



Holy Trinity Catholic High School is one of three secondary schools in the Brant-Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board. Located in Simcoe, Ontario, Holy Trinity was constructed in 2001 to serve 750 students in Haldimand and Norfolk counties. Holy Trinity has just had a fourteen-room addition completed to house its present population of 1,200 students.

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Mandatory Study Hall

A Student Success

Student success has always been the goal at Holy Trinity Catholic High School. The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) scores have consistently been in the 89 to 90 per cent range. In order to maintain these scores the staff developed a number of initiatives to support students. Chief among the supports was the introduction of a mandatory Study Hall for students in grades 9 and 10 who are performing at level one or lower in any subject area.

The mandatory Study Hall works well at Holy Trinity because of several factors: two 75 minute lunch periods, 32 teacher volunteers, parental support and the mantra that states, “Failure is Not an Option.” Parents are contacted regarding the Study Hall and students attend for 35 minutes per day, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Three classrooms are utilized and there are always teachers of Mathematics, Science and English on duty. Two teachers and at least one senior student work in each room. Attendance is taken and the vice-principals provide follow-up. Attendance is consistently in the 90 per cent range.

The following chart illustrates the success rate for semester two 2006-07:

# of students enrolled in Study Hall	120
# of credits for students enrolled in Study Hall	137
# of credits saved	117
# of credits lost	20
Study Hall success rate	85.4%

The success experienced during semester two of the 2006-07 school year is being mirrored in the 2007-08 school year. Initially three parents did not want their children in the Study Hall. Those students failed two or more courses and are now repeating them. Study Hall has increased the quality of school to home communication. Teachers are reaching out to both students and parents to provide pathways to success.

An offshoot of the grades 9 and 10 Study Hall was the development of a grades 11 and 12 Study Hall. Teachers of senior students took it upon themselves to develop, organize and staff a Senior Study Hall. In the case of the seniors, classroom teachers refer them because they have incomplete assignments. Much like its junior counterpart, the Senior Study Hall has subject specialists available to work with students in the areas of Mathematics, English and Science each day.

The senior students arrive at the Study Hall and receive a task card from the supervising teacher. The task cards are completed by the referring teacher and clearly outline the assignment(s) to be completed. Seniors are excused from Study Hall once their task card assignments are completed. Junior students are excused from Study Hall once they are consistently scoring at or above level two. Both Study Halls are now experiencing a significant amount of walk-in traffic. Students are aware that additional help is readily available and more and more of them are taking advantage of this.



The amount of work missed has been dramatically reduced with the introduction of the Senior Study Hall. A vice-principal tracks students, and where necessary parents are informed of attendance issues. Time management skills are being developed, work is being submitted in a timely fashion and students are gaining credits at an impressive rate. The following chart illustrates success rates for the first term of semester one 2007-08:

Grade	Credits Attempted	Credits Failed	Success Rate
9	1100	28	97.46%
10	1108	20	98.2 %
11	1096	37	96.63%
12	1107	45	96.0 %



Many factors combine to make Holy Trinity a haven of student success. The academic side of school life drives the extra-curricular programs. Any student involved in an extra-curricular event must have a Game Day Sheet signed by each course teacher. On the day of the event or game, the student must submit a form with all signatures in order to participate. Coaches, supervisors and classroom teachers all share in the progress of any given student thus creating a culture of success. The very high level of teacher volunteerism is a reflection of the professional learning community that Holy Trinity is becoming.

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