



Campus E-News

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Struggle & Emerge

Our Academic Journey



Director of Academics
Hugh Lambert



In post-industrial countries with wealth and security, citizens are striving for greater autonomy. We can see this by the increasing focus on individual rights, new charters created for individual freedoms, greater pressure for public goods to be distributed through the market systems, and an increased questioning of hierarchical structures such as governments and the church. There seems to be a general shift from a social philosophy of “we” to “me”.

At Notre Dame our students are exposed to a philosophy based on the importance of serving others in their community. We encourage students to reflect, analyze, and critique issues in all aspects of the curriculum. However, their conclusions, debates, and analyses of important issues always show a sense that to serve others gives us great purpose. Notre Dame’s implicit and explicit curriculum is designed to create leaders with an ability to emerge from their struggles. Our leaders will have a strong understanding of Canada, walk with great moral purpose, and carry with them a strong knowledge base allowing them to find success in any environment.

At Notre Dame our 31 teachers provide a learning environment that leads to success. They enjoy sharing their time to provide extra instructional time ensuring success. Across the province, the number of students achieving grade point averages above 80% falls typically between 25 and 30%. At Notre Dame, 46% of our students are achieving 80% or better. With an average class size of 16 students, our teachers have the ability to build strong relationships with their students. The strong relationships provide for a better understanding of each learner’s needs. Each student is cared for and watched over by their teachers, houseparents, coaches, and other College staff. Just as our students live out a philosophy of serving, so does our staff. We believe that by providing a caring environment, connecting with students, and continually reflecting on our practice, Notre Dame provides a truly wonderful learning environment.

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Bryson in his Music class.

Throughout the province, graduation rates hover around 70%. At Notre Dame, 100% of our students graduate. With parental support, teacher support, and caring houseparents, our students have many caregivers watching over and guiding them on their journey. It is this sense of community and shared responsibility that makes a difference for our students' success. I would like to highlight some of the upcoming events as part of their journey this semester.

Semester I report cards mailed	Friday February 6 th
Winter Carnival Activities	Monday February 9 th - 13 th
Grade 9, 10, & 11 Math Contests	Wednesday February 18 th
Ash Wednesday Mass	Wednesday February 25 th
Term I report cards mailed	Friday March 20 th
English departure tests	Monday April 6 th
Math & Christian Ethics tests	Tuesday April 7 th
Easter break begins at non	Wednesday April 8 th
Classes resume	Tuesday April 21 st



Kade hiding behind his novel.

Our teachers and administration strive to provide a challenging and rich learning experience for your children. The Notre Dame staff will continue to live the College's mission and St. Augustine's message that was so dear to Athol Murray, "He who does what in him lies, God will not deny His Grace". Our teachers and staff look forward to your feedback throughout the school year so we can continue to improve our practice.

Sincerely,

Hugh Lambert
Director of Academics



Left: Mary & Ashlyn writing their English test.



Right: Terry McGarry sharing his poetry with the Hounds.



Left: John in the Guidance Office. John is off to Cornell University in the fall.



Choir class during a recent show.

*Academic Hounds of the Week,
January 29th, 2009*



William Valdes Mathieu Levesque

Congratulations Hounds



The boys enjoying their "drum circle".



Alex & Dimitri in their E.S.L. classroom.



Guest speakers often visit Notre Dame.