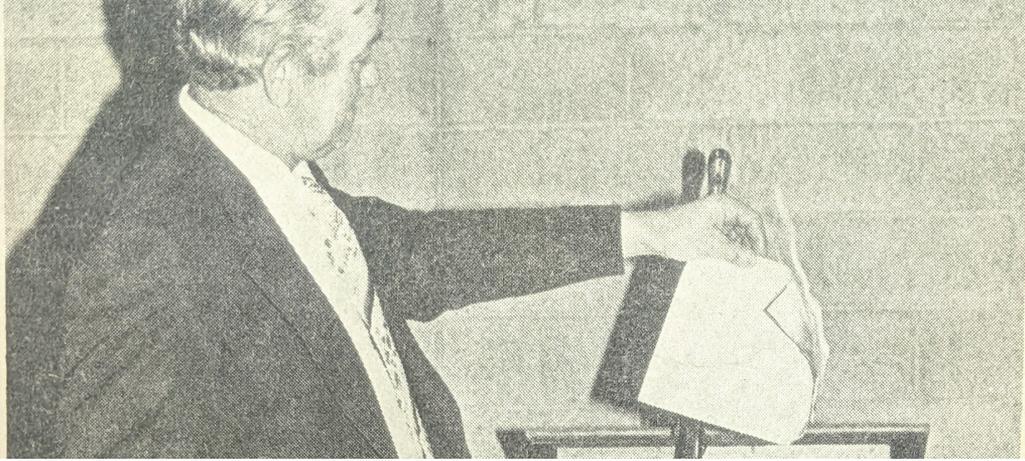




YOUR
Impact



Inside you will read stories of how your support impacts the work of DCHS and the lives of our youth.



For those who don't know, our story began in 1967 which means the 2022-23 school year marks the 56th year of quality, Christian high school education at DCHS.

The first 10 years were spent in portables on the premises of Knox Christian School and in 1977 we moved into our current facility. On December 2, 1977, an opening ceremony was held and the newspaper headline read "Auditorium Packed for Ceremony to Open Durham Christian School."

Less than four years later, with interest rates in and around 18%, another event was held to celebrate that DCHS was debt free. The newspaper article headline read "Durham Christian School Burns Mortgage" and went on to explain that 250 people were in attendance!

And why not? I'm sure most of the people in attendance had invested a lot of sweat and tears in order to start the school, build a facility, and pay off its mortgage in such a short time.

As 2022 comes to a close, more than 40 years after all these events, I can say that I have witnessed this same passion and commitment for Christian education. In a time of much uncertainty, our school remains strong because of the support from current families and from those who have come before us.

As we look ahead to the next 56 years, will you help us achieve our mission to develop minds, strengthen hearts and change lives? Your gift, no matter the size, will have an immediate impact on our students and families.

~ Mr. Hamelinck (Interim Principal)

Your generosity leads to tangible results. Explore a few of the ways your giving has made a difference in the lives of our families and students.



201

Students Served

Total students taught at Durham since 2017.



61

Academic Excellence Awards

Given to students with an average of 85% or higher since 2017.



120

Graduates

Your donations have helped 120 students go to University or College since 2017.



25

Co-Op Students

Students who received an alternative experience in the workplace since 2019.

Each year we commit to assisting families through our bursary program.

The **Bridge Bursary** helps reduce tuition for families who also have children enrolled in a Christian Elementary school. The **Community Bursary** allows us to assist families who desire Christian education for their children, but who experience financial difficulty in doing so.



Bridge Bursary

In 2021-2022, you helped provide **\$46,200** to **21 families**.



Community Bursary

In 2021-2022, you helped provide **\$54,825** to **16 families**.



Your donations go towards offering relief to families who want access to quality Christian education. Will you help us further the impact of DCHS in 2023?

PARENT TESTIMONY

“It was the personal relationships that made the difference to my kids in terms of their faith formation. My child’s teachers took interest in their lives and prayed for them.”

PARENT TESTIMONY

“I feel my child’s work ethic has improved leaps and bounds with the structure and curriculum DCCHS has provided. Time will tell as my child enters postsecondary school, but I am quite confident that DCCHS has prepared my child well for the next chapter in life.”

Bella's Story

Bella is a Grade 10 student and is in her second year at DCHS. Bella has a reputation of being a good friend and hardworking student. She is a faithful member of our *Chapel Grow Team* as a singer and a small group leader, and a member of our *Student Body Leadership* team.



How did your family discover Durham? What made you enroll here?

My family and I discovered Durham when I went to Grade 7/8 Day. We loved how Christ centred everything was and decided that this was the right school for me to go to.

What impact has Durham had on your life spiritually and socially?

Durham has helped me grow in my faith in Jesus from the chapels to the people here, everyone is so loving and supportive and it's helped me learn who Jesus truly is.

What impact has Durham had on your academics?

Durham has higher expectations when it comes to learning which I find helps me exceed in what I'm doing. But you're not just left to do it on your own, the teachers and community are so supportive and helpful, there's always someone there to help you.

What are you looking forward to this year and in future years at DCHS?

I'm looking forward to all the fun activities we get to do in the future as a school, I always enjoy when we come together and do something fun.



Bella participating at a Grow Team event last year.

Bella sharing her testimony during chapel.

This semester, you shared your testimony during chapel. What was it like to stand in front of your peers to share how God's changed your life?

When I shared my testimony in chapel I was terrified because I don't normally like to stand up and talk in front of people, let alone the whole school. But while I was sharing everyone listened and supported me. I knew that nobody in that room wanted me to fail and that calmed my nerves. Even after the chapel, people came up to me and told me how they enjoyed it and that made me feel a lot better.

If you could speak to a donor, what would you say to them? Why should they support Durham?

Durham has had a huge impact in my, and many others' lives. By supporting the work they do at Durham, you can be a part of changing some young adults lives for the best.



This year, your support could help a student like Bella thrive wholistically through Christian education at Durham. Will you partner with us?

PARENT TESTIMONY

“Teachers cared for our children individually — not only regarding academics, but also their character and spiritual well-being. They were such positive role models. Approachable. Willing to help. Reliable. Fully capable of teaching.”

PARENT TESTIMONY

“Teachers and staff integrated a Christian worldview into all aspects of education and showed their support and care for students.”

The Hamilton's Story

Erika is currently a Grade 11 student studying here at DCHS.

After graduating in 2022, and successfully completing a 12-week welding course at Canadian Welding Skills, Charlie has just started working with D&R Custom Steel in Pickering, Ontario.

How has it been having two students at Durham?

Having Charlie and Erika at DCHS has been an amazing experience. It is so nice to have peace of mind knowing that not only are your children getting a quality education, but they are loved and cared for! This level of treatment has allowed our children to become better students and community members. They love to volunteer and they love to help others in need. They have become kinder people.



How have you seen your kids transform in their time at Durham?

The transformation has been unbelievable. Both of our kids went from being withdrawn and not enjoying school to waking up everyday wanting to go to school. They developed so many academic and life skills. They became more confident and positive. Our kids were lost in the public system. They

were just a number. Neither of them were getting the help they needed and they continued to fall behind. At DCHS, the teachers and staff always took the time to ensure that they understand what was being taught. This made our kids feel important and listened to. The transformation was truly night and day! We are so grateful and cannot thank DCHS enough for how hard they worked with both of our kids and how much they have changed them for the better.

How has Durham prepared your kids for life?

They are taught not only academics, but also how to be good humans. How to serve others, how to treat others, how to deal with conflict and most importantly how to respect and respond to differing views and opinions.



What are some examples of Durham stepping up to meet the need of your kids?

Both our children have learning exceptionalities. They both struggle in different ways. DCHS has always come up with effective solutions and accommodations.

When our son Charlie was having difficulties with tests and exams, the school was able to determine that he was struggling to put his answers down on paper. He was given a scribe to help. The answers were all in his head he just needed that extra hand to scribe them for him. After this his anxiety went down and his confidence went up!

Our daughter Erika sometimes struggles with social anxiety. She has told us on many occasions how she feels very comfortable going to any staff member for support and advice. Every staff she has gone to has always had an ear and a heart to listen and often a story to show that they have been there and that they can relate. This makes her feel very supported and in turn gives her the confidence to continue in her day. She has always received accommodations when needed with certain assignments and tests. The staff are very good and creative in coming up with ways to help the kids learn things in a different way that still makes them learn and be successful at the same time! Each child is seen as an individual and treated like they matter. This is what makes DCHS so special!

What would you to someone to convince them to support the work at Durham?

DCHS changes the lives of children. In a world where there is so much uncertainty and fear, DCHS helps to create confident and caring children. My kids would not be as successful as they are now if it was not for DCHS. Every child deserves a chance to experience this amazing school! Donors help to keep the school running and they help many parents who may not be able to afford the full tuition.



Victor's Story



Victor graduated from DCHS in 2014, where he earned a co-op credit by working with Rogers TV. This led to Victor graduating from TMU in 2018 with a Bachelor's Degree in *Radio Television Arts: Sport Media*. Currently, Victor is a freelance sports broadcaster, primarily working with TSN and CBC, where he has covered the Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022 Olympic Games, the Memorial Cup, and select Ottawa Senators NHL games.

What was it like being a student at Durham? What are some fond memories you have of this place?

Over my four years at Durham, I enjoyed being in a tight-knit environment where I was able to establish a relationship with all my teachers and classmates. My best memories come from acting in school plays or touring with the Jazz band around the province, or occasionally into the United States. I made a lot of great friends through both drama and music, and it provided an excellent opportunity for me to develop my creativity in an environment outside the traditional classroom.

In what ways did Durham prepare you in life?

In many ways, I believe coming from a background of a spiritual education, has allowed me to better approach and deal with difficult and challenging situations, whether they be professional or personal. Durham helped me become a more compassionate and thoughtful person. In a career-path that relies heavily on communication and socialization, these are two very important skills to possess. Like many others, I have faced many challenges in my career during my years at Ryerson, and in the years since graduation in the professional world. Having an education rooted in faith has played a significant role in establishing a strong personal foundation to deal and overcome challenges faced in everyday life.

My years at Durham were, in a variety of ways, formational years. Identifying and developing my spirituality prior to going out and tackling bigger issues on a day-to-day basis in the professional world undoubtedly helped me gain a successful edge early in my career.



As you went out into the world, what did you notice in hindsight about the uniqueness of Durham?

Without a doubt, it's Durham's tight-knit, small community that separates it from everywhere else. I can't tell you how many times I've run into people who can't believe I

graduated grade 12 with 32 other students. For them, it's inconceivable. But for me, it's impossible to imagine graduating with over 100 other students. The other advantage to a smaller student base is that it provides a greater potential for the students to develop personal relationships with the faculty, which I did with a number of teachers during my time at Durham. Because the teachers knew my peers and I as well as they did, it allows teachers to gain a better understanding of student's needs and help them realize their strengths. To this day, I still have a relationship with some of my teachers from DCHS.

Why should people support the work done at Durham?

Durham provided me the support to succeed in whatever avenue I chose to pursue, whether it be academically, athletically, or artistically. I believe this diversity in education, as well as the ability to specialize and develop my skill set in particular fields is extremely important for the future of education in our country. The work Durham does continues to help more students every year like myself realize their potential to set themselves up for success in life outside of high school.



Make a gift this season. Help us to continue our work in raising up students like Victor who are out in the community making a difference.

When people — parents, grandparents, business-owners, uncles, aunts, alumni, and more — support the work at Durham, the results are clear:

**Developed Minds. Strengthened Hearts.
Changed Lives.**

This year, we're asking you to partner with us again to help us raise **\$60,000.**

General Fund

The most helpful way you can support DCHS is by supporting our general fund. This helps us to budget effectively and to invest in so many of the staff, resources, and programs that makes DCHS unique and exciting.

Specific Areas of Support

Transportation

As the only Christian high school in Durham region, most of our families rely on transportation to get their child to school each day. Rising costs are making this more difficult. **Will you partner with us in 2023 to provide quality and reliable transportation for our families?**

Promotions

While word of mouth is our most effective promotion, we are strategically promoting our school through social media, email, and print. We also host events such as School Tours and Grade 7/8 Day to help give a great first impression to new families. **Will you partner with us to make sure that the option of DCHS is known throughout Durham Region and beyond?**



Sports

With the pandemic behind us, we have the opportunity to play sports again as a school. Along with academics, sports have the opportunity to teach hard work, perseverance, and also creates friendships and memories that last a lifetime. Your support means that our students can buy new jerseys and equipment, enter into tournaments, travel, and more. **Will you partner with us in 2023 to help boost the sports program at DCHS?**

Bursary Program

Each year we commit to assisting families through our bursary program. **Will you partner with us to make Christian education affordable for all?**

Technology

At DCHS, we strive to provide students with technology that enhances their ability to learn. Technology such as laptops, projectors, 3D printers, and science equipment help amplify what we're doing with our students. **Will you partner with us to ensure that our students and staff are equipped in 2023?**

Chapel & Small Groups

Each Friday, our school gathers together either in chapels or small groups to worship, celebrate, learn, and support one another. However, we have not upgraded our sound system and cables in many years. **Will you partner with us to help us invest in our chapel program?**

Student Body Leadership

Our Student Body Leadership team is responsible for boosting school spirit, running our Blue Whale canteen, serving pizza every Thursday, and hosting events. Through these initiatives, many of our students are learning valuable leadership skills such as planning, perseverance, hard work, flexibility, organization, and more. **Will you help invest in the leaders of tomorrow that we are raising up through DCHS?**

PARENT TESTIMONY

“Excellent administration. They are always responsive and available to hear our concerns. Very clear communication regarding any concerns or issues that need to be dealt with. Very supportive.”



**If you want to support the
work of DCHS, you can give
in THREE ways:**

1 - CHEQUE

Payable to *Durham Christian High School.*

2 - CREDIT CARD

Visit *dchs.com/donate* to make your gift

3 - E-TRANSFER

Send it to *finance@dchs.com*



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