



December 5, 2019

Dear parents and students,

Do you want your teen living Biblically, thinking critically, acting justly, stewarding responsibly, creating beautifully, communicating effectively, leading faithfully, working collaboratively, and learning continuously? We can help.

Thank you for your interest in Providence. We invite you to join with our community as we work together to see a generation raised up that loves God, desires His Kingdom, and faithfully lives out their callings. If you have not yet visited the school, I invite you to visit the school so that we can get to know you and we can explore how Providence could be a blessing for your family.

This package provides information about:

- Our school's history
- Our mission and vision
- Daily life at Providence
- Learning Assistance
- Extracurricular activities
- Our program
- Diploma requirements
- The uniform

Attached to this package is a response form for parents. I encourage you to fill it out today and hand it in to the office. Response forms help us to respond to your questions and to understand your timeline in making decisions for next year.

We are here to help, and we love to talk about how Providence can be a blessing for students and families. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Vander Deen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr. Mike Vander Deen, BA, BEd, OCT
Principal
mvanderdeen@providencerc.com
P: 519-471-0661
F: 519-471-7632

Our Story

Our community is an association of parents and families that want to work together to see a generation raised up that loves God, desires His Kingdom, and faithfully fulfills their callings.

Psalm 78 calls Christian parents to “tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD...so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.” The work of Providence Reformed Collegiate is part of our community’s response to this calling from God, and we love doing this together.



Providence first opened its doors in September, 1997 to fifteen students. The school was located in the basement of a church on Glendon Drive in Komoka, Ontario.

These humble beginnings were the efforts of an association of like-minded parents who desired to see a distinctively Christian and Reformed high school – a covenantal school that was firmly rooted on the authority of Scripture. Our association has always sought a tight alignment between home, school, and church on the common foundation of Scripture, as summarized by the Reformed confessional standards known as the Three Forms of Unity and the Westminster Standards.

By 2002, the school had outgrown the church basement, and built a new facility right around the corner at 93 Queen Street in Komoka. Since then, the school has grown, and we now serve approximately 70 families with a school population of approximately 100 students. Our building was expanded in 2018 to add additional classrooms and a learning commons.

Today, our families come from a wide geographical area, with families coming from Aylmer, Chatham, Exeter, London, Mitchell, St. Thomas, Strathroy, Woodstock, and Wyoming.

Our Mission

Providence Reformed Collegiate seeks to glorify our covenant God by assisting parents in:

- providing students with an excellent Reformed Christian education
- nurturing students in the knowledge and fear of the LORD
- equipping students for service in the kingdom of God as ambassadors of Christ in this world.

Our Vision of Education

Reformed Christian Education at Providence Reformed Collegiate is:

Confessional in character

Reformed education begins and ends with confessing the Triune God. Teachers and students are constantly learning to say “amen” to all that God reveals about Himself in His Word and His works as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of life. Reformed education acquaints students with different areas of intellectual pursuit to point out not only God’s sovereignty and His providential hand over all of life, but also the many gifts He has given to them in literature, mathematics, science, or art, etc. They are to receive these gifts with thanksgiving and delight, and are to use them wisely as stewards and caretakers who are responsible to God and to their neighbour. Teachers are to have a living faith and are able to speak of these truths to the students in a way which is suited to them. Confessional instruction seeks to build spiritual and moral character with a view to humility and service, rather than pride in success.

The Scriptures, as summarized and interpreted in the Three Forms of Unity and/or the Westminster Confessions, are the foundation for Reformed education and give it its confessional character. *All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness...* (II Timothy 3:16)

Reformed education is covenantal in character

Reformed education is for the children of believers belonging to the covenant community who have been claimed and set apart for holiness by God and have received the sure promises of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as signed and sealed in their baptism. The covenant is the Scriptural context or framework within which Reformed education takes place in school, home and church. The school assists the parents in educating covenant children by confronting them with their need for the redeeming work of Christ and by equipping them with skills and knowledge.



This is done that they may grow as responsible Christians in accordance with God's Word so that they might love God above all else and their neighbours as themselves. Teachers and students, therefore, do their work before the face of God within the relationship of love which binds them to each other and to their God.

Reformed education recognizes the antithesis

This is our Father's world and He continues to govern and direct all things according to His plan. As a result of man's sin, God established the antithesis between the seed of the woman over and against the seed of the serpent. The climax of this antithesis was met in the redeeming work of Christ as He conquered sin and Satan, death and the grave. At the same time, we believe that this world still lies in darkness in opposition to the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. Students are to grow in their skills of discernment, testing all things by the light of God's Word¹ for *in your light do we see light* (Psalm 36:9).

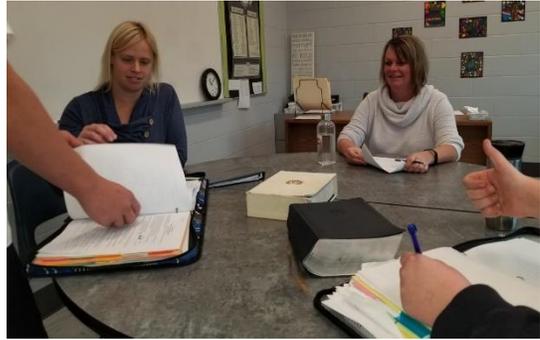
Students are to recognize their three-fold office as prophet, priest, and king. They are to confess God's name, present their lives as a living sacrifice of thankfulness, and fight with a clear conscience against their three sworn enemies: the devil, the world, and their own flesh. They are to be in the world, but not of the world. They are to learn that they are pilgrims and strangers in this world because we look forward to the world that is to come, the new heaven and the new earth where we will dwell with God forever.

Reformed education recognizes the unity of purpose between church, home, and school

Reformed schools are characterized by a unity of purpose with the home and the church. We are to *tell the next generation about the deeds of the LORD so that they, too, may set their hope in God* (Psalm 78). When home, school and church are united in this aim, the work of the one institution has life-giving consequences for the spiritual well-being of the others. As the school is an extension of the home, parents play a vital role in the formal education of their children. They are encouraged to be actively involved in the school through the work of the Board and its committees and through regular communication with the teachers. Communication between home, school, and church, will only help to increase the fulfillment of our united purpose to *train up a child in the way that he should go [so that] when he is old he will not depart from it* (Prov. 22:6).

Learning Assistance

We believe that all covenant children should have equal access to Christian education, irrespective of ability or inability. The Learning Assistance Program facilitates optimum learning for all students. Some students may need occasional assistance, individualization, or encouragement while some may need long-term, daily support. The end goal of the program is to help all students who use it to become positive, confident and independent.



Students who demonstrate special learning needs or who have an IEP (Individual Education Plan) may access a number of different resources. Priority will be given to those students with IEPs.

Accommodations

The primary goal of accommodations at the secondary level is to ensure that students can function to the best of their ability within the regular classroom setting. To this end there will be consideration given to alternate testing and assessment that allows for the evaluation of knowledge. Other accommodations may include the use of adaptive technology, remediation, tutoring, learning skills instruction, time management training, and general student support. This may require frequent consultation with the classroom teacher and will not compromise the integrity of the course credit involved.

Modifications

In the event that a course is determined to be of value to the student though s/he may not be able to meet all of its requirements, modifications may be made. The degree of adjustment will determine whether a modified credit or no credit will be granted. This process will require the full notification and consultation of the student, parents, principal, and the teachers involved.

IEPs may be developed by the Learning Assistance Coordinator in conjunction with the parents and the Educational Assistant, should a student demonstrate a continued need for support.

What new Grade 9s say about their first months at Providence

Our students usually transition into high school very well. Most have a combination of excitement and nervousness to get started. We do what we can to make students comfortable with their new surroundings quite quickly. Previous grade 9s were surveyed to understand what differences about high school impacted them. They gave these responses, in order from most significant to least significant:

1. Longer classes and longer days
2. The uniform
3. Fewer subjects
4. Meeting new people
5. More teachers
6. Changing classrooms, no home room
7. Busing
8. Extracurricular activities

Other things that students brought up:

- New friends
- Transitioning from home schooling
- No snack recess
- Classes were more difficult, and they needed to study
- Homework
- Appreciation for structured and predictable daily schedules
- A larger class
- Weird smells in the science lab

Words of advice from grade 9s:

“Don’t be afraid of walking into the school. Just think of it being a new school year.”

“You don’t have to be nervous about the first day of school because the teachers and other students help you understand how everything works. Meeting new people isn’t so hard either.”

“Study hard, respect teachers, and get good grades all for the glory of God, not self-satisfaction.”

“Try your hardest. Just do your best.”

“Make lots of new friends!”

“This is a great school, and I hope that if you come you will enjoy it.”

“Don’t stay up too late. Eat when you can. Bring water with you at all times.”

“Stay away from guy-girl stuff.”

“Don’t worry about what others think of you.”

Extracurricular Activities

Athletics Committee

The Athletics Committee aims to organize and facilitate sports and games for the student body. This committee requires students who have great ideas for various activities to engage

students in a variety of ways. Students on the Athletics Committee will be involved in making teams, scoring, and scheduling activities and intramurals.

Interschool Athletics

Providence athletes have an opportunity to participate in most OCSAA events (Ontario Christian School Athletics Association). OCSAA includes most Christian high schools across Ontario. Each team participates in at least one tournament. We have teams in cross country, volleyball (B & G), basketball (B), soccer (B & G), hockey (co-ed), and track & field.

Banquet Committee

The annual banquet is one of the highlights at PRC. This banquet is a formal evening where students and staff come together to enjoy entertainment and scrumptious food. The committee requires students interested in organization, art, design, and decorating.

Community Service

The Community Service team looks for ways in which Providence students can serve the community. They raise money to support a Word and Deed sponsor child, conduct a food drive in Komoka during the Thanksgiving season, and organize visits to Country Terrace, the local retirement home.

Leadership Team (SLT)

The student leadership team promotes Christian behaviour, enthusiasm, school spirit, and a sense of closeness among students.

Leadership team is comprised of an executive (male and female co-presidents, a treasurer, and a secretary) and four class representatives. Students interested in serving on the executive will complete an application and interview process before being elected. Class representatives will be elected by their respective classes.

Peer Tutoring

Peer tutors will work one-on-one with students from other grades to help them practice skills from different classes.

Small Choir

Small choir is a group that serves the Lord with their voices. Small Choir will run in the choir time slot from December to April. They participate in a music festival in the spring and showcase musical selections at the Fine Arts Festival.

Yearbook

The Yearbook Committee creates and publishes an annual yearbook which reflects the year at PRC. The committee needs volunteers to take pictures at events, to design pages, and to write about the events. Involvement in the committee allows members to use and develop their artistic and leadership gifts.

Our Program and Diploma Requirements

The following information is also in our course calendar, along with descriptions of each course, and school policies and procedures. The course calendar has been included in the blue promotional package (for new families). The document is available for download at www.providencerc.com/our-program.html, and extra paper copies are available in the office.

Providence Reformed Collegiate Diploma

To receive the PRC diploma, students must meet the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma and must have earned credits in the following:

- One credit in Bible for each year at PRC (Bible 9 – OT, Bible 10 – NT, World Religions 11, Bible 12 – Apologetics.
- World History 3M
- Philosophy 3M or 4U
- Families in Canada 4U or 4C

These courses earn a credit towards both diplomas.

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

To receive the OSSD, students must earn:

1. Eighteen compulsory credits in the following areas:

English (4), French* (1), Math (3), Science (2), Canadian History (1), Canadian Geography (1), The Arts (1), Health and Physical Education (1), Civics (0.5), Career Studies (0.5), English or a third language or a Social Science and Humanities or Canadian and World Studies (1), Health and Physical Education or The Arts or Business Studies (1), Science or Technological Education (1)
2. Twelve optional credits
3. Forty hours of community service (may begin during summer after grade 8; PRC requires that ten hours be Salt and Light hours)
4. Successful completion of the Grade 10 literacy test

*When circumstances require it, and when it is in the best interests of the student, the principal may waive the French requirement. Students who are waived from French take a general learning strategies course instead.

Course Types

Grades 9 and 10

Applied – Courses with the College and Workplace levels in mind at Grades 11 and 12.
Academic - Courses with the University and College levels in mind at Grades 11 and 12.
Open - Courses meant for all students and only one course type is available.

Grades 11 and 12

University - Courses designed to fulfill entrance requirements for University.

College - Courses designed to fulfill entrance requirements for Community Colleges.

Workplace - Courses designed for students entering the workplace after high school.

Open - Courses meant for all students and only one course type is available.

Note that some courses are offered as combinations i.e. University/College.

Students are usually enrolled in the Academic courses in Grade 9. After consultation with the class teacher, the principal and the parent(s), students may be enrolled in the Applied courses.

Courses Offered

* indicates the course would fill a compulsory credit for the OSSD

Grade 9 Courses

Bible

*English – Academic and Applied

*Math – Academic and Applied

*French – Academic

*Physical Education – Open

*Geography – Academic

*Science – Academic

*Learning Strategies - Open

Grade 10 Courses

Bible

*English – Academic and Applied

*Math – Academic and Applied

*French – Academic or Computers - Open

*Physical Education – Open

*History – Academic

*Science – Academic

*Civics – Open – ½ course

*Careers – Open – ½ course

Grade 11

World Religions

*English – University and College

*Math – University or College or Workplace

History – University

Four additional courses from lists below

Grade 12

Bible

*English – University and College

Philosophy – Univ. and Coll.

Family Studies – University and College

Four additional courses from lists below

Optional Courses for Grade 11 and 12 Students

Accounting 3E

Advanced Functions 4U

Biology 3U

Biology 4U

Calculus and Vectors 4U

Chemistry 3U

Chemistry 4U

Co-operative Education (in Gr. 12)

Entrepreneurship: Venture Planning 4C

French 3U

French 4U

Functions 3U

Geography 3O

Geography 4U

Hospitality and Tourism 3C

Law 3C

Math 3C

Media Studies 3O

P.E. 3O

Physics 3U

Physics 4U

Politics: Making Change 3O

Recreation and Leadership 4M

Studies in Literature 4U

The Writers Craft 4U

World History 4U

The Providence Uniform

At Providence, we believe that the way we dress reflects who we are since our clothing is an extension of our person.

We believe that our uniform policy supports the Biblical principles of dress so far as it concerns modesty, humility and respecting feminine and masculine differences. Furthermore, it encourages certain qualities desirable for a positive school atmosphere such as orderliness, school spirit and dignity.

There are also some practical advantages in having a uniform policy in regards to clothing costs, peer pressure and the saving of time and energy in deciding what to wear.

The Providence uniform changed suppliers from McCarthy's to Land's End starting in the summer of 2019, and so the next two years will be a time of transition.

McCarthy uniform items (except the kilt) may be worn at PRC for the next 2 school years (September 2019 – June 2021). All new uniform items can be purchased through our on-line website store at Lands end using our School Code 900189911. All uniform items ordered through Lands End will have a school crest or logo.

How to Get Suited Up for School

All new uniform items can be purchased through our on-line website store at Lands end using our School Code 900189911. All uniform items ordered through Lands End will have a school crest or logo. Please contact the uniform committee at prcuniform@gmail.com for assistance.

Suggested Minimum Purchases

Boys

- 1 pair of black pants
- 1 extra pair of either black or khaki pants
- 1 short sleeved oxford shirt
- 2 golf shirts
- 1 dark blue sweater
- (1 other sweater/jacket option)

Girls

- 1 kilt
- 1 dark blue sweater
- 2 golf shirts
- 1 blouse
- 1 pair of black pants
- 1 pair of either black or khaki pants
- 1 pairs of knee high socks
- (1 other sweater/jacket option)

The PE uniform is a grey T-shirt with dark, long (basketball style) shorts, and does not need to be purchased through the school.