

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in Calvin Christian School. We hope this package will help you to learn more about an education for your child(ren) that is rooted in the Word of God.

Calvin Christian School is all about assisting parents by providing Christian instruction for children in grades JK-8. The instruction covers a lot of academic, art, athletic and values related topics and skills. The program of studies as well as the extra-curricular activities all serve to equip our students for every good work.

We invite you to review the contents of this package to learn more about our school, and also encourage you to explore our website at www.ccs-hamilton.ca (*About Us > Learn About Us*) where you will also find our Parent Handbook and much more information.

Please feel free to call us if you have any further questions, or if you wish to set up an appointment to meet with the Principal.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted J. Postma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "P".

Ted J. Postma
Principal

CALVIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL- HAMILTON

Information Packet

Calvin Christian School (CCS) is an independent elementary school offering a complete curriculum that is Christ centred, Teacher directed and Child oriented. CCS maintains an excellent academic curriculum in response to government standards. In addition to the academic curriculum and values education, the school also offers fine arts, computer studies, a library skills program, special education, physical education and a wide range of co-curricular activities.

Calvin Christian School's constitution is based on the infallible word of God as interpreted by the historic Protestant Creeds. The school emphasizes a Reformed world and life view. All aspects of one's life (home, school, work, play) are devoted to the glory of God. The school exists as a response to God's call to raise our children for God's glory.

The school remains at the same location since its inception in 1952. The current building was built in 2000 and officially opened in 2001. Currently, Calvin Christian School serves students from Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8. The school also has a JK level program for 4 year old children called, "Jubilee School."

Calvin Christian School is supported by a Christian community that consists of churches, parents, individuals and staff members.

CURRICULUM

The CCS curriculum exists along side standards set forth by the Ministry of Education. The foundation of our curriculum is the understanding that human life is governed by God and that man is called to serve God everywhere. All activities within the scope of education at CCS must grow out of that starting point. The curriculum goal statements at CCS reflect the vision and mission statements. The curriculum is designed and taught so that each student is given the opportunity to gain Bible knowledge, to learn more about God's creation, to discover and develop personal talents and skills, to mature as an image bearer of God, to develop a deeper commitment to love and to serve God, to develop competency in communication, and to acquire an appreciation for other customs and cultures.

Jubilee School – (child r e n m 31)

Jubilee School is located in the beautiful and roomy 2nd kindergarten room of CCS. Jubilee School offers a JK level program for 4 year old children. Please call the school or check our website for more information.

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In SK the students learn about themselves, their families, friends, community, animals and God's love in our world. This goal is accomplished through Bible stories, play centers, number and letter recognition, music, drama and games. The students experience a full day of school on Monday, Wednesday and every other Friday or, on Tuesday, Thursday and every other Friday.

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We are excited about having an extended SK program on the "off Friday" that your child would normally not be at school as part of the SK rotation. Now you will be able to enroll your child on an optional basis into our "Mes Amie Francais" program. This is a French immersion program. Please call the school or check our website for more information.

Engineering ... although this is not a separate program, it is worth mentioning that we are embarked on establishing this program (a blend of math, science, IT, creative problem solving) in our grades 4-8.

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Most of the curriculum has been developed by Christian Schools International (head office in Grand Rapids, Michigan) and by the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (head office in Ancaster, Ontario). Detailed course outlines or samples of units or textbooks are available upon request from the principal. The curriculum includes Bible, literature, language arts, mathematics, French, art, music, science, library, geography, history and computer studies.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

We believe that the whole person is called to glorify God. We seek to nurture the mind, the heart and the "feet and hands," which add up to educating the whole person. Our programs include more than just academic instruction. They also provide values/attitude/moral instruction, skills instruction, and spiritual instruction. We are pleased to offer a wide variety of programs and activities to further help develop a child's talents and skills.

Special Education Program

The focus of special education at CCS is to try and meet specific needs associated with health, learning and social disabilities or concerns. Our department is staffed with teachers who have special education qualifications. We are aware that special education should also serve those students who excel in their studies and need further challenges. We are pleased to offer then the Next Steps Program – a program involving enrichment, problem solving activities, iPad apps and much more.

Computer

Our well-equipped computer lab consists of 30 computers. The lab includes guarded Internet access. Students are taught to work with various educational programs, which reinforce a variety of skills. They are taught to use the computer for writing and editing tasks. In addition, students have the opportunity to use the multi-media computer programs for research and presentation purposes. We also have a cart containing ChromeBooks and these are used in the classrooms along with the Promethean Boards and the multi-media tools.

Music

CCS has a primary choir, a junior chamber choir, a senior chamber choir, a hand bell choir, a recorder choir and a concert band, which is further made up of a jazz band and a woodwind ensemble. Students in grades seven and eight are required to take band for their music classes. The choirs and concert band perform at worship services, senior homes and other music venues.

Library

The school has a wonderful library containing lots of fiction and nonfiction resources. In addition, students grades 5-8 must attend library classes where they are taught how to locate, research and document library and online resources. Topics, such as social media and Internet awareness are also explored.

Athletics

In addition to our regular physical education program, the school offers many different athletic opportunities. There are soccer, volleyball, hockey, basketball and softball teams. Tournaments are held with other Christian schools. In addition, intramurals are held during recess and noon hours to enable all students to participate in various team activities. Each spring all of the students participate in Field Day. Various students represent CCS at Master Field Day -- a competitive track and field event involving many Christian Schools.

Private Piano and Violin Lessons

A qualified music teacher provides lessons 5 days per week at the school. This service is not covered by tuition and is a private arrangement between the instructor and the parents. The students may leave during class time to attend their lessons.

Other Activities

CCS offers a variety of events to help promote student growth and participation. These events include devotions, assemblies, Book Fair, Battle of the Books, Reading Buddies, Fine Art Festivals, Science Fair, Spelling Bee, Student Council, etc.

Community Activities

The students participate in food drives and special fund raising activities (eg. Terry Fox, Jump Rope for Heart, Road to Hope, etc.). They perform for the community and senior homes. They help out at various agencies as part of a service project program.

TRANSPORTATION

The school buses are owned, operated and maintained by the Calvin Christian School Society. There are five bus routes, which cover sections of Hamilton Mountain, Mount Hope -Glancaster, Caledonia, Ancaster, below the escarpment (Downtown), and surrounding areas.

Where there is no school bus service, parents are encouraged to arrange for car pools or have their children use public transportation. Other arrangements such as meeting the bus at a predetermined location can also be made.

Parents apply for school bus services. The cost of school bus transportation is not included in the tuition fee. The operating expenses for bus services are borne by the families who use the buses. The capital expenses for new buses are borne by the entire Calvin Christian School Society.

The Transportation Committee, a committee that is accountable to the Board of Directors, oversees the school's bus transportation system. Committee members usually finalize the bus routes in the summer preceding the new school year. If you wish further information about any aspect of transportation at CCS, please call the school office.

If you are considering moving to the Hamilton area and wish to enroll your children at a Christian institution such as Calvin Christian School, we recommend that you call the school first about its bus routes. We would be happy to recommend realtors.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ENROLMENT

We encourage you to meet with us so that we can address any questions or concerns you might have about Calvin Christian School, and we would be pleased to give you a tour of the school.

In order to enrol a child in Calvin Christian School, there are a number of forms that you will need to complete. First of all, you are required to become members of the Calvin Christian School Society. You will need to fill out Form #1 or #2 (please be advised of the two types of society membership as outlined in the Status and Rights of Membership), plus Forms #3, 4, and 5. You will also need to have your pastor complete and submit the Pastor's Reference Form.

The following documents comprise the membership and student admission applications:

Form #1 – Membership Application for Full Member

or

Form #2 – Membership Application for Associate Member

plus

Form #3 – Student Application and Registration Form

Form #4 – Statement of Agreement Form

Form #5 – School Fees Form

Pastor Reference Form

Forward the completed forms to the school office. The registration fee of \$600.00 must be attached. The Principal or a committee member may follow up your applications with a phone call or request a brief interview with you.

A recommendation will be made to Board of Directors concerning your membership application. You will be formally advised of the Board of Directors' decision in a letter written from the secretary. You will also receive all of the necessary classroom documentation after your application has been accepted.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in Jubilee School are required to complete a registration form specific to Jubilee School only.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long have you been here?

Calvin Christian School (CCS) was founded in 1952 by Christian parents with a vision to provide an education that is consistent with the Holy Bible for their children so that these children may occupy places worthily in society, church and state.

What is so different about a Christian school?

In a Christian school all of life is defined from a Christian perspective and students are encouraged to live the Christian life style on a daily basis. We point the child to Christ; Christ is the center of every aspect of life. We encourage the child to be a servant, to use the gifts God has given him/her, and to be Christ-like -- applying the fruit of the Spirit. The school's policies and programs are based on God's laws and His Word and not on popular opinion.

Are you part of a larger system?

Yes. CCS is affiliated with the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools and Christian School International. These organizations provide various services and curriculum resources.

How many students are in a class?

Numbers vary from year to year. The school's overall pupil teacher ratio tends to average around 23:1

Do you have to belong to a certain religion to send children to CCS?

You need to be a member in good standing at a Christian church to send your children to CCS. Our students currently come from a number of different Protestant denominations. Most of our students come from churches with a Reformed perspective.

What are the Protestant creeds?

The Protestant creeds are Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, Canons of Dort.

How much religion is taught?

We have devotions at the beginning and end of the day and at lunch. We teach Bible as a subject. Our assemblies focus on Christian feast days and events. It is our conviction that all of life should be Christ-centred and this must impact all the studies. Therefore we bring a Christian perspective to each subject and to our interaction with one another.

Is your curriculum the same as that in other schools? Does your curriculum meet government standards?

Our curriculum exists along side government standards and is quite similar to other OACS and CSI schools. Canadian Tests of Basic Skills (norm referenced tests which score achievements in math, language arts, research, reading, and science) show very favourable results when compared to the national scores. In general, our students score at the 75th percentile. This means our average student is scoring among the top 25% of the national scores. Other standardized tests that we administer show similar results. These results affirm our curriculum and teaching strategies.

Do the students wear uniforms?

Although students do not wear uniforms, there is a dress code, which is very specific regarding modesty and slogans.

Are your teachers qualified?

Yes. Our teachers have the Ontario Teacher's Certificate (or an equivalent from out of province). They also have the Christian School Teacher's Certificate. All of our teachers are professing Christians.

What about accountability?

Our teachers are accountable to the Principal who in turn is directly accountable to the Board of Directors. The parents vote in directors for the Board of Directors and so there is a clear line of accountability to the parent. Furthermore, the school demonstrates or practices accountability via standardized tests, Individual Education Plan (IEPs), recognized teacher qualifications, health and safety measures, security checks, hiring practices, and numerous policies available for parental perusal and input.

Do you have buses and is transportation part of the tuition?

We have five bus routes. The cost of transportation is not included in the tuition fee. It is important to check with the school office regarding bus routes and transportation eligibility.

What is a normal school day schedule like?

8:50	Bell rings	12:30	Lunch bell
10:30	Recess	12:45	Recess
11:00	Classes resume	1:20	Classes resume
		3:25	Dismissal bell

Students will have an opportunity for a snack and a short washroom break during the afternoon session.

Where do the students eat lunch? Is there a cafeteria?

Our teachers supervise lunch in the home room. There is no cafeteria.

How often does the kindergarten class meet?

Class is a full day and meets either Monday, Wednesday and every other Friday or Tuesday, Thursday and every other Friday. There is an extended SK program on the "off Fridays" available as an option.

Do you have a JK? Do you have after school care and before school care?

Jubilee School hosts our JK level program. We also have after school care and before school care. You will need to register your child(ren) for this program.

Are there separate playground areas?

There are separate playground areas for primary, junior and intermediate level grades.

What about discipline? How do you discipline?

All students are special children of God and are made in His image. They are accountable for their behaviour and actions including that which is contrary to God's Word. We approach discipline from a restorative practices perspective and seek to enable restoration and reconciliation of all involved. It is important for the student to know that we all must do things out of love for the Lord. Forgiveness and closure regarding a discipline situation is also important.

Do you have special education (learning resource)?

Yes. We begin with an inclusive approach, followed by withdrawal from the classroom if necessary. Our special education staff monitors the students and are available for consultation. In very special circumstance, a paraeducator (an educational assistant or personal support worker) is hired to help out.

Do you teach French?

French is taught regularly as a separate subject from grades SK-8.

What is the tuition?

The tuition fee is a per family fee and covers all of the elementary school-age children in that family. There is also a membership fee of \$300, which must be paid annually. New families coming to CCS must also pay a one-time registration fee of \$600. The tuition fee is set by the membership at the Spring Membership meeting. Families wishing to use CCS buses pay a separate transportation fee. A family with a child in Kindergarten pays slightly more than 1/2 the tuition fee and transportation fees (if applicable). Jubilee School requires a separate nominal payment.

Do you pay the tuition all at once?

Our Finance Manager will explain the best way to pay your tuition fee. You have the choice of paying monthly, annually, quarterly or by special arrangements.

Do you offer tuition assistance?

Eligibility for tuition assistance is dependent on a number of factors. Our Finance Manager will provide you with the appropriate information. Tuition assistance is generally reserved for those families who have been with CCS for more than one year.

Does the government fund the school in anyway?

We do receive some help for special needs children who have difficulties learning because of health related disabilities. The government does not provide any other funding for Calvin Christian School.

How do we go about enrolling our child(ren)?

You should contact the Principal or come out to Meet Us Mondays. You will need to complete the forms and meet with a member from the Membership Committee. A recommendation will then go to the Board of Directors. Prior to the first day of school, you will be contacted with all the necessary information regarding your child's fellow pupils, his/her teacher's name, the events of the first day and other pertinent information.

We want your child(ren) to feel as comfortable as possible by the time first day of school arrives.