

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

Faith • Community • Excellence



Welcome

Welcome to St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Secondary School!

We are delighted that you and your family are considering STA.

STA is built on the principles of faith, community and excellence. Our Catholic values permeate all we do – our actions, thoughts and words.

Our students take pride in walking through the doors each day with a sense of belonging. They have a support group of fellow students, teachers and staff to help them reach their potential and achieve their dreams, whatever those dreams may be.

There is a spot for you at STA. We hope you join us.

In Christ,



John Campbell, Principal

HIGHLIGHTS

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL
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<p style="text-align: center;">Strong Alumni Network for mentorship, jobs and university support</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"> The 2019 graduating class accumulated over \$485,000 in scholarship offerings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30% </p> <p style="text-align: center;">of our graduating class receives a BC ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP, compared to the provincial average of 17%</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">8 International field trips offered </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">95% </p> <p style="text-align: center;">of our graduating class attend post-secondary institutions across Canada and internationally</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> New state-of-the-Art Maker's Lab and Robotics Team</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">25+ Sports Teams and Clubs</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Broad range of course offerings including AP and Honours programs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 Performing and Fine Arts </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Programs: Concert Bands, Jazz Ensembles, Choirs, Visual Arts & Drama</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">30% </p> <p style="text-align: center;">of our teaching staff are STA Alumni</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> CONNECTED with our North Shore Catholic schools and parishes to provide our students with an extension of their parish communities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Centrally located for walking, biking and bus lines</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">5  In-school counsellors for your academic, mental, physical and spiritual well-being.</p>		

Education

That Makes a Difference

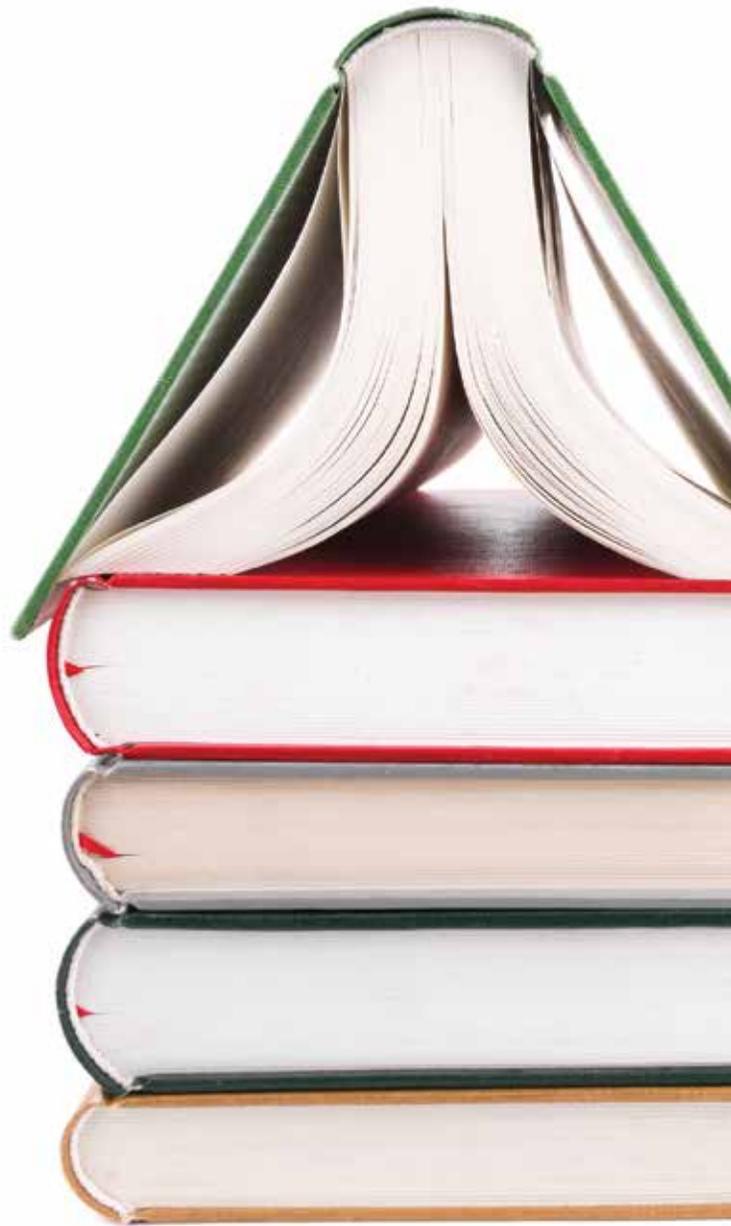
Mission Statement

The Catholic School shares in the mission of the Church to proclaim and bring forth the reign of God.

St. Thomas Aquinas, as a faith community is committed to excellence in Catholicity and in all areas that promote the development of the whole child to his or her full potential. The Catholic School strives to develop Christian leaders, responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

Holistic Catholic Philosophy

The Catholic faith development of our students is not only delivered through Christian education and Campus Ministry activities, but also through academic instruction and extracurricular programs. Our community of staff, parents, teachers and parishes work together to create and support a holistic environment that inspires and strengthens faith.



General Information



School Structure

St. Thomas Aquinas (STA) Regional Secondary School 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. Our purpose is to provide educational services to the seven North Shore

Parishes:

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

STA is part of the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) and is affiliated with the Federation of Independent Schools Association (FISA). For more information visit: www.cisva.bc.ca

STA enrolls approximately 600 students grades 8 through 12, and follows the British Columbia Ministry of Education requirements for academic instruction.

Uniforms

STA students are distinguished by their uniform, which creates consistency in attire throughout the school community. Spirit Days also provide students with an opportunity to wear their own clothes on a monthly basis.

- Girls: white blouse, grey plaid kilt or grey dress pants
- Boys: white shirt, grey dress pants
- Grades 8-11: red sweater
- Grade 12: black sweater

Registration and Admissions

There are four categories of students eligible for registration at STA. For more information visit: <https://www.aquinas.org/admissions/>.

STA School Fees

Fees are set by the Regional Education Committee, in accordance with CISVA guidelines and vary with registration category. Schedules are available at the school office or at: <https://www.aquinas.org/admissions/>.

Faith

Developing Christian Leaders

Christian Education

The Christian Education department strives to build the faith and knowledge of our students by passing on the Catholic Church's teachings in the following areas:

- 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

All courses foster an opportunity for personal spiritual growth through prayer, social justice awareness and community service.

Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry grants students an opportunity to practice their faith through service outside the classroom.

These opportunities include:

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

Campus Ministry's aim is to create a community that encourages students to actively practice their faith in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel.



Excellence in Academic

Preparing for a Changing World

English Language Arts

English at STA aims to develop students' fundamental reading, writing and public speaking skills. Our curriculum covers literary, informational and mass media communications, allowing students to experience the power of language in many forms.

Modern Languages

Through exercises in reading, writing, and oral communication, modern languages at STA provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to authentically communicate in a foreign language of their choice, either French or Spanish.

Social Studies

The goal of the Social Studies department is to ignite student interest in the social, political and geographical world in which they live. Our instructors achieve this through lessons that are engaging and interactive.

Science

The Science department strives for the acquisition of a wide range of scientific knowledge methods and approaches that allow for critical thinking at all levels of study.



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Mathematics

A wide variety of Mathematics courses are offered at STA, all of which strive to equip students with problem-solving skills. Accelerated and Advanced Placement courses are available for students who excel in the subject, as well as Math contests and the STA Math Club. Adapted and modified courses and Math support are available for students who require additional support.

Business Education

At STA we prepare students for a changing world of business that is increasingly driven by specialization, technology, and design. We offer courses in Marketing, Accounting, Entrepreneurship, and Economics. These courses instruct and inspire students to be leaders and creators in the emerging professional environment.



Applied Design, Skills and Technologies

The ADST department is an integral part of STA's commitment to digital literacy and computational thinking. Students explore coding algorithms, introduction to robotics and ethical computing. In the senior grades students take advantage of our modern fully-outfitted makers lab including CNC machining, laser cutting, electronic component assembly and 3D printing while working with robotics and other inquiry based and exploratory projects. Senior students are also provided the opportunity to prepare and take the Advanced Placement Exam in Computer Sciences.

Physical and Health Education

The Fighting Saints Sports Academy (volleyball and basketball for girls) and the Fighting Saints Basketball Academy (for boys) are unique programs that replaces a student's regular Physical Education (PHE) course. Skill development is the primary objective of this program. Students earn their grade-equivalent PE credits upon successful completion of the program.

Fine & Performing Arts

Intelligence at Play

Music

STA offers course options for students interested in developing the highly disciplined skill of playing an instrument. Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble provide a setting in which these life-long skills can be harnessed, while giving students valuable experience performing as an ensemble. Field trips such as the Sun Peaks & Whistler Festivals and the Disneyland/ San Diego trip provide additional enrichment opportunities further afield.

Choral Music

Choral Music provides an outlet for students who love to sing and who wish to perform in settings that are both challenging and exciting. Field trips allow students to perform around the world fostering a love for performance that extends outside the school walls.



Arts

Fine Arts

The Art department contributes to an overall learning experience by allowing students to practice individual self-expression. For students, art can be a means of communicating their own unique ideas, values and beliefs through visual language.



Performing Arts

Drama not only teaches elements of stage performance, it also builds confidence and allows students to find an individual voice, skills that contribute to both their academic and personal success.

Fine Arts Extracurricular

For those students with a heightened interest in the arts, STA offers extracurricular activities and clubs that span across the Fine Arts department. These include Sound Crew, Art Club, Improv and participation in STA's dramatic and musical productions.



Excellence in Comm

Supporting One Another

Academic Advising

At STA, we understand that an integral goal of high-school education is preparation for the future. Academic advising provides guided support so that students can take the appropriate steps towards their future goals.

Grade Level Advisors

Grade level advisors expand the services of academic advising, providing students in each grade with a tailored experience through a select group of teachers trained to deal with problems or concerns specific to each grade.

Personal Counselor

At STA, we strive to ensure that students are growing in their academic, Christian and personal lives. When this growth is stunted by difficult personal experiences, counseling provides a space that is free of judgment for students in need of guidance.

The Learning Resource Centre

With a coordinator, 20 special education assistants, and three resource teachers, STA provides multiple levels of support for each one of our students. Intensive support is available for a wide variety of learning challenges, whether they are designated or not. We teach executive functioning skills such as organization, time management and personal responsibility, all while providing specific course support.

Peer Tutoring

Through peer tutoring, STA students who wish to share their knowledge are able to learn the patience and skill that is required of a tutor, while providing a comfortable learning environment for students in need of support.



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Homework Club

The Learning Resource Centre provides a place for any student to overcome academic challenges outside of regular class time. The Homework Club provides extra help from our knowledgeable and attentive Education Assistants for students at any grade level, in any subject, five days a week.

Evergreen Program

The Evergreen Program is designed for those who do not meet the academic requirements of the typical Dogwood Diploma and who have a special education designation. The Evergreen Program helps students learn life skills and provides a variety of work experience to match student interests. The program is just another way STA strives to provide opportunity to each of our students based on their individual needs.

Transitional English

STA welcomes students from all backgrounds, including those still learning English. Certified English Language Specialists provide students with key grammar, vocabulary and oral language skills that can help improve both their academic and personal lives at STA.

Library

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

We believe Dr. Seuss said it best. At STA we are fortunate to have a well-stocked, well-utilized and well-supported library. We recognize and value the work of literate citizens who can navigate both the online world and the rich history of the printed word. Students exposed to a broad variety of resources can flourish. Whether selecting independent reading novels, researching for their latest assignment, or picking just the right topic for their Heritage Fair project, students know that the library can be the first stop on their learning journey.

Excellence in Athletics

The Fighting Saints

Fighting Saints

STA's athletic program incorporates the school's Holistic Catholic Philosophy by creating a positive environment that contributes to the student athletes' overall well-being. When given the opportunity to compete at the highest level possible, athletes at STA realize their own strength and potential through both individual achievement and teamwork.



Fall Season

- Boys Soccer
- Girls Volleyball
- Girls Field Hockey
- Cross Country
- Swimming
- Rowing

Winter Season

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Gymnastics
- Wrestling

Spring Season

- Track and Field
- Girls Soccer
- Badminton
- Golf
- Ice Hockey



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Athletic Excellence

At STA our smaller size creates a tight knit athletic community and provides students with close attention from an incredibly committed and highly skilled coaching staff. With a long tradition of athletic excellence we continue to capture numerous North Shore, Vancouver & District Lower Mainland, BC Catholic and BC Provincial Championship banners.

Recent Accomplishments

Basketball

- 2019-20 Senior Girls North Shore Champions
- 2019-20 Senior Girls BC Catholic Silver Medalists
- 2019-20 Senior Boys North Shore Champions
- 2018-19 Senior Girls North Shore Champions
- 2018-19 Senior Girls BC Catholic Champions
- 2018-19 Junior Boys North Shore Champions

Cross Country

- 2020-21 North Shore Champions
- 2017-18 North Shore Champions

Gymnastics

- 2017-18 Senior Boys Provincial Champions
- 2017-18 Senior Girls Provincial Silver Medalists

Soccer

- 2019-20 Senior Boys North Shore Champions
- 2019-20 Senior Boys BC Catholic Champions
- 2019-20 Senior Boys BC Provincial Silver Medalists
- 2018-19 Senior Boys BC Catholic Champions
- 2018-19 Senior Girls North Shore Champions
- 2018-19 Junior Girls BC Catholic Champions

Track & Field

- 2017-18 Boys & Girls North Shore Champions

Volleyball

- 2019-20 Bantam Girls North Shore Champions
- 2019-20 Bantam Girls BC Catholic Champions
- 2019-20 Bantam Girls BC Provincial Silver Medalists
- 2018-19 Juvenile Girls North Shore Champions
- 2018-19 Juvenile Girls Vancouver & District Champions

Wrestling

- 2018-19 Sr Girls North Shore Champions
- 2018-19 NS Overall Aggregate Champions
- 2017-18 Sr Girls North Shore Champions
- 2016-17 AAA Vancouver and Districts Champion and 5th AAA Provincials



The Path to a Bright Beyond STA

Scholarships and Awards

At STA, our students' hard work and dedication is recognized every year by numerous institutions through scholarships and bursaries, including several BC Provincial Scholarships. In 2019, graduating students were awarded over \$485,000 in scholarship offerings.

STA Connect – Our Exclusive Alumni App

Learning how to network and establish connections early on, even just by striking up a conversation with someone with common interests, can have long-lasting outcomes.

The world of competitive job seeking takes not only specific job skills and motivation, but also an understanding of how connections are established and how they can grow into something much bigger than what you would ever expect.

STA Connect is an app that serves this crucial need of connection and networking with over 1,200 Alumni.

Our Alumni Network

Your connection to STA remains even after graduation. With a network of over 1,200 Alumni and Alumni Parents, you'll have a community to support you in your endeavours after high school. Through events, learning opportunities and our exclusive STA Connect app, your Alumni Community serves as a crucial place of connection and networking for whatever your future dreams entail.



Future



Alumni Achievement

STA Alumni have gone on to attend post-secondary institutions all over the world, obtaining degrees in humanities, sciences, business, engineering and fine arts to name a few. Some of the institutions attended by our alumnus include:

- British Columbia Institute of Technology
- Harvard
- London School of Economics
- McGill University
- MIT
- New York Institute of Art and Science
- Queen's University
- Royal Military College of Canada
- San Diego University
- Simon Fraser University
- Trinity Western University
- University of Alberta
- University of British Columbia – Vancouver and Okanagan
- University of Calgary
- University of Illinois
- University of Sydney
- University of Toronto
- University of Victoria
- Washington State University
- Western University

Student Testimonials

“Respect, community, perseverance, responsibility and faith are what makes STA a special school. With respect and community, we form friendships by encouraging and helping one another. With perseverance, the staff truly do their best to help students achieve their desired goals. With responsibility, we choose our actions wisely to build a positive school environment. And with faith we strive to strengthen our relationship with God.”

Nicole, 2017 Grad

“STA is not just a school; it is a faithful and supportive family. There are opportunities everywhere to explore any interests in the creative arts, in my faith and in social justice within a community which has helped to nurture my growth as an individual and leader. The teachers have all helped me to learn and advance through their constant encouragement and positivity.”

Madeline, 2017 Grad



Building for their Future – Phase II

STA will complete Phase II of the Build STA campaign which will involve a seismic upgrade and renovation of the convent into The STA Centre for Performing Arts, the development of an athletic field, and the demolition of the old school. For the Centre, we hope to have a theatre, music room and refurbished school chapel.



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