

Many Catholic schools not ranked by Fraser Institute

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are outstanding here, the kids are really motivated and the parents are extremely supportive. That's a winning combination."

Angela Phillips, dean of academic studies at the all-boys St. Andrew's College, said staff and students at the Yonge Street school are pleased.

"I see a lot of smiles on our students' faces," she said, adding St. Andrew's has a 102-year-old tradition of excellence with 500 boys currently enrolled. Tuition fees are \$17,000 a year, \$28,000 for full-time boarders, many of whom come from outside Canada.

"We are a unique school community, an international day and boarding school," Phillips said, adding the school offers only advanced-level courses aimed at university preparation.

Several publicly-funded schools in York Region also fared quite well, with Richmond Hill High School at the top of

the list, ranking 17th in the province behind the private schools.

Eight York Region District School Board schools finished in the top 100. Langstaff Secondary School—28th, Unionville High School—36th, Thornlea Secondary School—54th, Woodbridge College—68th, Markville Secondary School—76th, Bayview Secondary—89th, Milliken Mills High School—98th, Westmount Collegiate Institute—98th.

Newmarket's Huron Heights Secondary School was among the worst performers, ranking 523rd. While principal Mike Magarrey acknowledged the study had an extremely narrow focus with much emphasis on advanced-level courses—ignoring other factors like students taking English as a Second Language or specialized vocational training—he said it's still an indicator of where improvements can be made.

"It's easy to make excuses," he said.

"Our goal is improvement, not looking at why the results don't look as good as they could. It's a guideline for us to use to take a look at what we need to do to improve student success."

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School ranked 450th, while Stouffville District Secondary School, Sutton District High School and King City Secondary School tied for 401st place.

Many schools, especially in the Catholic board, were left out of the rankings altogether, for reasons that aren't yet clear. Only two Catholic high schools appear on the list—St. Robert Catholic High School in Thornhill in 109th place and Father Bressani Catholic High

School in Woodbridge at 464th.

"We don't know why so many schools were left out of the ranking, we're trying to find out," said Chris Cable, York Catholic District School Board spokesperson. "The Toronto board had many left out as well—of 800-plus schools in total, only 568 are accounted for. Maybe it's because it's the first time they've done it in Ontario."

The Fraser Institute has ranked schools in British Columbia since 1998, Alberta since 1999 and Quebec had its first report card last year. The complete text and rankings of all Ontario schools are available at www.fraserinstitute.ca or by calling 604-714-4582.

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