

ROCKWAY

MENNONITE COLLEGIATE

A SMALL SCHOOL FOR A **BIG WORLD**



www.rockway.ca

ROCKWAY MEANS COMMUNITY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Thank you for considering Rockway Mennonite Collegiate ~ I believe that we offer one of the best overall middle and secondary school experiences available in our region, with opportunities for personal growth and learning that are unique to our school community. If you visit Rockway, interact with our students, meet our teachers, talk with our alumni and read our materials, I am confident you will reach the same conclusion. This is an exceptional place of learning, where faith is lived out every day. Faculty and staff are committed to educating and developing young people who respect and value themselves, and who understand their role as contributing citizens of our far-reaching community.



Rockway is, first and foremost, an outstanding school with a rigorous academic program. More than ninety percent of our students go on to universities and colleges in their program of choice. More than half our graduates last year were Ontario Scholars. We offer an enriched program in small classes, designed to reach students of diverse learning styles, taught by a remarkable team of dedicated and gifted teachers. Our students are deeply involved in the life of our school, its activities, and its engagement with the wider community. As you will see throughout this brochure, our small size is a huge asset, and it offers us great flexibility in developing and delivering a rich, creative program that addresses the academic, social, athletic, artistic and spiritual needs of our student body in an affirming learning environment.

Rockway is a Mennonite school, and approximately half our students have personal connections to that faith tradition. Ours is a Christian Anabaptist tradition concerned with putting our faith into action through service and peacemaking, with an awareness of our obligations to one another in community, and to discerning together what makes for a just and compassionate world. We welcome students from diverse backgrounds and appreciate the richness that this diversity brings to our classrooms and our school.

Rockway offers its students a wide array of leadership development opportunities, and our experience is clear: Rockway students graduate ready to pursue their dreams, eager to make a difference, and prepared for life's challenges. If you have any questions about what Rockway has to offer your child, please contact us.

Ann L. Schultz, *Principal*

A photograph of two people jumping joyfully over a lake at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, orange glow that reflects on the water. The two individuals are silhouetted against the bright sky, with their arms raised and hands clasped together. The background shows a line of trees and a calm body of water.

A SMALL SCHOOL FOR A BIG WORLD

Secondary school prepares you for life in a world that is rich in opportunity, alive with beauty, and burdened by enormous challenge. Your time at school doesn't only increase knowledge and skills; it also helps form your values and ambitions. It gives you a set of influential teachers, and friends to share the journey. Your choice of school shapes how you will face life.

Rockway Mennonite Collegiate prepares students to be responsible, globally-minded, compassionate, and reflective learners.

Our rigorous academic program creates space and time for critical reflection on basic questions about what is good, fair, and just. We teach to the heart as well as the mind.

The result is that Rockway's graduates are not merely ready for the real world; they are also committed to building a better world.

Over 90 percent of our students are placed in university or college after they graduate. Our alumni have entered and excelled in every field of endeavour – including medicine, law,


science, the arts, ministry, athletics, education, and business. Whatever their career choices, they can often be found dedicating themselves to making their communities and their world more humane.

Rockway's small size promotes a fun, friendly learning environment, and ensures that no student is lost in a crowd. A wide range of extra-curricular activities, including strong programs in competitive sports and music, offers an outlet for almost every interest. A robust student exchange program has sent Rockway students to visit France, Germany, Jordan, Guatemala, China, Mattagami and other parts of Canada.

A Christian school in the Mennonite tradition, Rockway welcomes students of all faiths and perspectives, and encourages respect and curiosity amid diversity.

We invite you to consider how Rockway Mennonite Collegiate might help shape your life in the big world.

EDUCATION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A group of four students are paddling a red canoe on a river. They are wearing blue life jackets and are focused on their paddling. The background shows a lush green forest with trees and rocks along the bank.

Research consistently finds that small schools and small classes create a more successful learning environment. Students in smaller schools achieve better academic outcomes on average, are more likely to be engaged in extracurricular activities, feel greater pride in their schools and a keener sense of community, and enjoy deeper and more meaningful interactions with their teachers, administrators, and peers. Smaller schools tend to have smaller classes and the spirit of community among faculty, which leads to greater cooperation, innovation and adaptability in curriculum and program for individual students and their classes.

At Rockway, all these results are true to our experience. Our size makes it possible for keen students to excel academically while they play on multiple sports teams, assume student leadership roles, sing in choirs and act in school drama productions. For those students who may require some additional academic support or mentoring, our size makes it possible to receive the teacher attention and encouragement that they need to thrive. It is virtually impossible to replicate the depth of engagement that our students experience throughout the range of opportunities we offer.

At Rockway, we aim to open the world to our students through our teaching, and that often takes our classes outside of the classroom. An Ecology lesson can find students wading into the Grand River to take water samples. Students have the opportunity to travel further afield for an eco-experience in the Rainforests of Cost Rica. Physics students study acceleration and friction at Canada's Wonderland; the students become the particles and feel the forces acting on them, instead of simply watching Newtonian experiments. To understand the impact of alternative energy sources, Grade Nines observe wind turbines first-hand and run studies on Rockway's photovoltaic solar panels. Physical Education teachers take students out of the gym and beyond the soccer field, and challenge them to snowboarding, rock climbing, kayaking, horseback riding.

But the full Rockway experience includes its diverse and outstanding extracurricular programs as well.

SET YOUR GOALS HIGH

ATHLETICS

Whether you are playing a pick-up game in the gym at lunch time or competing on a school team, Rockway values the student athlete and their contributions to our school.

Rockway competes locally in the District 8 (D8) League (www.district8.ca) and often represents D8 in C.W.O.S.S.A. (www.cwossa.ca) and has also enjoyed success at O.F.S.A.A. (www.ofsaa.on.ca) in the following sports.

HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

- Cross-Country
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Track
- Wrestling

GRADE 7 & 8 SCHOOL TEAMS

- Basketball
- Volleyball
- 3-Pitch Baseball
- Co-ed Soccer
- Wrestling
- Badminton
- Track & Field

ARTS

Rockway students lead an enriched arts life having opportunity to get involved in the Visual Arts, Drama and Music in all grades. Besides in class study, Rockway offers a variety of opportunities to take skill development ever higher by participating in events like our Visual Arts Exhibition in the spring, Christmas and Spring Music Concerts, twice yearly Recitals from our Private Music Teachers and the yearly Dramatic offerings for plays and our **All-School Musical** held every three years.

**SEE THE WORLD
DIFFERENTLY**

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Grade 7-8 Choir, Grade 7-8 Winds, Grade 7-8 Strings
- Intermediate String Ensemble, Intermediate Wind Ensemble
- Grade 9 Choir, Grade 10 Choir, Senior Choir
- Concert Combo (Vocal), Ichthus (Senior Wind Ensemble), Chamber Orchestra (Senior String Ensemble)
- Stage Band
- Winds & Orchestra Festival at Canada's Wonderland
- Ontario Vocal Festival (Choral)
- Annual Sr Choir Trip (past destinations include Pennsylvania, Ohio, Oregon & Virginia)

DRAMA

- Grade 7-8 Drama
- Grade 9-12 Drama
- Sears Festival
- All-School Musical

VISUAL ART

- Grade 7 visit to a Pottery Studio
- Grade 8 visit to Homer Watson House and Gallery
- Grade 9 visit to McMichael Canadian Art Collection
- Grade 10 visit to Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO)
- Grade 11 visit to McMaster Museum, Vaults & Paper Centre, and the Art Gallery of Hamilton
- Grade 12 four-day trip to AGO (Toronto), Museum of Civilization & National Art Gallery (Ottawa) and Montreal Museum of Fine Art
- Grade 9-12 Annual Rockway Exhibition & Expressions Exhibition at KW Art Gallery

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES AND CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Every year, Rockway offers a significant cross-cultural experience for students at each grade level. Cross-cultural learning and friendship enriches our curriculum and creates important bridges to the broader world.

There is true value in this real world experience. Through immersion, action, and reflection, our students graduate ready to make the real world a better world.

TRIPS

Grade 9: Expedition (*Arts & Culinary Experience, TOOLS MCC, Mountain Bike Adventure, River Canoeing Adventure*)

Grade 10: Quebec Trip

Grade 11: France and Germany Exchange

Grade 11 & 12: Costa Rica Experience

A group of students are playing frisbee on a grassy field. In the foreground, a young man in a blue shirt is throwing a blue frisbee towards a young man in a white t-shirt. Other students are visible in the background, some running and some watching. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

FACULTY: TEACHING TO THE HEART AND MIND

At Rockway, our Technology students re-tool cars to run on vegetable oil, and electricity, under the supervision of a licensed mechanic with degrees in Theology and Social Development Studies. Our Drama students study with a distinguished professional actor and director. Our senior Art students study principles of design with a professional artist, former art therapist and nationally recognized Gallery Director of Art Education. Our Grade 9 and 10 French students have a trilingual teacher who worked as a professional interpreter and translator who can navigate the streets of Tokyo as easily as those of Paris.

More than half of Rockway's teachers have Masters-level degrees or advanced professional designations. Many also enjoyed successful professional careers in their areas of expertise before dedicating themselves to sharing their love of their subjects with our students. Outside class hours, our teachers can be found running clubs, coaching winning teams, designing sets for drama productions, leading orchestras and award-winning choirs, and enriching student experiences in countless ways.

Rockway's teachers are passionate about their subjects, gifted at teaching, and generous with their time and energy as they work together to create a remarkable educational experience for their students. Nothing makes them more proud than seeing the success of their students.



TRADITION AND FAITH IN A CHANGING WORLD

Rockway was founded by Ontario Mennonite churches in 1945, on the site of one of the first Mennonite farms in Waterloo County. Our founders imagined a school that would prepare their children for a rapidly changing world, while conserving their community's values, traditions, and faith.

The orchards and fields that once surrounded the school were absorbed by the City of Kitchener long ago. But Rockway continues to integrate excellent academics with the Mennonite community's faith tradition.

Rockway offers Religious Studies (RS) courses at all grade levels, which provide grounding in Christian values, beliefs and history from a Mennonite perspective. The life and teachings of Jesus are central to how we engage our students in discussions of faith and life. We seek to equip students to discern values that will guide them as they participate and lead in their communities, churches, and global society.

Supplementing our RS curriculum, students attend Chapel twice a week, which are led by teachers, fellow students and guest speakers from around the world. Within a diverse and open school community, we desire to enlarge the world for our students as they engage issues such as fair trade, the environment, militarism, health, poverty, peacemaking, social justice, and many other needs in our local and global community.

Who is God? When we try to answer that question, we develop appreciation and respect for perspectives that are different from our own. Grounded in a Mennonite faith perspective, our program nevertheless seeks to connect with other world religions, many of which are represented within our student body.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED



House of Friendship Christmas Hamper Food Drive

Together we shape great lives through
learning, opportunity, caring and faith.

Collectively, our students accomplish great things both inside and outside our school. Every year, students devote a day to tackling environmental and service projects in the wider community. Every Christmas, our students raise a record amount of canned goods for the House of Friendship's Food Drive. These projects embody the Rockway spirit and the values we seek to instill.

ROCKWAY DIPLOMA

Along with their official academic transcript, graduates who earn a Rockway Diploma receive a second transcript that officially outlines all their extra-curricular and community service involvements while at Rockway. This document impressively supplements applications to universities, colleges, and employers.

To earn a Rockway Diploma, students must complete the following requirements:

- 3 Religious Studies courses in Grades 9 -12
- 60 hours of community service (*rather than the 40 required by the Ministry*)

Students may complete all 60 hours of service in already-defined settings or they may initiate and develop their own community service projects in response to needs they see around them. Rockway encourages students to draw upon their unique strengths and passions, enabling them to make a positive difference for others.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Students from around the world are an important part of the Rockway community. Our international students come to Rockway to experience another culture, improve their English skills, and prepare themselves for study in North American universities and colleges.

In the last ten years, we have welcomed students from Austria, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

Rockway supports its overseas students via an International Student Coordinator who gets to know each student very well. In addition, students are part of an International Students Club, English as a Second Language (ESL) courses, and are assisted in arranging tutors if required.

HOME STAY PROGRAM

Rockway also assists international students through its Home Stay Program by selecting an experienced, compatible Canadian host family for each international student. The host family welcomes the student into their home, and offers the student all the cultural experiences and benefits of intergenerational relationships with Canadians.



ROCKWAY MEANS COMMUNITY

TUITION ASSISTANCE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Tuition fees cover the cost for all activities that are part of daily classroom learning both inside and outside of the school. Rockway works very hard to maintain an affordable and comprehensive education for all students. There are a variety of ways to assist families to make their child's education at Rockway affordable:

- Tuition assistance is available to all students based upon need and availability of resources, through the support of generous donors.
- Opportunity to further lower tuition costs is available through our grocery card program, "Shop Rockway"

For information related to tuition and financial support, please email David Lobe, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, at davidl@rockway.ca

TUITION

Tuition fees cover approximately 85% of Rockway's operating budget, with most of the balance being made up by the generous donations of our supporters.

Rockway offers subsidies to families that are sending more than one child to the school at any given time. Further, those parents who are active members of Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) congregations or affiliate congregations (Mennonite Brethren or Brethren in Christ) receive additional subsidies.

The after-tax cost of sending a child to Rockway is significantly less than it might appear. The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) permits Rockway to offer tax receipts for the religious component of our programming. The amount of this receipt varies year-to-year according to the CRA's formula, and cannot be confirmed in advance. As an example, in the 2015 calendar year, tuition payments over \$8370 were issued a charitable donation receipt for tax purposes.

BUILD **WONDER.**
BUILD **RESPECT.**
BUILD **BRIDGES.**



#lifeatRockway

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