

OC Elementary/Middle Schools identified
as 'Superb' by accreditation team!

Spring, 2015

K-8 ACCREDITATION REPORT

The Mission Statement of Ontario Christian Schools is to provide and promote a Biblically-based, quality education that nurtures the children of Christian parents to grow in God-centered discipleship, equipped with vision, understanding, discernment, and service in order to renew all relationships and culture to be under the authority of Jesus Christ.



How will a parent or school board really know whether a school has a responsible and effective program? How will we know that we have integrity and are producing what we say are our goals? We typically are not able to compare our school with other schools. One answer is by having the school accredited by a well-known accrediting agency. Ontario Christian Elementary and Middle Schools were recently accredited by Christian Schools International (CSI). This past spring, the CSI accrediting commission announced that it is granting a five-year term of accreditation extended to 2020. This is the highest level that CSI is able to grant. The High School received its full accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and CSI at the same time. K-8 are also accredited by WASC.

Reasons for Accreditation by CSI: Certification to the public that the school is a trustworthy institution of learning validates the integrity of a school's program and student transcripts, fosters improvement of the school's programs and operations to support student learning, assures a school community that the school's purposes are appropriate and being accomplished through a viable educational program, provides a way to manage change through regular assessment, planning, implementing, monitoring, and reassessment, assists a school/district in establishing its priority areas for improvement, confirms that a Christian worldview and perspective is an integral part of Ontario Christian School—both in what is taught in the classroom and how the Christian commitment is practiced in relationships and school operations.

Criteria for Evaluation

- I. Community—A. Philosophy, Mission, and Goals B. Organization C. Financial management D. Public Relations E. Parents
- II. Staff—A. Professional and Support Staff B. Student Services C. Teachers
- III. Students—A. Admissions B. Student Services C. Physical Facilities
- IV. Curriculum—A. Curr. Procedures B. Instructional Procedures/Resources C. Written Curriculum

Process of Evaluation

The school is required to prepare a self-study reviewing each of the chapters. Participants include parents, staff, students, board, and administration. The self-study also includes an evaluation of the school with an action plan for what are designated as areas for improvement. In 2014, a team of educational experts, approved by the CSI Accrediting Commission, visited the campus for several days to thoroughly review every aspect of the school with the self-study, observations in the classroom and around the campus, and interviews with students, teachers, and committee members. The CSI visiting team was chaired by Mr. Bob Van Wieren (CSI Accreditation Program Director).

2015 Accreditation Report Findings

These are the summary themes that were submitted by the CSI Accreditation Team:

1. OC's Christian philosophy is well developed, is purposefully integrated in the curriculum (CCPs), and student understanding and spiritual development are frequently assessed.
2. OC's school climate is Christian and healthy. Teachers and students appear to show respect to each other and their peers. Parents speak highly of the school's care for their children and young people and there is a high degree of parent involvement.
3. The staff at Ontario Christian are dedicated, qualified, and committed to Christian education. The Professional Learning Communities and grade level teams are working toward meeting identified student learner needs.
4. Ontario Christian utilizes a solid batter of assessments throughout the system, with a number of staff using those results to direct instruction and curriculum.
5. The school campuses are well maintained and provide an environment for healthy students and successful learning.
6. The school leadership and staff have embraced the integration of technology within the instructional program and many PLCs and Work Teams have proactively engaged in ongoing development and training.
7. Ontario Christian has a commitment to diversity – racially and denominationally.
8. The students at Ontario Christian demonstrate a high degree of engagement and articulate a strong satisfaction and appreciation for teacher/student relationships and support. Students are empowered to hold each other accountable to a high, Christian moral standard.