

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

**Date:** May 12, 2008  
**Subject:** SHSM Launch at St. Michael CHS  
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## **Specialist High Skills Major Pilot Project: Environment Program to be Launched at St. Michael CHS**

**Kemptville, ON** – The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is inviting the St. Michael Catholic High School community and media to attend the official launch of the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM): Environment Program.

**When:** Friday, May 16, 2008 @ 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** St. Michael CHS, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville, ON

The SHSM is an exciting new learning opportunity for secondary students. The specialized program is a community partnered initiative supported by the Ministry of Education, Ferguson Forest Centre, The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Algonquin College and the University of Guelph. The SHSM Environment Program is a specialized technology program lead by the school in association with local employers and partners to offer experiential learning, cooperative education, additional apprenticeship, workplace, college, and university educational opportunities.

The Environment Program is based on nationally identified preparatory knowledge, skills, “reach-ahead”, and “on the job” learning opportunities focused within the field of environmental studies. Participating students will have opportunities to explore the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and various post secondary educational opportunities - for example, School to College to Work Initiatives and University Reach Ahead opportunities. The program also meets the specific learning needs and interests of students, while preparing them for the work world. It also gets them excited about their future prospects.

The program launch will be attended by CDSBEO Trustees and Senior Administration and representatives from: The Ministry of Education, The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, The University of Guelph, Algonquin College, and the Giving Garden. Interview opportunities will be available following the launch.

CDSBEO currently has three other SHSM Programs: SHSM Construction Technology, Notre Dame CHS, Carleton Place; SHSM Transportation Technology, St. Francis Xavier CHS,

Hammond; SHSM Transportation Technology, St. Joseph's CSS, Cornwall. The program is expected to expand for the 2008-2009 school year.

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.