

St. Thomas Aquinas

REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

We promote excellence and Christian leadership in the Roman Catholic tradition



education

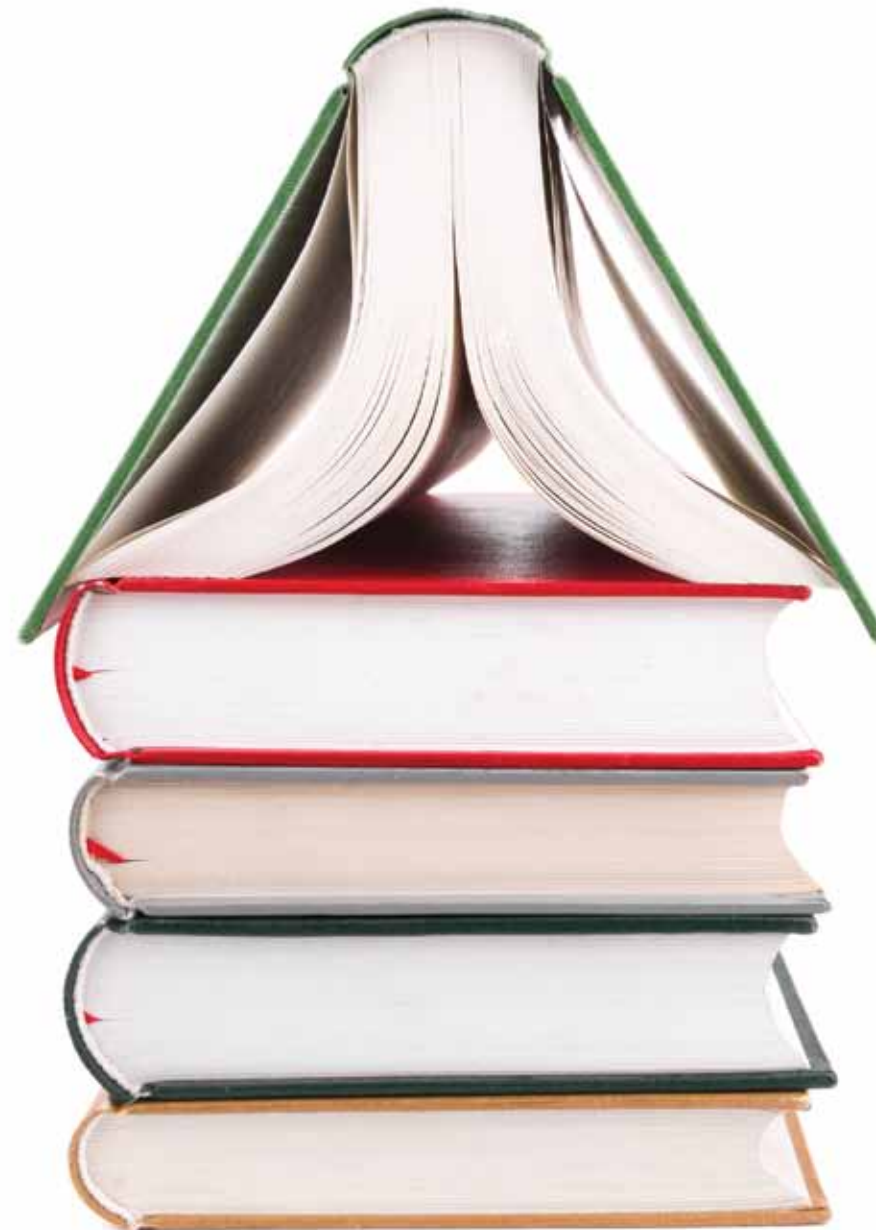
that makes a difference

mission statement

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



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
- Holy Trinity
- St. Anthony
- St. Edmund
- St. Paul
- St. Pius X
- St. Stephen

From these parishes, elected members form a Regional Education Committee that governs the school at a local level. STA also serves the needs of other Lower Mainland Parishes as well as non-Catholics desiring a Christian education.

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 continuity 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
- 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:

www.aquinas.org/about/policies

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:

www.aquinas.org

grade 8 admissions

All students applying for admission into grade 8 are required to take the Placement Exam held in February. Registration information is available at the school office or at:

www.aquinas.org

our faith

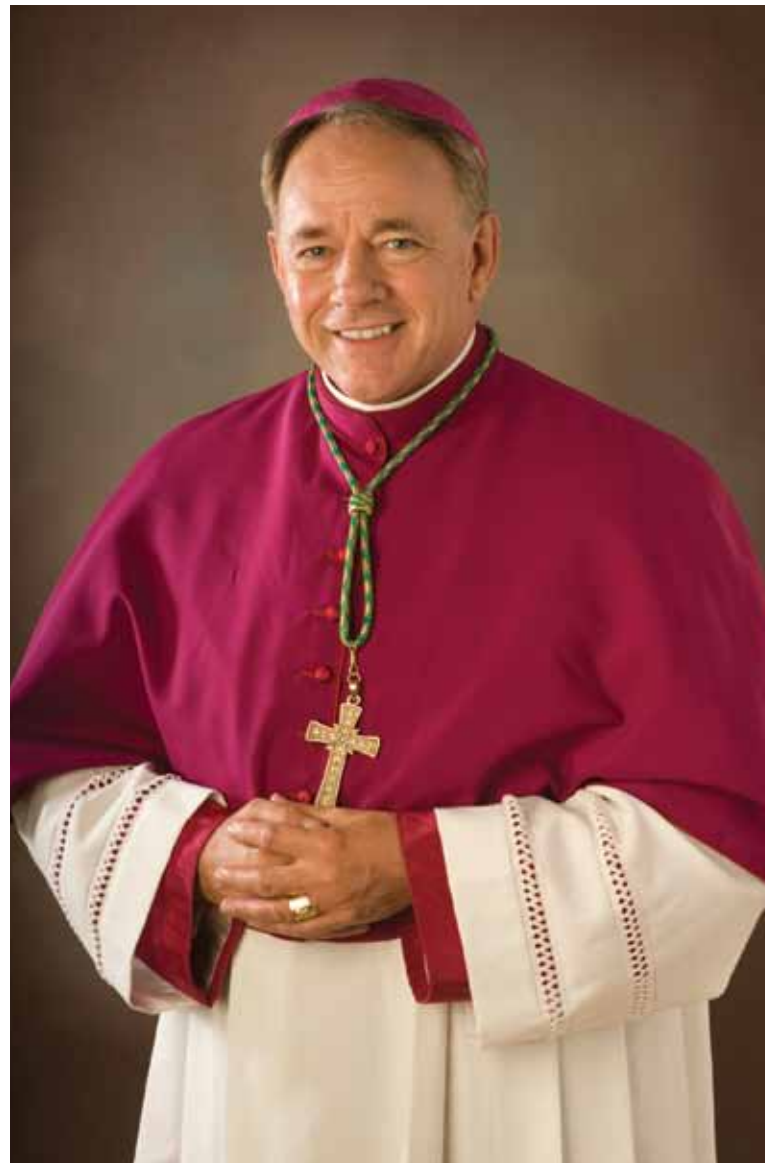
developing Christian leaders

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.



Archbishop Michael Miller

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.



academics

preparing for a changing world

english

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.

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.

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.

business education

Business Education is instructed by teachers holding business degrees, allowing for students to effectively learn the language of business, critical thinking, business ethics and teamwork.

mathematics

A wide variety of Mathematics courses are offered at STA, all of which strive to equip students with problem-solving skills. Enriched classes are available for students who excel in the subject, as well as fundamental education for those who require additional support.

modern language

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.

information technology

The Information Technology department works constantly to keep up with the ever-changing tech field in order to provide students with the skills required of them to succeed in a tech driven world.



creativity

intelligence at play



music

STA offers course options for students interested in developing the highly disciplined skill of playing an instrument. Band provides a setting in which these life-long skills can be harnessed, while giving students valuable experience performing as an ensemble.

choir

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.

art

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

drama

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 extra-curricular 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.



support services

learning resource centre

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 via 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, 10 teaching assistants, and 2 resource teachers, STA provides 5 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.



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.

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 teaching assistants for students at any grade level, in any subject.

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.



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 young 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



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. These qualities have allowed us in recent years to capture numerous North Shore, Vancouver and District, Lower Mainland, BC Catholic and BC Provincial Championship banners.

girls volleyball

- 2012-13 Bantam Girls North Shore and Vancouver & District Champions
- 2011-12 Senior Girls B.C. Catholic Champions
- 2009-10 Senior Girls 'AA' Provincial Champions

wrestling

- 2012-13 'AA' Lower Mainland Champions
- 2012-13 North Shore Senior Boys Champions
- 2010-11 North Shore Overall Aggregate Champions

track & field

- 2012-13 'AA' North Shore Overall Aggregate Champions
- 2011-12 'AA' North Shore Overall Aggregate Champions
- 2010-11 'AA' North Shore Overall Aggregate Champions

basketball

- 2012-13 Bantam Boys North Shore Champions
- 2012-13 Senior Girls 'AA' Lower Mainland Champions
- 2011-12 Junior Girls Lower Mainland Champions

boys soccer

- 2013-14 'AA' Provincial Champions
- 2012-13 'AA' North Shore Champions



success stories

the path to a bright future

student testimonials

"What makes STA different is the tightly bonded sense of community that comes from learning in a faith-filled environment. STA has given me the chance to explore the activities I love through sports, arts programs and student life. Inside the classroom, the staff is positive and nurturing. I truly feel my experience at STA has made me the best possible person I can be."

- Paul

"STA is a very close-knit community; being able to know every single person in my grade has really enhanced my high school experience. There is an overall feeling of connection and belonging that comes from seeing familiar faces pass by in the halls. Every teacher at STA is dedicated to helping students succeed. I love that I've been given the opportunity to take on leadership roles outside of the classroom as well."

- Amanda

student testimonials

"STA creates an environment where all students look to challenge and support one another. This, combined with staff who go above and beyond their call of duty, makes for a wonderful community where everyone feels a sense of belonging."

- Kate

scholarships and awards

At STA, our students' hard work and dedication is recognized every year by numerous institutions through scholarships and bursaries, including several B.C. Provincial Scholarships. Last year, graduating students were awarded over \$175,000 in scholarships and awards.

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:

- University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- University of British Columbia, Okanagan
- Simon Fraser University
- University of Victoria
- Trinity Western University
- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- University of Toronto
- University of Western Ontario
- Queens
- Royal Military College of Canada
- McGill
- Harvard
- M.I.T.
- Pennsylvania State University
- San Diego University
- Santa Clara University
- New York Institute of Art and Science



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WE'RE
BUILDING!

we are building for their future

At STA, every step we take towards expansion is also a step towards the development of our students' educational opportunities. Over the next years, we are planning to rebuild our school in order to provide the best possible educational services for the Catholic community. We hope to create a learning environment that supports our students' academic and extracurricular development. As our students grow towards their future, we are growing with them.

For more information visit:
www.aquinas.org

WE STAND OUT



SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS
HIGH SCHOOL