February 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to semester two at Holy Names Catholic High School. We are excited to implement the **New** **Ontario Curriculum** inquiry-based learning in both Grade 9 Canadian Geography and Grade 10 Canadian History.

*"Tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand."*

The statement above exemplifies inquiry-based learning. Inquiry-based learning illuminates student questions and curiosities and encourages students to question, research, analyse, and draw meaningful conclusions about **curriculum based** topics that they find most interesting. It teaches them to be perceptive, responsible, organized, resourceful and most importantly, it teaches them to solve real-world problems  **The focus will be less on answering fact based questions that can be answered by a simple google search and more on questions that will engage the students.**

Children these days have access to almost limitless information. Our workforce is becoming more information driven. We feel that Teaching our students to navigate and interpret this information through the rigours of science is critical. Most importantly, every student should be equipped with the skills to meet the challenges of the future.

We welcome your feedback and comments. If you have concerns or questions, please feel free to contact us.

Yours in Education,

Mr. John Chittaro, Department Head, Social Science

Mr. Todd Laing, Canadian History

Mr. Will Ruttinger, Canadian Geography

Mr. Peter Zahran, Canadian History

(The content of this letter was adapted from [www.learner.org/workshops/inquiry/resources/faq.html](https://www.learner.org/workshops/inquiry/resources/faq.html))

(For more information on Inquiry-based learning,please access this link [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/cbs\_inquirybased.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/cbs_inquirybased.pdf))