



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

FAITH | COMMUNITY | EXCELLENCE



www.aquinas.org

A Message from the Principal

Welcome!



I'm excited to be the Principal at STA working closely with the school community to explore new opportunities as we move forward with the new school year. Through compassionate leadership, I will continue to support students in all aspects of their lives.

As an educator for 15 years, I recognize the value of building relationships. From teachers, staff, and school-based professionals, to parents, guardians, extended families and community members, our students' success cannot be achieved without the sum of all of these parts.

You entrust your children in our care. They enter STA as teenagers and graduate as young adults. These five years in high school are a time of tremendous change, self-expression, friendships and exploration.

We want to create an environment that fosters learning and growth, while celebrating the achievements of our students. Students at STA are encouraged to embrace values such as compassion, service, and social justice, which are integral to our Catholic faith.

We need your continued support in helping the school accomplish this because together we are stronger. I believe we can achieve this through creativity, innovation and determination.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know you over the coming year.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mieszko Krol".

Mieszko Krol, Principal

Be kind and compassionate to one another. – Ephesians 4:32

The STA Advantage

600+

STUDENTS IN CLOSE-KNIT, NURTURING, COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

30%

TEACHING STAFF ARE ALUMNI OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

1300

ACTIVE ALUMNI NETWORK

2X

BC ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS VS. PROVINCIAL AVERAGE

\$500k

SCHOLARSHIP OFFERINGS AWARDED

40+

ATHLETIC TEAMS AND SCHOOL CLUBS

Catholic Values at the Heart of Learning

St. Thomas Aquinas believes in educating the whole person. Catholic values are the heartbeat of the school and provide students the framework to explore a constantly changing world and face challenges with fortitude. We want to develop lifelong learners, responsible citizens and leaders who will confidently embrace the future. Students learn about the Catholic faith through academic instruction, Campus Ministry activities and extracurricular programs.

Christian Education

The Christian Education department disseminates the Catholic Church's teachings in the following areas. All courses provide an opportunity for personal spiritual growth through prayer, social justice awareness and community service.

- Grade 8 – The Old Testament
- Grade 9 – The New Testament, the Liturgical Year and Holy Mass
- Grade 10 – Catholic Morality
- Grade 11 – Church History
- Grade 12 – Prayer, Catholic Anthropology, Christology, Vocations and Evangelization

Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry's role is to encourage and provide students opportunities to practice their faith through service outside the classroom, in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel.

These include:

- Participation in the school's liturgies
- Prayer life
- Spiritual retreats for each grade level
- Community service
- Christian leadership outreach
- Social Justice clubs

CISVA School

St. Thomas Aquinas (STA) is a member of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) and is affiliated with the Federation of Independent Schools Association (FISA). STA was established under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Vancouver in 1959 to serve the educational needs of the North and West Vancouver Catholic Community. We provide educational services to the seven North Shore Parishes:

- Christ the Redeemer Roman Catholic Church
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church
- St. Anthony's Parish
- St. Edmund's Parish
- St Paul's Squamish Nation Catholic Church
- St. Pius X Catholic Church
- St. Stephen's Catholic Parish



Rigorous Academic Program

At STA we strive for excellence in academics. The curriculum is rigorous and encourages independence, problem solving and critical thinking. At the same time we recognize that some students need flexibility and learning support to achieve their potential. In addition, 30 percent of our teaching staff are STA Alumni.

STA follows the British Columbia Ministry of Education requirements for academic instruction. Students who wish to graduate with the Dogwood Diploma must complete 80 credits in grades 10, 11, and 12, and write three provincial assessments: Grade 10 Literacy, Grade 10 Numeracy and Grade 12 Literacy assessments.

Senior students who are looking to challenge themselves and earn first year university credits in high school, have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement Courses in English, Calculus, Physics and Computer Science.

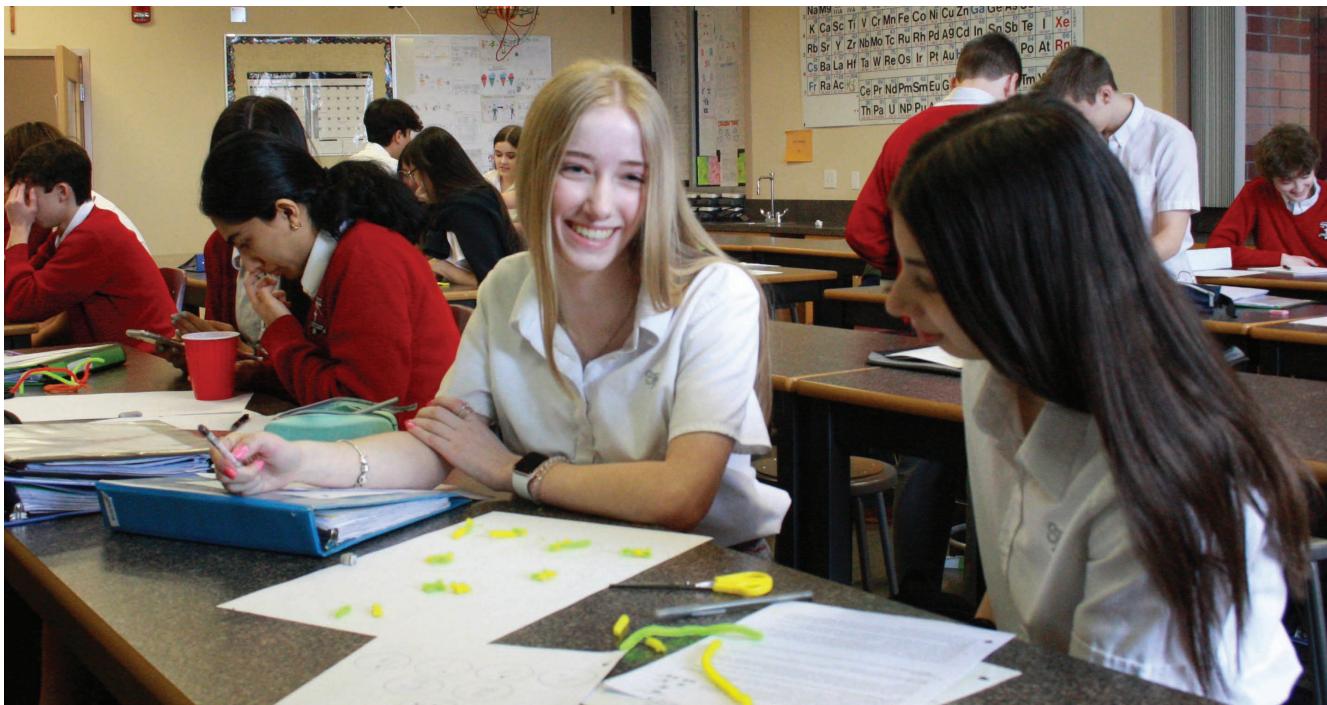
Our school follows a linear system - students begin eight courses in September and complete them in June.

Evergreen Program

The School Completion ("Evergreen") Certificate is intended to celebrate success in learning that is not recognized in a Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma). It is used to acknowledge the accomplishments of students with special needs and an Inclusive Education Plan. At St. Thomas Aquinas we enroll students from Grade 10 onwards for the Evergreen Program in consultation with their parents or guardians.

Every student in this program is required to take part in the Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope (PATH) process. PATH is a person-centered planning tool that brings together the student, family and school team to create a vision for transition from high school to life as a young adult. Goals derived during the PATH process will shape the school plan for the final years of high school so that each student achieves their personal learning goals. Curriculum topics include Community Based Instruction, Literacy and Math, Recreation and Fitness, Science and Social Studies, Work Experience and Vocational training.

The ultimate goal is to prepare young people for the next stages of life beyond high school whether that is adult programs at a university or community college, or helping them with job readiness or other avenues.



"The best thing about STA is the community; its people and environment. STA is a place where cultures are celebrated, and are avidly shared. You know your teachers, and they know you. It's a place where there is always someone to talk to and something to do."

Nick Delgado – Grade 12



Academic Offerings

	Required	Elective	Other Options
Grade 8	<p>Seven required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADST • Career Education • Core French • English • Mathematics • Physical & Health Education • Religion • Science • Social Studies 	<p>Choose one elective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Beginner Band • Drama • Intermediate Band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated Math 8/9 • Advanced French • LRC Block • PHE Academy / Kaizen • Enriched English
Grade 9	<p>Seven required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADST • Career Education • Core French • English • Mathematics • Physical & Health Education • Religion • Science • Social Studies 	<p>Choose one elective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Band • Drama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced French • Advanced Mathematics • LRC Block • PHE Academy / Kaizen
Grade 10	<p>Nine required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy / Religion • Composition • Creative Writing • Science • Social Studies • Core French • Mathematics • Physical & Health Education • Career & Life Education (semester course) 	<p>Choose one elective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Studio • Band • Drama • Electronics & Robotics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced French • Introductory Spanish • Advanced Mathematics • LRC Block • PHE Academy / Kaizen
Grade 11	<p>Six required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Life Connections • Philosophy / Religion • English First Peoples 11 • Mathematics (one) • Science (one) • Social Studies (one) 	<p>Choose three electives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADST • Business Education • Fine Arts • French 11 • Physical & Health Education • Spanish 11 • Introductory Spanish 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LRC Block • PHE Academy / Kaizen
Grade 12	<p>Three required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Life Connections • Christian Education • English Studies 12 	<p>Choose four (min.) electives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADST • Business Education • Creative Writing • Fine Arts • French 12 • Literary Studies • Mathematics • Physical & Health Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Service • LRC Block • PHE Academy / Kaizen • Independent Study Block

Visual and Performing Arts

STA offers a comprehensive range of visual and performing arts for students to explore their interests and talents. These include Music (Concert Band, Choir, Jazz Ensemble), curricular and co-curricular Drama, and Visual Arts. Our students present a vibrant series of concerts, shows and exhibitions each year, maintaining a long tradition of excellence in the arts.

Music

STA offers course options for students interested in playing an instrument. Students can choose Concert Band and also Jazz Ensemble, both of which give students valuable experience performing as an ensemble. We provide enrichment opportunities for our students through field trips such as the Sun Peaks & Whistler Festivals and performances in Disneyland and San Diego.

Choral Music

Choral Music is a wonderful opportunity for students who love to sing and perform. STA coordinates field trips, which allows students to perform at venues across Canada and around the world.

Drama

Drama classes provide an opportunity for students to explore the world of the theatre, including mime, skits and one-act plays.

Visual Arts

Art can be a means of communicating their own unique ideas, values and beliefs through a visual language. Students learn to work with different media and hone their technique and skills while exploring individual self-expression.

Extracurricular Activities

For students who are passionately interested in the arts, STA offers extra-curricular activities and clubs including the Sound Crew, Art Club, Improv as well as opportunities to participate in STA's dramatic and musical productions.



Fighting Saints Athletics

STA has a tightly knit athletic community led by coaches who motivate, guide and train students to maximize their athletic potential. Students can participate in a variety of sports according to the season. STA's tradition of athletic excellence includes numerous North Shore, Lower Mainland, BC Catholic and BC Provincial Championship banners.

Recent Accomplishments

- STA athletic teams won 9 North Shore Championships in 2021-22
- STA senior girls won the 2021-22 BC Catholic Soccer Championship
- STA Grade 9 Girls won the 2022-23 Provincial Volleyball Championship
- Fifteen STA graduates are currently competing on university varsity teams both in Canada and in the US NCAA divisions

Fall Season

Boys Soccer
Cross Country
Girls Field Hockey
Girls Volleyball
Rowing
Swimming

Winter Season

Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Gymnastics
Wrestling

Spring Season

Badminton
Boys Volleyball
Girls Soccer
Golf
Ice Hockey
Mountain Biking
Track & Field



"STA is a faith community where my child is valued, and where the Administration and staff know her by name. The school is large enough to provide a variety of opportunities for my daughter with over 25 athletic teams and clubs, and small enough to offer a true connection to her teachers, support staff, and peers. There is something for every student at STA."

Kevin Smith, Alumni Parent



From the start, we noticed the sense of community at STA. A community committed to my children's academics, sports, and well-being. My kids have made true connections with teachers and other students. STA is not only preparing students for the next phase of their education but also teaching them to navigate the world as caring and giving people.

Kerri A, Parent

Comprehensive Learning Support

Academic Advising & College Preparation

At STA, we understand that high school education planning can be challenging for both parents and students. Our academic advisors help students navigate all aspects of post-secondary planning. They provide guided support so that students can identify their interests, select courses that align with their goals, review University options and prepare for the future.

Grade Level Advisors

An extension of academic advising is Grade level advising. Each Grade Level has a specific teacher who manages and coordinates interventions for those students who require support. The interventions are both academic and socio-emotional.

Learning Resource Centre

The LRC Department consists of a coordinator, two resource teachers, and approximately 20 special education assistants. The LRC provides multiple levels of support for students who face a wide variety of learning challenges. Students learn organization and time management skills.

Homework Club

The LRC coordinates the Homework Club after school, five days a week for students who want subject related support. It is open to students at any grade level looking to overcome specific academic challenges.

Peer Tutoring

The LRC also organizes STA students willing to volunteer their time to support their peers. These students are knowledgeable in a particular subject area, and matched with students wanting that subject assistance. We recognize that youth often perform better when working with their fellow students.

Personal Counsellor

We care about the physical and emotional well being of our students and have on staff mental health professionals who provide counselling services for students in a space that respects privacy and is free of judgement.

Admissions & Fees

St. Thomas Aquinas enrolls approximately 600 students from grades 8 through 12. Admissions at St. Thomas Aquinas is a two-step process. There are four categories of students eligible for admissions:

1

Qualifying
Catholic
Parishioner

2

Non-Qualifying Catholic
Parishioner and/or
Non-Regional Catholic
Parishioner

3

Non-Catholic

4

International

Step One: Application

The school will be accepting applications in every grade starting in October for the next academic year. The application deadline is at the beginning of December. Parents and students can learn about St. Thomas Aquinas during our Annual Open House, which is hosted in November.

Application to St Thomas Aquinas includes the following:

- Completed application form
- Supporting documentation
- Family interview (families outside of STA feeder schools only)
- Placement exam (for all Grade 8 applicants only)

The review committee will take into consideration the student's category and application submission date when making a decision.

Step Two: Registration

Incoming grade 8 students from our Catholic feeder schools are accepted for registration once the application is complete. Incoming grade 8 students from other schools, non-Catholic students as well as international students, will be advised by the end of January. All other grades will be placed on a waiting list and will receive a response from the school after re-registration of our current student population is completed in March.

School Fees & Financial Assistance

School fees are set by the Regional Education Committee, in accordance with CISVA guidelines and vary according to the registration category. Those families who require financial assistance should speak to their pastor or the Tuition Chairperson of the Education Committee.

For more information visit www.aquinas.org/admissions or email: office@aquinas.org

University Placements



I like that I am constantly surrounded by people who care about each other. STA prepares you academically for universities, as well as offers a wide variety of extracurricular activities from drama to sports to music. They also support your personal and spiritual growth.

Anna G. (Grad 2022)

Graduating STA students have gone on to attend post-secondary institutions in Canada, the US and around the world, obtaining degrees in humanities, sciences, business, engineering and fine arts. In addition to post-secondary schools across BC and the rest of Canada, STA graduates are currently studying at:

- Washington State University
- University of California Davis
- University of California Irvine
- University of California Santa Cruz
- Vanderbilt University
- South Carolina State University
- Northeastern University
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Illinois State University
- Art Institute of Chicago
- New York Institute of Art and Science
- University of Manchester
- University College Dublin
- University of Sydney
- University of New South Wales

Alumni Network

With a network of over 1,300 Alumni and Alumni Parents, the Alumni Community serves as a crucial place of connection and networking and offers various social and learning opportunities. Whether the goal is post graduate studies, entering a family business, seeking a competitive job or mentorship and guidance with regards to future options, alumni connections can play an important role and create powerful results.



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