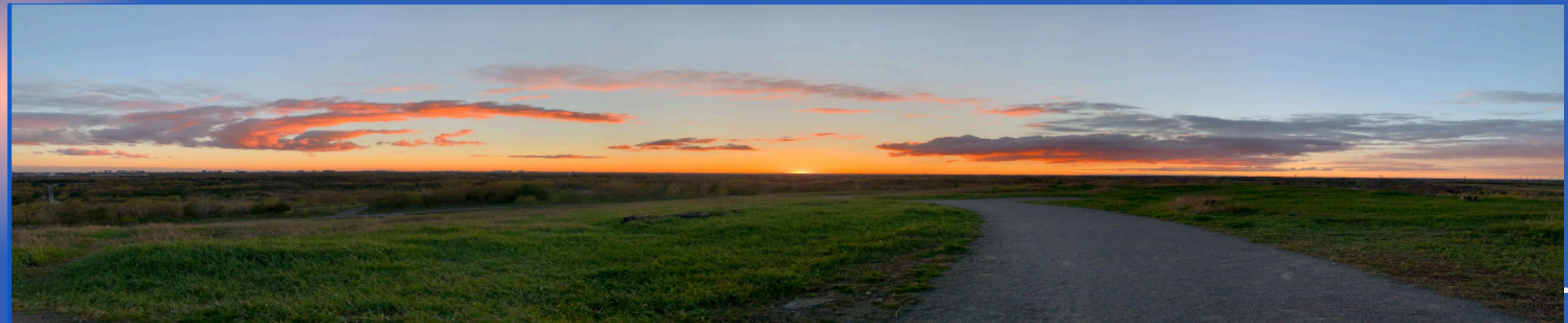


St. Mary CSS  
Grade 8 Parent Night  
January 2024

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We, in the Durham Region ✨  
respectfully acknowledge that we  
are here, on the traditional lands of  
the Mississaugas of Scugog Island.



# Our Chaplain

Ms. Mariana Bosetti



# Opening Prayer

O God, source of our  
lives and  
inspiration to this  
community



We thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed upon us. We thank you for all the people and talents you have gathered together in this community



To carry out Your mission of Catholic Education.



We ask for Your presence with us today as we welcome these Grade 8 students and their Parents to our community.



May they be given opportunities to gain knowledge which will chase away all fear and anxieties about high school as they discern their choices.







May they find comfort  
and courage in the  
knowledge that You  
love them and that  
You will be with them  
to guide them always.

We ask this  
through Jesus our  
brother and  
Saviour, Amen.

Please join us in  
the Hail Mary...



# Our Principal

Mr. John DiVizio



# Our Administration

(from left to right...)



Ms. Julie Simon  
Ms. Melissa Morrison  
Ms. Catia Minardi



# Our Admin Assistants



# Custodial Staff



EAs

# Our Parent Council Representatives



**Ms. Adele Sartor**  
**Council Chair**



**Ms. Sabrina Pallotta**  
**Council Chair**



# Our Student Voice



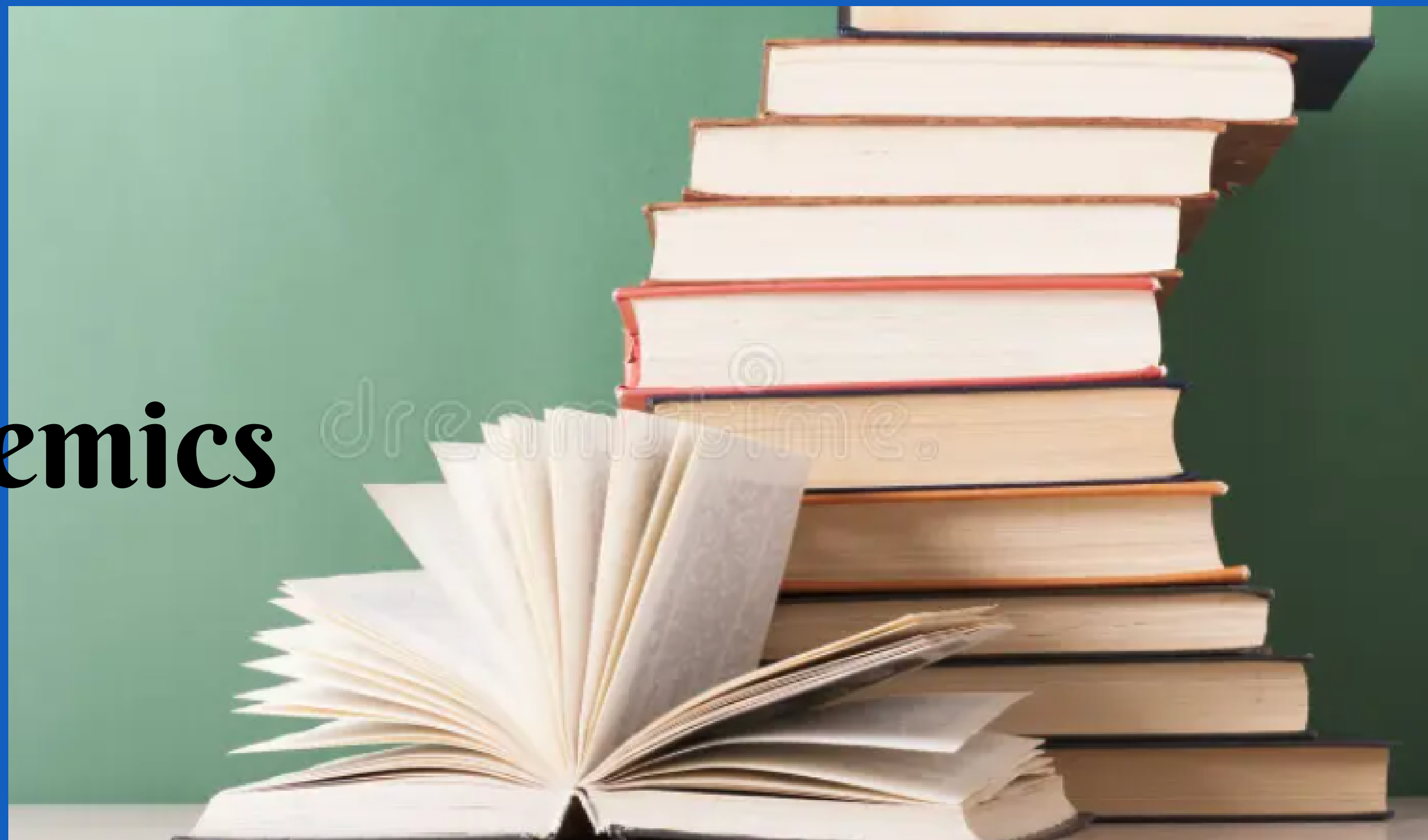
**Braeden Angeles**



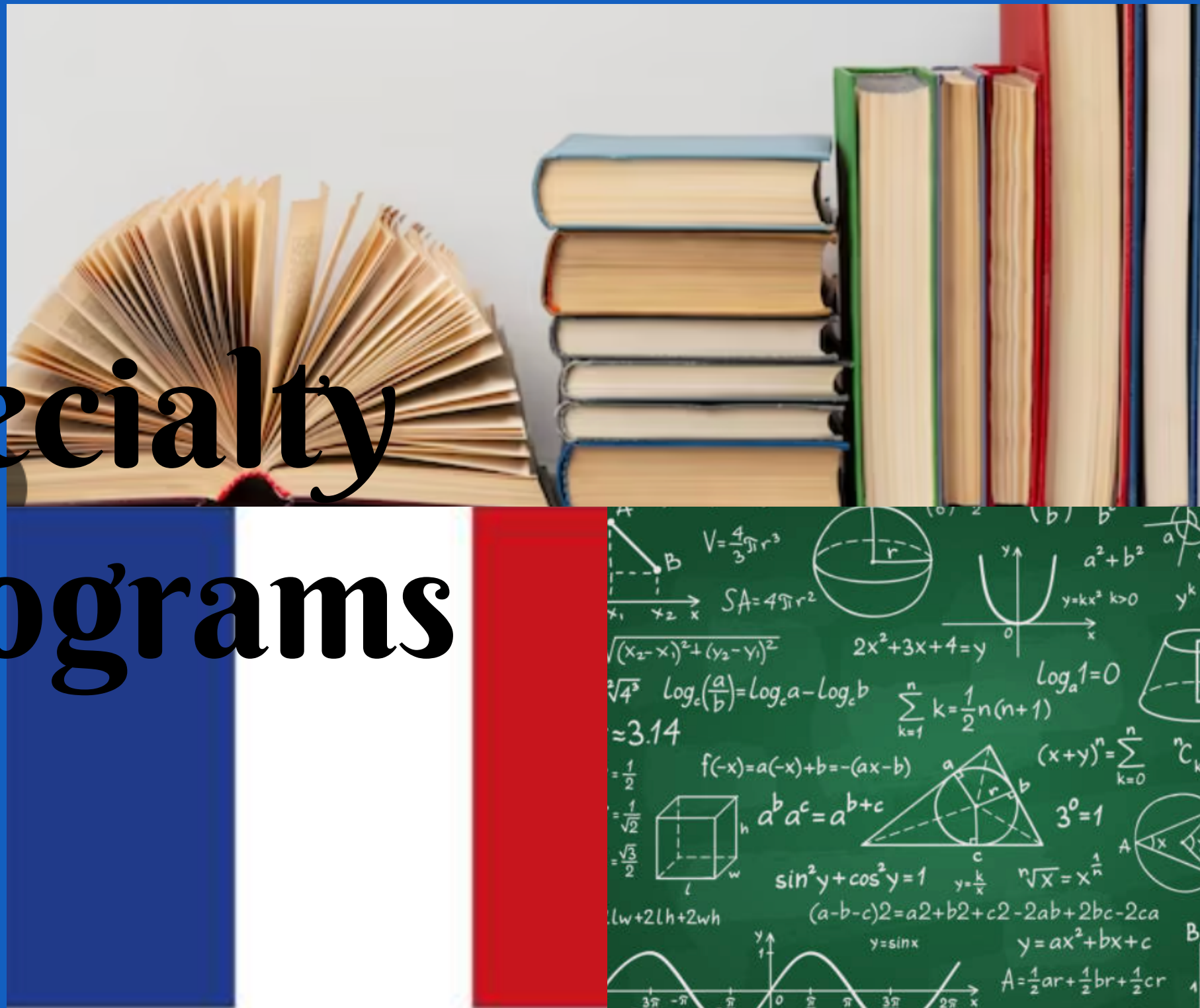
St. Mary Catholic Secondary School is a vibrant school community led by the teachings of Christ to help our young people strengthen their compassion and love for their fellow neighbour and self.



# Academics



# Specialty Programs



Advanced Placement  
French Immersion  
SHSM



# Advanced Placement

## The Typical AP Student Has:

**1**

**Demonstrated  
Exceptional Work  
Ethic**

**2**

**Strong Academic  
Performance and  
an Intellectual  
Curiosity**

**3**

**Self-Directed Skills  
with a  
Desire to get  
ahead**

Offered through a selection process in Grade 10 for both  
Math and English

# French Immersion

All French Immersion Students will:



**1**

Choose a  
minimum of three  
(3) courses in  
French in Grade 9

**2**

Graduate with a  
minimum of ten  
(10) courses in  
French

Mlle Oster will be conducting an information session in Room  
124 after this general presentation

Specialist High  
Skills Major  
SHSM at St. Mary



# Program Support

- Students on an IEP are continually monitored
- Know your PST and where to find them!
- Connection between school and home
- Assistance available to everyone
- Peer Tutoring over lunches

Visit with Ms. Hoofman and her team in Room 130!

# Student Success at St. Mary

- The Student Success Teacher:
  - Advocates for students
  - Works on a team to find alternative options for individual student success



Visit with Mr. MacDonald outside of Room 164



# Intermediate Guidance in Gr 7 & 8

Mrs. Jennifer Dehaney works as our  
Intermediate Guidance Teacher by:

- Easing the transition from elementary to high school
- Acting as an advocate
- Supporting pathway planning



Visit with Mrs. Dehaney in the Library

**YOUR SCHOOL**



**ST. MARY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**HOW WILL YOU GET INVOLVED?**




**FAITH & LEADERSHIP**

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**ARTS & CULTURE**

**COMPETITIONS**

**Faith & Leadership**  
 Aboriginal, First Nations, M...  
 Black History Committee  
 Christmas Outreach  
 Outdoor Education Team  
 Retreat Leaders  
 TEEd Club

**Monarch Athletics**  
 Student Athletic Association  
 Jr/Sr Boys Basketball  
 Varsity Co-ed Cross-Country  
 Jr/Sr Boys Football  
 Varsity Co-ed Golf  
 Varsity Boys Rugby  
 Jr/Sr Girls Soccer  
 Varsity Co-ed Track & Field

**Arts & Culture**  
 Dance Showcases  
 Gr 12 Photo & Visual Arts Show  
 St. Mary Singers  
 Vocal Concerts

**Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)**  
 Arts & Culture  
 Business  
 Non-Profit  
 Transportation

**Competitions**  
 Iron Chef  
 Robotics  
 U of T

# Co-Curricular Activities at St. Mary



@stmarycouncil

# The Registration Process

## **Important Dates**




January Course selection presentations for associate schools by IGT and Guidance Counsellors to explain the course selection process

February 16 Grade 8 Course Selection Deadline

- course selection submission in myBlueprint AND electronic parent approval
- \$75 Student Activity Fee paid through cash online

# The Registration Process

## **Students NOT attending a DCDSB elementary school**

- Visit the St. Mary website.
- Locate  on the homepage.
- Create an account to complete the Online Student Application (only those NEW to our Board).
- Print the pre-admission application package and submit it with the required accompanying documents to the Guidance Department by February 16, 2024.



# 30 Credits

19 Compulsory + 11 Elective

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)
- 3 credits in Mathematics (1 in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in Science
- 1 credit in Canadian History
- 1 credit in Canadian Geography
- 1 credit in The Arts
- 1 credit in Health and Physical Education
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 1 credit in Grade 9 or 10 Tech
- 0.5 credit in Career Studies
- 0.5 credit in Civics

1 Group 1 credit ~

English, or French as a second language, or a Native/classical/international language, or social sciences and the humanities, or Canadian and world studies, or guidance and career education, or coop

1 Group 2 credit ~

Health and physical education, or the arts, or business studies, or French as a second language, or cooperative education

1 Group 3 credit ~

Science (Grade 11 or 12), or technological education, or French as a second language, or computer studies, or cooperative education

11 Elective Credits

Gr 11  
Religion

# Grad Requirements

## community service

40 hours

must be completed between Grade 8 graduation and April 1st of Grade 12

## literacy requirement

OSSLT or OLC

the Ontario Literacy Test with a minimum score of 300 or the Literacy course

## elearning

2 credits

Opt-out option is available

Students must take

**religion**

in each of their four years  
at St. Mary



# CHOOSING COURSES

choose courses wisely -be informed



seek recommendations from your  
Gr 8 teachers and IGT

make selections based on your  
**STRENGTHS AND INTERESTS**

Once submitted, course selections cannot be changed in myBlueprint

When to take  
your compulsory courses  
English Stream

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion
English	English	English	English	English
Math	Math	Math	Math	
Science	Science	Science	1 Science, Tech, French, or co-op - Group 3	
Geography		History		
French		Civics/Careers		
	1 Grade 9 or 10 Tech			
	1 Phys Ed			
	1 Art			
	1 Business or Additional Phys Ed, Art, French, or co-op - Group 2*			

○ Recommended to take in Gr 9 or Gr 10



When to take your compulsory courses

# French Immersion

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion	Religion
English	English	English	English	English
Math	Math	Math	Math	
Science	Science	Science	1 Science, Tech, French, or co-op - Group 3	
Geography		History		
French	French	French	French	French
		Civics/Careers		
	1 Phys Ed			
	1 Grade 9 or 10 Tech			
	1 Art			
	1 Business or Additional Phys Ed, Art, French, or co-op - Group 2*			

 Courses in French  
  Recommended to take in Gr 9 or Gr 10

# Preparing for Grade 9

## Reach Ahead

July and August courses available  
8:30am - 2:30pm (to be confirmed)  
Both elearning and in-person options available  
Students may only take **ONE** Reach Ahead  
course Find out more and register at [con-ed.ca](http://con-ed.ca)

Reach Ahead courses are credit-bearing and they will count toward a student's graduation requirements

# Preparing for Grade 9

**Head Start**

**2nd last week of August**

**9:00am - 1:30pm (to be confirmed)**

**Find out more and register at [con-ed.ca](http://con-ed.ca)**

**Head Start is a Gr 9 preparation program for Grade 8 students moving into Gr 9. This program is intended to prepare new Gr 9 students by focussing on mathematics, english, leadership, and learning skills. It also allows students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the school and their Gr 9 peers prior to the first day.**



Visit us at  
[stmary.dcdsb.ca](http://stmary.dcdsb.ca)



@stmarycss



@stmarycouncil