

REPORT

TO: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL PROFILE
BISHOP RYAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL**

DATE: MAY 2, 2023

ORIGIN

Director of Education

BACKGROUND

A School Profile program was established in January 2019 to recognize and celebrate school excellence. Each month, one school in the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is highlighted at the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

This month's report highlights Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School.

COMMENT



In March 2007, the Board of Trustees approved construction of a new Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School to address student population growth in Upper Stoney Creek and declining enrolment in Hamilton's lower city. The \$36.75-million, 160,000 sq. ft. facility officially opened at the corner of Dakota Boulevard and Rymal Rd. E. in January 2014.



The first Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School officially opened on April 16, 1959 at the junction of Queenston Road and Parkdale Ave. behind St. Eugene School. Built at a cost of \$1.1 million, the facility, considered state-of-the-arts in its time, featured 23 classrooms, four science labs, a chapel, library, nurse's room, gymnasium with a sliding sectional door, cafeteria, bookstore, guidance room, and three teachers' rooms.



In February of 1991, Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School relocated to the former Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School on Albright Road after a larger site was needed to house the school's growing population.

Address

1824 Rymal Rd. E.
Hannon, ON L0R 1P0

Trustees

Mr. L. Agro
Mr. A. D'Intino

School Administration

Principal: Mr. M. Lawlor

Vice-Principal: Mrs. T. Boyce

Vice-Principal: Mrs. S. Kalogiros

Vice-Principal: Mr. V. Tortis

Superintendent: Mr. M. Hucal

Grades

Grades 9-12

Enrolment

of students: 2,208 (as of October 31, 2022)

Family of Schools

Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School

Feeder Schools

Our Lady of the Assumption CES

Our Lady of Hope CES

St. James the Apostle CES

St. John the Baptist CES

St. Luke CES

St. Mark CES

St. Matthew CES

St. Paul CES

About Bishop Ryan CSS

In 1958, a new Catholic secondary school bearing the name of one of Catholic education's pre-eminent supporters, Bishop Joseph Francis Ryan, was officially opened on Queenston Road near Parkdale Avenue. The school was built to ease overcrowding at the board's existing secondary schools, and was to serve students from St. Eugene, St. Helen, St. John, Holy Family, Blessed Sacrament, St. Margaret Mary and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Elementary Schools, as well as students from the neighbouring communities of Fruitland, Winona and Elfrida. The school opened with an inaugural enrolment of 166 Grade 9 students who occupied five classrooms and a converted gymnasium at St. Eugene School until the new school was ready for occupancy on April 16, 1959. The construction cost of \$1.1 million was raised entirely by parishioners. The school boasted twenty-three classrooms, four science laboratories (two junior, two senior), a chapel, library, nurse's room, gymnasium with sliding sectional door, and cafeteria, a bookstore, guidance room and three teachers' rooms.

In 1990, faced with severe overcrowding, Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School was given ownership of the former Sir Wilfred Laurier Secondary School on the corner of Albright Road and Quigley Road following lengthy discussions with the province to transfer surplus public school facilities to the Hamilton-Wentworth Separate School Board. The process was known as the Burkett Hearings, and marked the start of a period of rapid secondary school expansion for the board. Bishop Ryan CSS moved into the Albright Road facility in January 1991. The replacement school had a GFA of 185,070 sq. ft. and included an auditorium/theatre, two full-sized gymnasiums with retractable walls

to convert the space into 4 smaller gymnasiums, a technology wing, and a grass football field. The school building also connected from the interior to Sir Wilfrid Laurier Recreation Centre and swimming pool, which were used by physical education classes.

By the early 2000's, shifting demographics necessitated a third move, this time to Upper Stoney Creek. In January 2014, a new 190,000 sq. ft. school facility was completed on an 8-acre site at Rymal Rd. and Dakota Boulevard in Hannon. The school was officially opened and blessed by the Most Reverend Daniel Miehm, Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton on April 30, 2014. Designed by Svedas Architects Inc. and built by Tambro Construction Limited, the new \$36.75-million Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School housed 65 classrooms, a 600-seat theatre auditorium, 'college style' Learning Commons, cafeteria with kitchen and server, chapel, three gymnasiums, outdoor classroom, and a press box. Outdoor facilities include an artificial turf sports field, natural sodded turf practice field, 8-lane surfaced running track, 1000 capacity terrace seating, and a 330-car parking lot.

In 2020, a secondary school boundary review was conducted by the board to ensure that school attendance boundaries were commensurate with school facility capacity. At the time, Upper Stoney Creek was experiencing a high rate of residential development with continued growth forecast for the next ten years. Twelve portables were installed at Bishop Ryan CSS to accommodate the school's enrolment of 2095 students – which exceeded Ministry rated capacity of 1455 by 44 percent. Following a community consultation, a boundary adjustment was approved for Bishop Ryan CSS, Cathedral HS and St. John Henry Newman CSS that redirected new students from St. John the Baptist CES and St. Eugene CES to Cathedral High School, and new students from St. David CES to St. John Henry Newman CSS starting September 2021. The boundary adjustment was a temporary measure to relieve forecasted enrolment pressures at Bishop Ryan CSS until a new secondary school could be built in the Elfrida-Binbrook growth corridor.

In April 2022, the Ontario government announced funding in the amount of \$8.4-million for an addition at Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School to support the creation of 253 students spaces. The new addition, set to open at the end of 2024, will expand the school's capacity to 1,708 students.

School Motto

The original and official motto of the school, "Virtus et Scientia" or "Virtue and Knowledge," is adapted from the maxim of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. It serves as the guiding principle of these Sisters who are in charge of Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School and who offer it as an appropriate lodestar to their students.

The school's tagline or sub-motto, "Where faith, pride and effort promote excellence," was placed over the entrance of the original Bishop Ryan site at 166 Queenston Road and has become the de facto motto of the modern school.

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MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

SUBMITTED BY: D. HANSEN
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION