



Director's Annual Report



It is with great pleasure that I present this annual report to members of the St. Clair Catholic community. The 2007-2008 school year was filled with many success stories, some of which are included in this report.

Our schools are safe, vibrant places of learning, where our faith is alive and our students and staff live Gospel values every day. We have outstanding educational programs and continually employ new and innovative strategies to help our students achieve their very best. And, we know it's working, because we continue to see results of the EQAO assessments, which are above the provincial average. In fact, St. Clair Catholic students achieve in the top one third for all boards in the province.

To our parents, let me say thank you for entrusting the education of your children to us. It is a responsibility which we are honoured to fulfill. From junior kindergarten until their high

school graduation, our purpose is to help your children build a bright future for themselves — a future in which they know they can do anything they want to do... be anything they want to be.

That is our pledge to you.

Paul Wubben, Director of Education

Honouring...

Faith and Excellence



Faith Development Day

Father Richard Fragomeni was our guest speaker at the system-wide faith development day in November. Father Fragomeni delivered an inspiring and uplifting message on the value of Catholic education, rooted in

St. Clair Catholic's 2007-2008 theme *Gathered In One Spirit*. Pictured above (L-R) are: Ross Daly, Trustee; Linda Ward, Vice Chair of the Board; Father Richard Fragomeni; and Paul Wubben, Director of Education.

Prime Minister's Award

Retiring St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School teacher Tom St. Amand was honoured as one of Canada's outstanding educators for 2007 with the annual *Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence*.



Prime Minister Harper himself presented Mr. St. Amand with the award, during a visit to the school in May. The *Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence* honour outstanding and innovative elementary and secondary school teachers, who instill in their students a love of learning.



Gathered In One Spirit

St. Clair Catholic's liturgical theme, *Gathered In One Spirit*, was celebrated at Masses and prayer services throughout the 2007-2008 school year. The banner was designed by Laura Callaghan and produced by Guy Williams.

Board of Trustees



Seated: Linda Ward, Vice Chair; Anita Labadie, Chair and Father Andy Dwyer, Board Chaplain. Standing: Trustees John VanHeck, Brenda Rumble, Michelle Parks, Carol Bryden and Ross Daly.



Student Trustee

Alishia Ellis from Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School, representing all St. Clair Catholic students.

Elementary Schools

Schools On The Move

Georges P. Vanier Catholic School was named a *School On The Move* by the Ontario Ministry of Education in 2008 — one of just 43 out of about 3,000 schools in the entire province — to receive the

designation this year. In 2007, St. Michael Catholic School in Ridgetown was named a *School On The Move*.

In order to receive the designation, schools must demonstrate improvement in EQAO scores in reading, writing and mathematics in both grades 3 and 6. Staff throughout the school must be able to articulate the strategies employed to improve achievement and provide evidence of that achievement and growth. Finally, instructional strategies for improved achievement must be supported by research and evidence.

Three Student Achievement Officers from the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat toured the school last May, where they visited every classroom and spoke with students, teachers, parents, the custodian, secretary and principal. In June, a delegation representing the school community traveled to Toronto to receive the *Schools On The Move Award* (photo at right). The delegation included (L-R) Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education, Carol Belanger, Principal of Georges P. Vanier Catholic School and teachers Heather Griffioen and Cortnee Goure.



School Effectiveness Framework

A major project this year was the implementation of the School Effectiveness Framework. All 30 elementary schools participated in a school self-assessment of their effectiveness in literacy and numeracy practices. Subsequently, all elementary schools were visited by one of six District Review Teams, which did an independent appraisal of the school's success, in terms of student achievement. Each school received a report, which will help in the formulation of the school improvement plans for the 2008—2009 school year.



Assistive Technology Discovery Conference

Grade 6 students who have learning disabilities were invited to attend a four day Discovery Conference in the use of assistive technology.

The conference was offered in Chatham and Sarnia in April, during which students learned how to master the use of assistive technologies, such as *Dragon*, *Naturally Speaking* and *Premier Suite*. In addition, they learned to advocate for themselves, that this is the type of equipment they require in order to access the curriculum.

The conference was a tremendous success for all students who attended.

New Child Abuse Curriculum Developed for Grades 2 and 4

A brand new curriculum, which teaches children about child sexual abuse, was introduced for grade 2 and 4 students. The program, developed by the Toronto Child Abuse Centre, teaches children key abuse prevention messages, by focusing on simple rules. The program is divided for two age groups. *I'm a Great Little Kid* is designed for children aged four to seven years. It includes a series of six storybooks, messages for parents and a facilitator's guide, with background information. *I'm a Great Kid! — Primary Prevention Program* is designed for use with children in grade 4. It includes a video, facilitator's manual and developmentally appropriate activities designed to reinforce the main concepts and stimulate discussion.

Secondary Schools

Partnerships and Programs

In order to ensure success for all students, partnerships with the community have been developed to allow for new programs and opportunities for students. This year, the first *Specialist High Skills*

Major (SHSM) program for St. Clair Catholic students was implemented in manufacturing at Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School. The objectives of a SHSM are to provide students with the skill sets necessary to be successful in industry and to be prepared for direct entry into the workplace, as well as apprenticeship, college or university.

The SHSM program consists of a bundle of nine credits in grades 11 and 12. Students also earn several industry recognized certifications related to their field of study and have many opportunities for "reach ahead" experiences related to each of the destinations.

UCC students had the opportunity to earn college credits in machining and welding through ministry-approved dual credits from St. Clair College (Burgess Centre Campus) and to experience work at our local engineering and manufacturing companies through cooperative education placements. This year saw the first graduates of the SHSM program. Next year, SHSMs will be offered in communications at St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School and in construction at St. Patrick's Catholic High School.



Instructional Excellence and Professional Development

Students in St. Clair Catholic secondary schools continue to perform above the provincial averages in credit accumulations and pass rates. This is another indicator of the instructional excellence of our schools. Our teachers continue to work together to develop and align their instructional practices.

This year, teachers have begun a multi-year focus on exploring differentiated instruction to meet the diverse needs of the learners in their classes. They have worked in Professional Learning Communities to develop their assessment strategies to align grading practices. Teachers continue to direct their energy and professional learning towards the goal of improving the success of all students.

Safety in Our Secondary Schools

For students to learn well at school, they must first feel safe and secure. This year, St. Patrick's Catholic High School applied for and received a grant to develop a bullying prevention project. This grant created an excellent opportunity for the school to carefully study the school culture and to determine a course that would improve the safety and well-being of our entire school community.

The project has been multi-faceted, including the creation of a school/community team, introducing restorative justice circles, anti-bullying education across the curriculum and direct support for students.

To share the benefits of the program, St. Patrick's has reached out to its elementary partner schools, through the distribution of materials, programs and drama presentations on the subject of bullying.

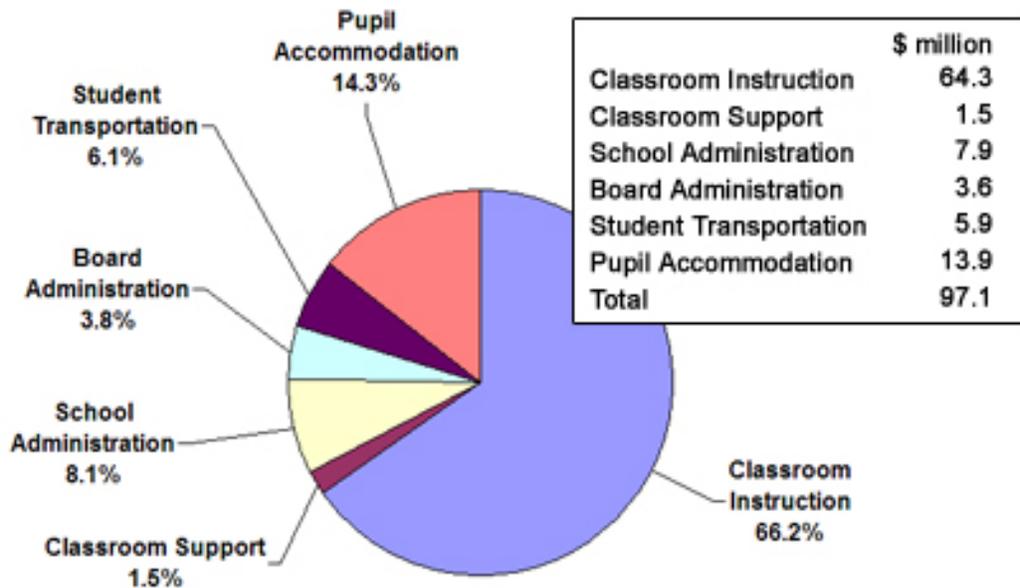


In addition, teachers and students from each of the St. Clair Catholic secondary schools were invited to hear Dr. Eva Olsson deliver a powerful message about tolerance, based on her experiences as a holocaust survivor. Building strength throughout the system through collaboration and sharing is a hallmark of this project. Dr. Eva Olsson (centre) is pictured with Sharon Berry Ross and Annette Miner from St. Patrick's Catholic High School.

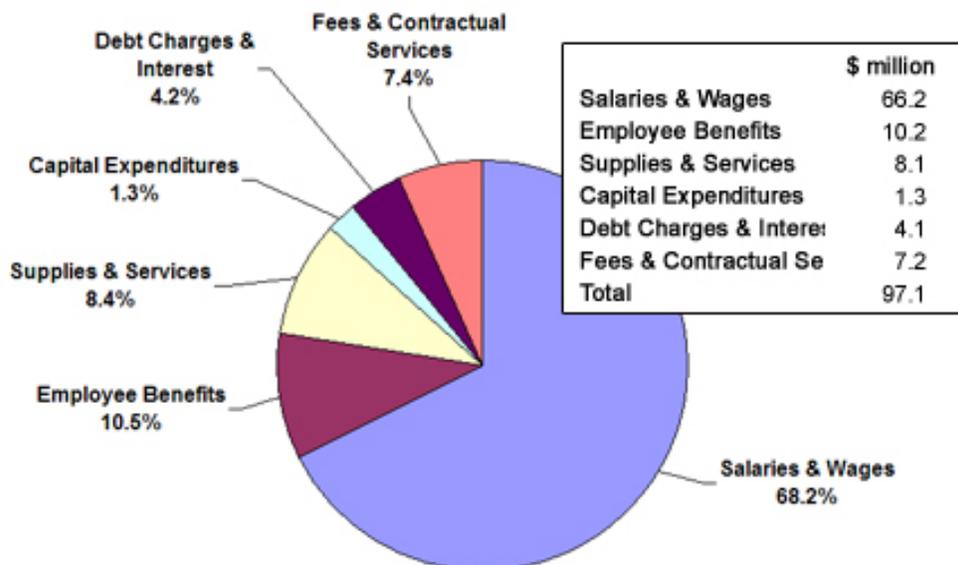
Budget

Trustees for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board approved a balanced operating budget for the 2007-2008 school year at the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, June 26, 2007.

2007-08 EXPENDITURES BY MINISTRY CATEGORY



2007-08 EXPENDITURES BY EXPENDITURE TYPE



ENROLMENT AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Enrolment—FTE (October 31, 2008)	
Elementary	6,791.80
Secondary	3,225.25
TOTAL	10,017.05

Number of Students Born outside of Canada	
Elementary	33
Secondary	13
TOTAL	46

Primary Class Sizes	
Percentage of primary classes with 20 or fewer students	90.7%

EQAO RESULTS (ELEMENTARY) FROM 2003 — 2008

2007-2008	READING				WRITING				MATHEMATICS			
	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board
Grade 3	66	61	73	49	75	66	79	44	77	68	80	51
Grade 6	65	66	77	53	68	67	79	52	63	61	76	41

2006-2007	READING				WRITING				MATHEMATICS			
	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board
Grade 3	65	62	73	45	67	64	79	46	79	69	81	50
Grade 6	67	64	74	54	63	61	74	49	65	59	71	46

2005-2006	READING				WRITING				MATHEMATICS			
	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board
Grade 3	64	62	79	49	62	64	78	41	77	68	80	55
Grade 6	71	64	77	46	63	61	76	44	68	61	80	45

2004-2005	READING				WRITING				MATHEMATICS			
	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board
Grade 3	64	59	79	47	63	61	73	44	73	66	81	53
Grade 6	65	63	74	52	60	59	71	42	64	60	72	50

2003-2004	READING				WRITING				MATHEMATICS			
	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board
Grade 3	55	54	67	40	55	58	68	42	69	64	79	51
Grade 6	62	58	70	46	51	54	68	42	64	57	71	45

2002-2003	READING				WRITING				MATHEMATICS			
	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board
Grade 3	51	50	63	31	50	55	67	37	62	57	69	35
Grade 6	57	56	68	42	51	54	66	40	57	53	68	39

GENDER SPECIFIC EQAO RESULTS (ELEMENTARY)

2007-2008	READING			WRITING			MATHEMATICS		
	St. Clair	Girls	Boys	St. Clair	Girls	Boys	St. Clair	Girls	Boys
Grade 3	66	72	61	75	79	72	77	78	77
Grade 6	65	72	58	68	77	60	63	64	62

2006-2007	READING			WRITING			MATHEMATICS		
	St. Clair	Girls	Boys	St. Clair	Girls	Boys	St. Clair	Girls	Boys
Grade 3	65	69	62	67	74	61	79	78	79
Grade 6	67	70	64	63	71	55	65	63	66

2005-2006	READING			WRITING			MATHEMATICS		
	St. Clair	Girls	Boys	St. Clair	Girls	Boys	St. Clair	Girls	Boys
Grade 3	64	68	59	62	67	57	77	74	80
Grade 6	71	80	64	63	76	52	68	69	67

2004-2005	READING			WRITING			MATHEMATICS		
	St. Clair	Girls	Boys	St. Clair	Girls	Boys	St. Clair	Girls	Boys
Grade 3	64	69	60	63	72	53	73	72	74
Grade 6	65	72	59	60	73	47	64	65	63

Gender specific data is not available prior to 2004-2005

English Language Learners – For grade 3 from 2003-04 to 2007-08 represent < 1% of students

For grade 6 from 2003-04 to 2007-08 represent 1% to < 1% of students

EQAO RESULTS (SECONDARY) FROM 2003 — 2008

GRADE 9 MATH								
Year	Academic				Applied			
	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board
2007-2008	78	75	88	50	41	34	53	15
2006-2007	77	71	83	32	39	35	64	7
2005-2006	68	71	81	46	27	35	58	18
2004-2005	67	68	95	49	28	27	53	15
2003-2004	67	68	83	43	20	26	64	6
2002-2003	67	66	78	30	17	21	39	6

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST								
Year	First Time Eligible				Previously Eligible			
	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board	St. Clair	Prov.	Highest Board	Lowest Board
March 2008	85	84	92	75	61	51	N/A	N/A
March 2007	86	84	91	73	57	50	N/A	N/A
March 2006	88	84	92	74	61	55	N/A	N/A
October 2004	85	82	90	69	67	62	N/A	N/A
October 2003	77	77	91	63	69	N/A	N/A	N/A
October 2002	74	72	82	58	46	N/A	N/A	N/A

GENDER SPECIFIC EQAO RESULTS (SECONDARY)

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST						
Year	First Time Eligible			Previously Eligible		
	St. Clair	Girls	Boys	St. Clair	Girls	Boys
March 2008	85	89	81	61	60	63
March 2007	86	88	84	57	58	57
March 2006	88	90	84	61	60	61
October 2004	85	86	79	67	70	64
October 2003	77	52	48	69	47	52
October 2002	74	78	69	46	44	47

CREDIT ACCUMULATION

Percentage of students with 16 credits by age 16	
2007-2008	75.7%
2006-2007	73.6%
2005-2006	70.6%
2004-2005	69.9%

EQAO RESULTS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

2007-2008	READING	WRITING	MATHEMATICS
Grade 3	36	62	57
Grade 6	32	39	30

2006-2007	READING	WRITING	MATHEMATICS
Grade 3	30	30	66
Grade 6	31	20	31

2005-2006	READING	WRITING	MATHEMATICS
Grade 3	20	13	49
Grade 6	32	20	33

2004-2005	READING	WRITING	MATHEMATICS
Grade 3	17	9	42
Grade 6	18	14	28

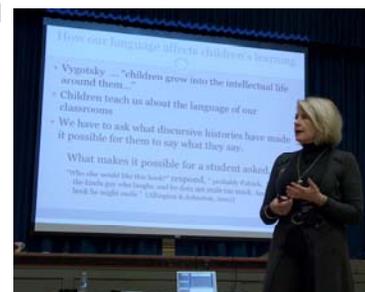
2003-2004	READING	WRITING	MATHEMATICS
Grade 3	23	11	44
Grade 6	20	13	24

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST				
Year	First Time Eligible		Previously Eligible	
	St. Clair	Prov.	St. Clair	Prov.
2007-2008	46	45	21	22
2006-2007	43	47	34	24
2005-2006	59	49	32	26
2004-2005	62	51	46	42
2003-2004	41	39	53	40

SPECIFIC MEASURES TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- **System-wide Professional Learning Communities** — This is an important initiative funded by the St. Clair Catholic District School board, which provides opportunities for every teacher from every school to engage in professional dialogue about student achievement, based on observation and data collection.
- **Education For All Math Project** — Teams consist of the principal, program resource teacher, primary teacher and intermediate teacher. This team approach also helps to generate discussions among the wider staff, develops shared learning and helps to build teacher capacity.
- **Early Intervention Oral Language Development** — This series of workshops for principals, program resource teachers and classroom teachers from JK/SK and grade 1 was facilitated by Carmel Crévola and focused on oral language development and early intervention. Ms. Crévola is an internationally known author and lecturer on oral language development. Her research shows that junior kindergarten students who are ten months behind in oral language development can lag up to six years behind by grade 3.
- **After School Tutoring** — Through funding from the Ontario Focused Intervention Program (OFIP), after-school tutoring programs were available to students in grades 3 to 6. Although this program is targeted at students who are achieving at level 2, anyone who wishes to participate is invited to attend.
- **Instructional Leadership Sessions for Administrators** — 2007-2008 was the second year in which St. Clair Catholic has offered this professional development series for principals, which features world renowned leaders in the development of strategies to advance student learning. Guest lecturers include Carmel Crévola (pictured above), Dr. Peter Hill, Dr. Helen Bochar, Dr. Lorna Earl and Dr. Stephen Katz. In addition, the Board's District Literacy and Numeracy Team facilitated carousel sessions to assist principals in supporting classroom teachers. Although the main focus this year was literacy, the sessions will be expanded to



include numeracy and cross-curricular instruction in the coming months.

- **School Effectiveness Framework (SEF)** — As part of the provincial SEF initiative, St. Clair Catholic chose to include a review of all 30 elementary schools. Teams, which included a Superintendent of Education, principal, system consultant and an OECTA representative, were assigned to a group of schools. Each school across the district was visited and reports were developed, which indicated observations and suggestions for best practices in instruction. As a result of the visits, an overall report was developed, which will be included in the current system plans for improvement and teacher in-service.
- **Support for Classroom Libraries** — As a direct result of the SEF visits, it was recognized that there was a gap in non-fiction materials in some classrooms libraries. Senior administration earmarked \$90,000 in funding to purchase non-fiction books, which were distributed to classrooms across the district. Schools are allocating a further five percent of school-based funding, to support classroom libraries.
- **Parent Engagement** — St. Clair Catholic's district Literacy and Numeracy Teachers are often called upon to support school-based literacy and numeracy events and to speak at Catholic School Council meetings, on subjects related to school improvement plans.

SPECIFIC MEASURES TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- **School-Based Student Success Team** — Each secondary school formed a *Student Success Team*, comprised of the Principal, Student Success Teacher, the Guidance Department Head, the Special Education Department Head, and others, to coordinate the provision of supports to at risk students within the school. All grade 9 students, who were nominated by their elementary schools as candidates for additional support by the *School Success Team*, were monitored regularly. Service provision was coordinated based on individual needs assessments.
- **Outreach to Elementary Partner Schools** — the *Student Success Teams* visited each elementary school many times to make contact with the students and teachers of grades 7 and 8. Their purpose was to increase their familiarity with the secondary school, to help ease the students' transition.
- **Outreach to Early School Leavers** — Lists of students who had dropped out of school in the past several years were compiled at each school. Where contact information was available, the *Student Success Team* phoned the early school leavers and worked to help them come back to school to complete their graduation requirements.
- **Direct Support for Classroom Teachers** — Upon request, individual teachers were provided with materials and resources to assist them in embedding literacy instruction in their content area courses. Opportunities for observation of other teachers using techniques to teach literacy and team teaching with the SSLSTs were also provided.
- **Secondary School Numeracy Support Teachers** — Literacy and Numeracy Support Teachers have worked with teachers to enhance instructional practices and prepare students for the grade 9 EQAO assessments. The support teachers have also been working on school improvement as it relates to literacy and numeracy, including assisting in the facilitation of school-based professional learning communities.
- **Summer School Cooperative Education** — Summer school co-op was offered for the first time in the summer of 2008. Students in Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton had the opportunity to participate in one or two credit co-ops as well as cooperative education for students at risk.
- **Specialist High Skills Major** — Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) courses, which began with manufacturing at Ursuline College, have been expanded. In addition to the UCC manufacturing course, a SHSM course in construction is now offered at St. Patrick's Catholic High School and information technology and landscape/horticulture technology courses are available at St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School.
- **Cooperative Education Expansion** — Funding was used to generate awareness among employers and to elicit new cooperative education placements, primarily in the skilled trades. The intent is to increase our database of skilled trade placements in both the Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent communities. These placements will also be used for the SHSM initiative, where placements in manufacturing are needed in all four destinations.



NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Anti-bullying programs in all three secondary schools.
- An inclusion committee has been established to develop student leadership and create relationships with elementary partner schools to assist with transition planning.
- Parent Reaching Out Grants have assisted to increase communications between rural and urban parent communities.
- Networking of elementary school councils with their secondary school counterparts.
- All three Catholic secondary schools have community food drives: Cyclone Aid at St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School; Irish Miracle at St. Patrick's Catholic High School; and Halloween For Hunger at Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School. These are school community-based initiatives with broad support from parent, student and parish volunteers.
- The Muskoka Woods student leadership program links elementary and secondary school students in a faith-based leadership program at premier northern Ontario venue.
- The Kingdom Assignment Projects in both elementary and secondary schools give students the opportunity to become leaders in their communities, often in conjunction with various charitable agencies. These projects are also excellent demonstrations of the mission of Catholic education.

SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND REGULAR SCHOOL

- **Step Forward Alternative Education Program** — This innovative program is offered at two sites — one in Sarnia and the other in Chatham. Participants in *Step Forward* are students who may have left school and have returned to this unique and flexible program, which helps them to gain credits towards graduation. Some students are then able to return to the regular school setting to complete their secondary school credits and attain a diploma.
- **Paid Co-op Education** — For some at-risk learners who have left school, we are able to reconnect and offer a specialized cooperative placement, which allows them to earn school credits and an income at the same time.
- **E-Learning** — E-Learning is available at all three St. Clair Catholic schools and is offered to students through E-Learning Ontario.
- **Autism Transitional Classroom** — The Autism Transitional Classroom provides a specialized, short term placement for students with a dual diagnosis; autism and a developmental disability. Students entering this program have unmet treatment needs, which are provided for in a clinically supervised program. Students in the Autism Transitional Program have uniquely designed treatment and educational programs based on Applied Behaviour Analysis, specifically Intensive Behaviour Intervention. While our goal is always to promote independence in our students, most of the students in the program require direct support for the majority of their day especially during teaching table activities, personal care, life skill and data collection. Students in the classroom are also engaged in community activities which are on-going and a part of their weekly timetable. These include swimming and visits to the playground with one of our community partners, the Prism Centre.
- **Positive Alternative to School Suspension (PASS) Program** — The PASS Program provides an alternative to home suspension for youth in grades 7 through 10. The program provides academic support to students through one-on-one tutoring, supervised homework support and completion, and access to resources such as the internet. The program also works with youth in the development of positive social and cognitive skills such as communication, decision-making and conflict resolution. The student attends the program during the suspension and is supported in the re-entry to regular class.



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way – Rejoicing in Our Journey

**Serving Catholics in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and Lambton County
within the Diocese of London**

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