

# **NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO**

**Date:** December 5, 2007  
**Subject:** SHSM Launch at St. Joseph's CSS  
**From:** Bob Perreault, Communications Officer  
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## **Specialist High Skills Major Pilot Project: Transportation Technology Program Launched at St. Joseph's CSS**

**Cornwall, ON** – A group of students at St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School in Cornwall are now engaged in the Specialist High Skills Major: Transportation Technology Program. The pilot project officially launched November 29, 2007.

The Transportation Technology Program is lead by St. Joseph's CSS teacher, Steve Armstrong, in partnership with local businesses. It offers experiential learning, cooperative education, and apprenticeship opportunities for its students. The courses are based on industry-identified preparatory knowledge, skills, certifications, reach-ahead, and on the job learning opportunities. Participating students develop their Ontario Skills Passport, and have the opportunity to explore the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and various school-college-work initiatives.

Mr. Armstrong said the program fills a necessary void. "It is fantastic that our young people have the opportunity to take these types of courses at the secondary level. There is a growing need for skilled trade workers, particularly in the automotive sector. The Major at St. Joseph's will definitely help fill that void, and help our students along their pathway to success in the industry."

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, says the program helps build confidence. "These students have the opportunity to get true-to-life experience in the Specialist High Skills Major program. Not only are they learning about the mechanics of the automotive industry, but they get to put it in to practice. By the time they have graduated they are ready to help offer a valuable service to our community, or to further their knowledge in a post-secondary venue. That type of opportunity is exactly what we need in our schools and I am proud that our Board is offering it to these students."

The program caters to the individual student. It is formatted to individual learning needs, while preparing all students for the work world.

CDSBEO Director of Education, Bill Gartland, said the program is an excellent example of the value of establishing strong ties within our communities. "The support offered by our partners

in a program like this is vital to its success and sustainability. We are so fortunate that our partners are passionate about the Specialist High Skills Major and what it has to offer our students. This cooperative effort is truly an investment in the future of our students.”

Many local community partners and employers have pledged their support to the SHSM at St. Joseph’s CSS including: The Benson Group of Automotive Companies, Cornwall Truck Centre, Total Collision, C & B Quality Engine Rebuilding, the Eastern Ontario Training Board, Cornwall Motor Sales, Miller Hughes Ford, Seaway Hyundai, Car Star, Cornwall Tire, Brookshell Pontiac Buick GMC, Unitech, Fern Leroux Service Centre, Direct Muffler, Page Automotive, Minute Auto Wash, Blue Beacon Truck Wash and Ryder Truck Rental.

The specialized program is an initiative that is also supported by St. Lawrence College (Cornwall Campus), and the University of Guelph (Kemptville Campus).

For more information, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at 613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206 or 613-859-0678 (mobile).

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.

**Attached Photos:**

**SHSM St Joe’s 1** – Members of the St. Joseph’s Catholic Secondary School Specialist High Skills Major: Transportation Technology Pilot Project Vincent Houle, Sean Dakins, Bradley Hamilton, and Eric Heldens



**SHSM St Joe's 2** – Members of the St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School Specialist High Skills Major: Transportation Technology Pilot Project Vincent Houle and Sean Dakins

