

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: **What is the legal operating name of the school and what is the municipal address?**

Answer: Calvary Christian School, 310 Scott St., St. Catharines, ON, L2N 1J5

Question: **What is Calvary's teaching philosophy?**

Answer: We provide academic standards in a classroom environment by qualified teachers. We have a low student/teacher ratio which allows time for our teachers the opportunity to get to know their students and to spend with each individual student. We follow the Ontario government curriculum as a guideline; however, our emphasis is on educating the whole child. We emphasize the education of children from a Christian perspective in partnership with parents to prepare them for their future lives.

Question: **What courses and skills are taught to the students?**

Answer: We teach math, language, history, geography, French, music, Bible, computers, spelling, English, physical education, reading, writing, art and science. The skills we teach include courtesy, respect, and kindness.

Question: **How are these courses taught?**

Answer: We teach these courses in a classroom environment by qualified teachers. We purchase unit outlines and materials that follow the Ontario curriculum, as well as textbooks and workbooks that convey the Christian perspective. The courses and school year time frames fall under the criteria set out for length of instruction under the Education Act.

Question: **What are the expected "outcomes"?**

Answer: We expect to teach each student, so he/she learns to the best of their ability in each subject area. We use assignments, tests, class work and projects to evaluate the progress of each student. We provide report cards to all of our students in junior kindergarten to grade eight at the end of each of our three terms. Our report cards evaluate our students with percentage grades for grades one to eight. Our passing grade is 60%.

Question: **How do your academic programs differ from those offered at other schools?**

Answer: The academic programs do not differ significantly from those offered at other schools. The main difference is the Christian perspective we teach and that Bible is taught as a subject.

Question: **Do you offer Ontario Secondary School Credits, the International Baccalaureate Program or any other programs?**

Answer: No.

Question: **What are the academic achievements expected at the end of the course of study?**

Answer: Within the elementary program, the academic objective is to prepare the student for entrance to the next level of education (secondary school).

Question: **Will the course of study provide the child with a level of education equivalent to particular grade level in a public school?**

Answer: We will meet and, in many cases, exceed the level of education offered in the public school grade level education.

- Question: **Does the course of study have other aims?**
 Answer: We teach our children “heart knowledge” and Biblical principles that will sustain them for their lives and eternity.
- Question: **Does the school participate in annual student evaluations and if so, what methods are used?**
 Answer: We do utilize annual student evaluations. Beside the report cards issued for each term we issue a progress report in October and do standardized testing for grades one to eight in the spring of each year. We have utilized the Canadian Tests of Basic Skills and the Canadian Test Centre program. The tests are conducted internally however we do send them out for scoring and an external comparison with other schools.
- Question: **Does the school, on an ongoing basis, complete the required criminal reference checks?**
 Answer: Yes.
- Question: **What are the professional credentials of the school’s teachers?**
 Answer: Our teachers have a variety of professional credentials. Seven of our teachers are certified with the Ontario College of Teachers, one has Early Childhood Education Certificates, and one has a Masters of Education. All of our teachers who are not OCT certified have an Interim Teaching Practitioner Certificate from Association of Christian Schools International. Many of our teachers have extensive teaching experience and are involved in ongoing professional development.
- Question: **What are the school’s policies on refunds of tuition and any other charges and fees?**
 Answer: Currently our policy on refunds of tuition is a pro-rated refund by school term based on length of time enrolled and the discretion of the administration and school board. We have a non-refundable registration fee that becomes part of tuition once the student is enrolled.
- Question: **What is the history of the school and how long has the school has been in operation?**
 Answer: The school started in 1981 as a Christian elementary school under the Calvary Church Board. Since 1995, the school members have elected the school board from a group of nominated parents and like-minded believers. We offer a traditional classroom setting from pre-kindergarten to grade eight. The school is a charitable, non-profit organization with a tuition-based income. We have remained in the same facility since 1981.
- Question: **Can we feel confident that our child(ren) will be in a safe and healthy environment?**
 Answer: We are in compliance with the Building Code and the Fire Code and with the Health Protection and Promotion Act to the best of our knowledge. We have a Code of Conduct for pupils and staff and we also have a lifestyle document for our staff members. We are a member of Plan to Protect and all volunteers must have a current Police Vulnerable Sector Check in the School’s name and up to date Plan to Protect Training. We also have a locked entrance that requires permission to enter the building.

Question: **Are financial statements of the school available?**

Answer: Yes. We produce financial statements and conduct general members' meetings two times a year in the fall and spring. The financial statements are issued to all families enrolled in the school.

Question: **How does the school enhance student safety?**

Answer: The administration of Calvary Christian School reviews the Ontario College of Teachers' Public Register for any information related to our teaching staff. We provide a summary of results of their OCT standing in our school handbook. We will also provide details from the register about the status of the Certificate of Qualification on any of the school's teachers and candidates the school is considering hiring whose certificate is not in good standing. The OCT Website is a public registry and the information contained on the website is available to the general public at www.oct.ca or the OCT can be contacted toll free at 1-888-534-2222. All of our teachers who are registered with the OCT are members in good standing.

Question: **Where can Consumer Protection Information be found?**

Answer: Parents and Legal Guardians can obtain information relating to their rights as consumers from the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services website at www.cbs.gov.ca or by telephone toll free at 1-800-889-9768.

The School Board and Staff look forward eagerly to another year of academic growth, rich spiritual blessings and continued happy experiences for each child throughout the year. It is our prayer as we begin another year that with the Lord's strength, power, love and guidance, each child will receive a quality Christ-centered education in a safe and nurturing environment and that Calvary Christian School may continue to be a beacon of Christian witness in our community.