



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New vision for Holy Names

Plans include emphasis on STEM education, and new sports facilities

(Windsor, Ontario, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016) – A new vision for Holy Names Catholic High School, which includes an increased emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects, as well as vastly improved sports facilities, was announced today.

“STEM subjects equip graduates with the essential tools they need to adjust to change, which is a huge benefit, considering future labour market uncertainties,” said Executive Superintendent of Innovation and Experiential Learning Dan Fister, whose portfolio includes developing innovative new programs for the Board.

Increasing the quality and level of fundamental STEM education among all learners represents a strategic, long-term approach towards the goal of developing a highly skilled society, according to a 2015 report prepared by an expert panel on STEM skills commissioned by the Council of Canadian Academies. That skilled society is central to innovation and productivity growth, which are in turn necessary for improving standards of living, according to the report.

“It’s clear that STEM skills are central to a variety of education and job opportunities,” Fister said. “High-quality investments in STEM skills — in both secondary education and in more advanced training — are critical to our region’s prosperity.”

To help facilitate improved STEM education at the school, the Board is investing more than \$600,000 to upgrade six science labs there. Creating modern learning environments that promote greater educational experiences for students will be an essential component of the new program’s success, Fister said.

The Board is also involved with discussions with representatives from the Faculty of Science at the University of Windsor, as well as the President at St. Clair College, who have both committed to exploring the possibility of providing human capital and other resources to support the new STEM program at Holy Names.

“A critical part of the program’s success will be in the development of ongoing relationships with these partners,” Fister said, “so they can help provide us with a better sense of the types of skills and knowledge they would like to see in our graduates that will help them excel at the post secondary level and beyond. Once established, we believe this is a model we will be able to replicate at all of our secondary schools.”

"Learning together in faith and service"

Besides the increased emphasis on STEM subjects, the Board is committed to improving the outdoor sports facilities at the school. A request for proposals for the construction of a new turf football field, along with a scoreboard and lighting, will soon be issued.

“Top quality athletic facilities are a key to attracting new students and we want to make sure they will have the opportunity to practice and play in the best atmosphere that we can provide,” said Director of Education Paul Picard. “Combined with our new STEM programming, we believe Holy Names will exceed all expectations and become the secondary school of choice for students living in the South Windsor community.”

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