servanthood Award, and Colleen Mills Memorial Award.

## 7. Programs of Study

- a) Holland Marsh District 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) Holland Marsh District 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) Holland Marsh District Christian School obtains its income from several sources, notably:
  - 82% from tuition;
  - 6% from donations;
  - 0% from government grants;
  - 9% from fundraising events;
  - 3% other
- b) 2011/2012 Year the tuition rate was \$13,295/family rate. For JK/SK \$9,335, and Joy School \$2,200 (Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- c) For families experiencing temporary financial hardship, the board provides assistance in the form of a percentage of tuition discount.
- d) The official budget is approved each spring at a general membership meeting. The budget expenditures are as follows:
 

● education, salaries and benefits	70%
● transportation	15%
● facilities, operating	5%
● facilities capital & mortgage interest	0%
● program	5%
● administration	5%
● other	0%

## 9. Membership

Holland Marsh District 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. Holland Marsh District 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 two parents to provide their opinion about the education provided at Holland Marsh District Christian School. They have agreed to submit the following statements and are willing to discuss them.

*At Holland Marsh, we know that our kids are at 'school' but further to that, their whole lives are being enhanced. The values of faith and hope in God's revealed Word and his plan for all mankind runs parallel with our kids' learning of reading and math. Our eldest daughter has come home singing "do everything without grumbling or complaining" ... need I say more?*

*Once we made the decision to have our children attend HMDCS, I anticipated some of the things that have come to pass for our daughters. In addition, it has been our great delight, to realize what a blessing this school community is to our whole family. We are all richer for walking alongside one another as our kids go through their school year.*

*The staff at Holland Marsh are genuine, dedicated and experienced. Without a doubt, it is a very special place. It is our privilege to attend and pour our lives into the work already being done so well there.*

- Sheri Cantle, Parent

*Our family has enjoyed the blessings of being part of the Holland Marsh District Christian School family for over 13 years.*

*We believe that the Christian education our children are receiving is an investment into their future that cannot be measured by dollars and cents. It is invaluable. Our children are spending their days in a school where the very words of the living God are taught in every classroom, in every subject by a caring, dedicated staff. What a blessing! It has been a joy and privilege for us to be a part of the HMDCS family as we work together to teach our children to glorify God and serve Him in all they do!*

- Sid and Heather Biersteker, Parents

## 11. Contact Persons

For further information contact:

- Cameron Loopstra                      Board Chair for the Society Information
- Rod Berg                                      Principal for School 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*