



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL NAME CHANGE

*Love our Lady. And she will obtain abundant grace to help you
conquer in your daily struggle.
Saint Josemaria Escriva*

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Review

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John Wujek, Superintendent of Education, Area 5

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Vision:

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world
through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

Mission:

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an
inclusive learning community uniting home, parish
and school and rooted in the love of Christ.*

*We educate students to grow in grace and
knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*



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Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its inception in 1984, St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School provides students with quality educational programming by allowing them to pursue a number of educational pathways.

Over the past number of years the school community has worked together to increase student achievement and recently introduced the International Baccalaureate Program. The school community is desirous of a change in the school's name from St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School to St. Mary Catholic Academy.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request an official change to the school's name in accordance with Board policy S.07 School Names with specific reference to Section (E) Renaming Existing Schools – Program needs. Specifically the section that allows for a name change, “in the event that there is a significant change to the program offering at an existing school.”

C. BACKGROUND

1. St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School has been educating our Catholic students in the downtown core since 1984, and is proud of an academic tradition that offers a pathway for all students, whether they are bound for the workplace, an apprenticeship, college or university.
2. In recent years, there has been a high level of competition for elementary students in the area from the co-terminus district school board as well as from TCDSB single-gender schools. As a result, there has been a decline in student enrolment at St. Mary's CSS.
3. In the last few years, there has been considerable discussion with the Catholic School Parent Council about a proposed name change to the school.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The school community believes that there is an unfair perception that the school cannot meet the needs of students in the Academic and University streams.
2. Much work has been completed to improve and highlight the quality of the school's academic programming, including:
 - a) the school has improved student achievement on the Gr. 10 EQAO literacy Test by 24% since 2011;
 - b) EQAO Assessment results at the Academic Level in the Gr. 9 Math test have risen by as much as 22% and at the Applied Level by as much as 64% since 2009;
 - c) Currently, students at St. Mary's are achieving at or above Board and Provincial in Academic Mathematics, and well above Board and Provincial levels with grade 9 Applied level Students. These accomplishments have been recognized by EQAO who has awarded St. Mary's the prestigious Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement.
 - d) St. Mary's is now an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. IB is a demanding and academically enriched program that is recognized world-wide. As well as stressing high academic standards, IB also aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and carrying young people who are motivated to succeed. IB is a fully immersive and highly demanding program that begins in grade 11, however students wishing to take part in the IB program can apply when they enter Grade 9.
3. The change in the school's name to St. Mary Catholic Academy will continue to ensure that the school's Catholic tradition remains, and will serve to:
 - a. communicate clearly to parents and the community that the school offers a demanding academic program;
 - b. highlight the high academic standards that are reflected in the International Baccalaureate Program, helping this program to grow and flourish at St. Mary's;

- c. will ensure that the school is seen as viable choice for students seeking a high quality academic program that will prepare them for post-secondary education.
 - d. will assist in the school's overall goal to increase enrolment and serve the diverse needs of its community.
4. As per S.07 School Names, there is an ability to recommend changing an existing school's name for program needs:

In the event that there is a significant change to the program offering at an existing school and a change of name is contemplated, the Catholic School Advisory Council shall be consulted. The school name may only be altered by the addition (or deletion) of an extension to the existing name. If the CSAC endorses the proposed name change, the CSAC must request in writing to the Director that a name change be considered.

5. The current Catholic School Parent council has written to the Director of Education endorsing the school name change. (**Appendix A**)

E. IMPLEMENTATION

1. Once approved officially by the Board of Trustees, the school community will be informed of the new school name.
2. The selection of St. Mary Catholic Academy will be communicated to the general public through a media release and supported by various social and traditional media channels.
3. School signage and all other identification, including web-based information, will be implemented as soon as possible.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the re-naming of St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School to St. Mary Catholic Academy.