

Welcome to Ursuline College

June 2016

HIGH SCHOOL CONNECTIONS



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey



A Message from the Principal

Each year, the staff and students work diligently to make UCC a school of which the entire Municipality of Chatham-Kent can be proud! Considering that we draw our students from all corners of our municipality, UCC has the opportunity to reach out into every local community. That unique community perspective makes our school family stronger!

As principal of Ursuline College, I am excited to have your child be a part of the traditions of this amazing school. UCC is an exciting place, that awaits your child and yourself, as a parent. The anticipation of moving to high school can cause some anxiety and concern for students and parents. I want to assure you that at UCC, everyone feels welcome. With a dynamic staff and incredible students, your child will become part of the UCC family from the first day of Grade 9 orientation.

We offer many, many opportunities in academic pathways, course selection, extra-curricular experiences and after-school clubs and activities. There is a place for everyone! We pride ourselves on developing the intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual character of every child. To our elementary school students — I urge you to continue to do great work in your current school and I look forward to meeting you upon your arrival in Grade 9.



Mr. Ray Power

Principal, Ursuline College Chatham

Opportunities Abound at Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School

There is a misconception that a large school equates to a lack of personal touch when it comes to knowing students. Here at UCC, diligent and conscious efforts are made to provide a personal connection with our students. Each student is assigned an administrator, a guidance counsellor and numerous dynamic teachers, who pride themselves in trying to provide the most welcoming and professional classroom environments. Student engagement and connection are important to us. A student's high school journey is a quick one — we want our students' experiences to be meaningful, enriching and academically stimulating.

With that in mind, UCC offers a diverse selection of courses that provide pathway opportunities to university, college, apprenticeship, community living and workplace, once students complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Academic programs are supported by our Student Success Team and Special Education Department. Specialist High Skills Major and Dual Credit experiential learning programs provide unique opportunities to learn beyond the classroom. In addition to academics, extra curricular athletic teams, rich arts experiences, clubs and various activities all provide so many ways to become involved in the school and school life.

I encourage families to contact the guidance department or the curriculum leaders and department heads, to discuss course selection, options and extra-curricular possibilities for your child. The world in which we live is evolving and the choices available for students to pursue are vast.

It is our hope that through a shared experience between student, school and home, our UCC programs will lead every student to the many exciting opportunities that await them!



Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School

Living Our Faith at Ursuline College

Living an active life of faith is part of the proud tradition of Catholic faith formation at UCC. Each morning, we begin with prayer and reflection. Led by our Chaplaincy Leader and student volunteers, our school community is united in our common bond of prayer.

In addition, there are numerous activities, events and outings that are planned throughout the school year, which bear witness to our faith and provide our students with concrete examples of the impact we can make in our school and our community. We make a conscious effort to provide assistance to help families in need, both within the walls of the school and in the community at large. We support families in need of school uniforms, we have an open access breakfast program and a food pantry is available for any student who needs it.

Outreach to our community is accomplished in many forms. Our annual *We Scare Hunger* canned food drive collected almost 14,500 cans this year. We hold a reverent Remembrance Day Service, honouring those who have served and those who continue to serve our country. Our staff and students welcome our community members with our Pedagape Christmas outreach dinner.

UCC's tradition of service also stretches around the world via the annual Lenten campaign, mission trips, the *Me to We* global awareness and fundraising campaign. Our 24 Hours of Service encourages students to become actively involved in acts of service within Chatham Kent. Community service hours are a requirement for all students by the time they reach graduation. With an aim to enrich the lives of those within our greater community, UCC students are challenged to earn 40 hours of volunteer service during their four year high school career. This community service is directed at providing a meaningful experience of living our faith as we are called to serve.

Embedded in all of these experiences and opportunities is the growth of our students in meeting the Catholic graduate expectations. Our students are called to be discerning believers, effective communicators, holistic thinkers, lifelong learners, collaborative contributors, caring family members and responsible citizens.

Lancer Link — Grade 9 Transition Program



September 2016 will mark the eighth anniversary of the *Lancer Link Program*, which is coordinated by four trained staff, working with nearly 60 student volunteers. The goal of the program is to provide incoming Grade 9 students with a smooth transition to high school.

The orientation program is designed to match two Grade 11 and 12 students with groups of Grade 9 students. The *Link Leaders* make regular contact with their Grade 9 students, encouraging them to become connected to school. The student leaders also respond to questions and concerns and help to familiarize the Grade 9 students with their new school setting.

Link Leaders are role models and mentors, who act as the “cheerleaders” for our new students on their orientation day, which is held prior to the start of the school year. *Link Leaders* stay connected with their Grade 9 students throughout the semester, to ensure students adapt to high school life. So, welcome ... and know you are in good hands!

Student Services and Guidance

UCC Student Services provides a wide-range of supports for students and their families.

Located at the very front of the UCC campus, Student Services houses our guidance counsellors, child and youth worker, social worker, school chaplaincy leader and school nurse. The roles of each member of the team are very distinct; however, the department supports students in need of academic counselling, emotional support in dealing with personal challenges or struggles, as well as peer and family issues. Our ties to the community also help our students to access more comprehensive support, when needed.

The student services team takes an active role in providing direction and contacts to all families in need of support. Planning students' academic pathways and supporting them outside the classroom walls is a primary goal for our Student Services Department.

