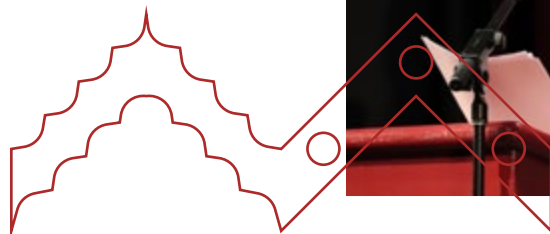




St. Thomas More Collegiate

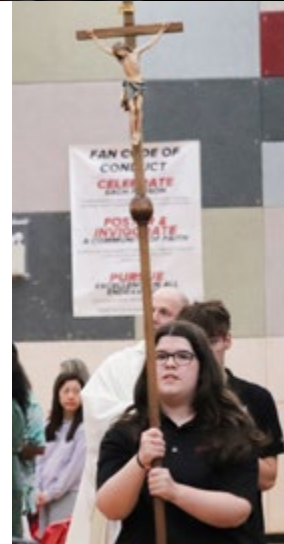
LEARN. LEAD. SERVE.



A YEAR OF

IMPACT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



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THANK YOU



Message from the Board Chair

On behalf of the STMC LTD. Board, I am pleased to report on the progress and accomplishments of our Catholic high school in 2023-2024. Despite the challenges associated with the class action litigation, and our search for a new campus location, the STMC community has remained resilient and committed to providing an exceptional education rooted in our Catholic faith.

Our students have continued to excel academically, athletically, socially, and spiritually, all of which are top priorities at STMC. Our faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to provide high-quality instruction, and our students have risen to the occasion.

STMC's commitment to service and social justice has also remained a priority. As a Social Justice lawyer, I am very impressed by the many creative ways our students have found to give to those among us who live in the shadows. Furthermore, our campus ministry program continues to provide opportunities for student prayer and reflection.

The Board thanks the STMC faculty, staff, and administration for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. Their commitment to our students and to our Catholic mission has been unwavering, and we are very grateful for their service.

The Board also extends heartfelt appreciation to the families of our students for their support and cooperation, which is essential to the continued success of STMC.

Next, the Board sends out a big “high-five” to all the volunteers who collectively spend thousands of hours toward making STMC a premier school. On a personal note, I say “thank you” to my fellow volunteer Board Members for giving so unselfishly of their time and talents; their contributions greatly assist me in governing as STMC's Board Chair.

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

Last, but in no way least, the Board expresses its deepest gratitude to our many donors for financial gifts to STMC. “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

As we look ahead to the next school year, we are very optimistic about the future of STMC. We will continue to prioritize academic excellence, service, and social justice, and we will remain committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all

members of our school community. We look forward to welcoming our students back to campus for a new school year and to continuing our mission of forming the next generation of Knights in the Catholic faith.



Sharon Cahill Kearney
Board Chair, STMC LTD.

Message from the Principal

It is a true honour and privilege to begin my third year as Principal of St. Thomas More Collegiate.

The 2023-24 school year was filled with remarkable events and accomplishments. Reflecting on this past year, I am humbled and inspired by the dedication, creativity, and achievements of our exceptional teachers, parents, coaches, and students at STMC.

Amid all the successes our community experienced in 2023-24, what stands out most to me is our continued commitment to keeping the Charism of Blessed Edmund Rice alive, embodying the transformative ministry of Jesus Christ through Servant-Leadership, and upholding the Mission of STMC: to Learn, to Lead, and to Serve.

I take great pride in how we, as a faith and learning community, have infused every aspect of the 2023-24 school year with the unique and motivating spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice. Both Edmund Rice and Jesus Christ led with boldness, often seen as rebels and agitators, standing in solidarity with the marginalized, feeding the hungry, clothing those in need, educating the overlooked, and challenging the status quo.

I am proud of our Senior Leadership Team: Stephen Garland, Susan Silveira, Alice Roder, Daniel Johnston, Cassie Lauang, and Ethan Shoemaker. These individuals are consummate Servant-Leaders who embody the Charism of Blessed Edmund and live out the Gospel message in their decisions and in their actions. I am equally proud of our support and facilities staff who serve our community with care, empathy, love, and dedication, treating our school and students as invaluable gifts. Our teachers and students

exemplify Servant-Leadership across all areas of the Knights' Cross.

Walking through the halls of STMC, observing sports practices, attending performances, or sitting in on classes, it is clear that we remain true to the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice; we continue to carry on the bold ministry of Jesus Christ, and to fulfill our Mission to Learn, Lead, and Serve.

Since 1961, STMC has always been a community of Servant-Leaders who continue to:

Serve: We prioritize the needs of others above our own. As stated in Essential Element 5, we “Celebrate the Value and Dignity of Each Person and Nurture the Development of the Whole Person.”

Grow: We support others' growth. Essential Element 4 reminds us to “Foster and Invigorate a Community of Faith,” where we encounter Christ in each other and embrace our shared humanity.

Inspire: We motivate others to lead, as expressed in Essential Element 2: “Proclaim and Witness to our Catholic Identity.”

Help: We stand with the poor and marginalized, living out Essential Element 3: “Stand in Solidarity with those Marginalized by Poverty and Injustice.”

Together, as a team and as a community, we continue to embody our faith and learning mission with devotion and purpose. We know that we are

a mission school, meeting people where they are and striving each day to encounter Christ in one another. We continue to plant the seeds that will one day grow. We also know that we have much work ahead, but we continue to accept the challenge every day, as Edmund Rice and Jesus Christ taught us to do.

St. Thomas More, Pray for Us.
Blessed Edmund Rice, Pray for Us.
Live Jesus in Our Hearts... Forever!



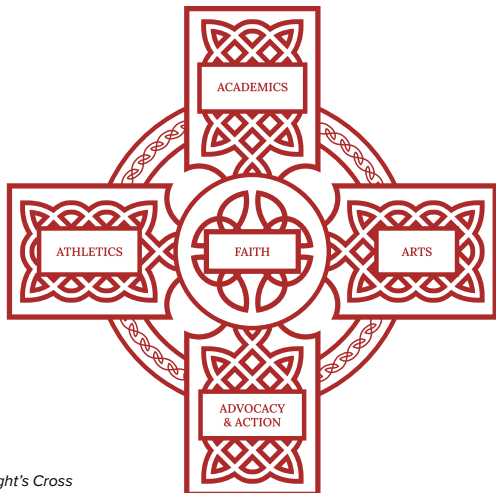
E. Joe Adams
Principal, STMC

“...we continue to carry on the bold ministry of Jesus Christ, and to fulfill our Mission to Learn, Lead, and Serve.”

Message from the President

2023-2024 was a year of great IMPACT both inside and outside of the classroom for our students, our staff, and for all who are connected to our STMC community.

Success is often measured by quantitative outcomes such as post-secondary admission rates, test scores, and financial stability. However, the most impactful experiences often occur beyond the regular schedule, the confines of the classroom, and the tolling bells. It is these qualitative and intangible moments that can have the biggest impact in the development of the whole person.



The Knight's Cross

At St. Thomas More Collegiate, we are not bound by the 8:25am - 2:40pm timeslot. Students, faculty, staff, and families are encouraged to grow in all aspects of the **Knight's Cross**, which serves as a reminder to keep Faith at the centre of all that we do. Christ is the reason for our school—the unseen teacher in our classes, the model for our faculty and staff, and the inspiration for our students. The transepts of the cross—Academics, Advocacy & Action, Arts, and Athletics—represent the development of mind, body, and spirit, as well as the ever-present call to serve.

In 2023-2024, we achieved many successes. Each, however, was inspired by the innovation and dedication of our faculty and staff, the accomplishments and talents of our students, and the collaboration and commitment of all who call STMC home. The following offer only a few highlights that reflect the aspirations communicated in our Strategic Plan, "Looking Forward 2021-2025".

1. Servant Leadership: Work began in 2022-2023 – shifting our model of Servant Leadership from one previously orientated towards Service and Charity to one more focused on Action and Advocacy – is now fully underway. This work started with a fulsome examination of the founding Charism of Blessed Edmund Rice and with our genuine desire to see our Catholic Social Teachings actively 'lived out' rather than remain merely ideals. In Edmund Rice educational terms, we speak of a charism, which highlights the primacy of God (Presence), cultivates a communal ethic of care (Compassion), and is committed to humanized action based on justice (Liberation). We readily acknowledge that this fundamental shift from a service to an advocacy model goes well-beyond a simple change

in mindset. This work will require time, consistent messaging, as well as sustained energy and supports that will likely exceed the timeframe of our existing Strategic Plan.

2. Excellence and Innovation in Teaching & Learning: Maintaining our reputation as a leading Faith and Learning community in British Columbia necessitates an ethos of continuous learning and improvement, particularly in teaching and learning. As a stand-alone Group 1 Independent High School, we consistently exceed expectations in program design, implementation, and student support—punching way above our weight in nearly every category. Given our budgetary realities and spending restrictions, this is no small feat.

“If our mission is to proclaim His presence and to serve Him where He is found, then what we do for the LEAST, the LOST, and the LAST is arguably our greatest calling.”

3. An Inclusive and Engaged Community of Faith:

As a faith and learning community deeply rooted in the apostolic ministry of the Church, we recognize the need to broaden our reach to include not just students and staff, but also parents and alumni. Keeping students and their families meaningfully engaged during and after they graduate is mission critical—not just for our school’s mission but of our Holy Mother Church. If our mission is to proclaim His presence and to serve Him where He is found, then what we do for the LEAST, the LOST, and the LAST is arguably our greatest calling.

4. Exceptional People, Leaders & Teams: While many school districts struggle to fill positions, we are blessed to attract outstanding teachers, para-educators, and support staff to STMC. These individuals excel in their fields and are mission-driven, embodying the expertise and the call to serve which has traditionally been the hallmark of a Catholic education. The financial realities of living and raising a family in the Lower Mainland have significantly impacted the numbers of qualified and committed Catholic educators, but our commitment to the Catholic social teaching of just remuneration has been key to retain and attract exceptional personnel.

5. Stewardship of Resources: Our families felt increases in mortgage rates and the effects of inflation sharply in 2023-2024. Both of these financial realities also provided our school and business operations teams with equal measures of challenge and opportunity. These in-real-time pressures required us to balance our hyper-vigilance with respect to the stewardship of our financial resources with a whole host of flexible and creative strategies needed in order for us to be accessible to all, but live within our means.

We are indebted to our faculty and staff for their unwavering commitment to ensuring STMC students receive the education and support they need to “optimize their potential, serve others, and create a just and caring world.” However, we cannot and do not do it alone. We are able to do what we

do because of the partnerships we have with our Parents, our Alumni, and our ever-expanding cadre of community supporters. This legion of individuals enabled us to advance the mission, vision, and values that make this school so special.

A massive note of gratitude must also go out to the members of our STMC Foundation and STMC Ltd. Boards, and, to the Non-Directors of our various committees for the faith, trust, and support they have placed in us. Each one of you embody the characteristics of Servant Leadership that we hope are emulated by all who walk through our doors.

Lastly, I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of the members of our Sr. Leadership Team, our Directors, Coordinators and Heads of Department, to our many faculty and support staff, to our Development & Community Relations Team, and to all of those on the business side of our operations. You are the ‘many’ who continue to make our sacred work possible.

Live Jesus in our hearts... Forever!



Stephen J. Garland
President, STMC



The Icon of Blessed Edmund Rice



Academics

STMC once again ranked in the **TOP 10%** of all BC Secondary Schools based on academic performance.

Requests for Enrollment: Requests for enrollment once again **exceeded the school capacity**; STMC accepted **706 students**, including **2 international students**.

MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS

- All Grade 8 students wrote the Beaver Computing Challenge in 2023–24
- Grade 9 Pascal Math Exam - 28 students
- Grade 10 Cayley Math Exam - 8 students
- Grade 11 Fermat Math Exam - 26 students
- Grade 12 Euclid Math Exam - 3 students

SCIENCES

Students on the Beamlines: Our 2023 Students on the Beamlines group completed their scientific poster towards the end of the school year, preparing it for entry in the Canadian Light Source’s annual poster competition. At the same time, another group of students was accepted into the Students on the Beamlines program with beamtime scheduled for February 2025. This is our sixth group through the program, and they are planning on studying the effects of microplastics on plant growth.

CanSat Teams: Throughout the school year, several teams began work on CanSat projects. Scheduling issues prevented the teams from competing in the Canadian competition this year, but several students have resumed their projects and hope to travel to Alberta in April 2025.

Modern Physics Club: Students keen on learning more about the latest discoveries in physics met regularly to discuss cutting-edge topics. This group participated in Quarknet’s World Wide Data Day, marking the sixth consecutive year that STMC has been the only Canadian school involved). The group also visited TRIUMF (UBC’s cyclotron) for inspiration.

SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

The 2024 graduates were offered over \$625,000 in scholarships and bursaries. One notable recipient, Tecla Johnson, was awarded the John B. Stirling Entrance Scholarship from Queen’s University, worth \$72,000. Jacob Yonathan received a Beyond Tomorrow Scholarship from UBC, valued at up to \$20,000 per year for their undergraduate program. Additionally, it is worth noting that over 60% of our 2024 graduates received some form of scholarship or bursary to attend school this fall.



Tecla Johnson was awarded the John B. Stirling Entrance Scholarship from Queen’s University, worth **\$72,000**.



Jacob Yonathan received a Beyond Tomorrow Scholarship from UBC, valued at up to **\$20,000 per year**.

16 of our ‘23–‘24 graduates were awarded Dogwood District Authority Scholarships.



Ava Sales
Valedictorian

ACADEMIC COUNSELING

Academic Guidance and Post-Secondary & Career supports continue to be provided by our two Academic Counselors. Our staff keep up-to-date with the latest post-secondary trends and changes to admissions policies and provide direct and timely support for students and their families. In addition, assistance is given to students in the scheduling of courses and their successful transition planning into post-secondary. During the 2023-2024 school year, we had four blocks of teaching time dedicated to this counseling role (0.67 FTE).

PERSONAL COUNSELING

Our Personal Counselors helped with a number of personal (social-emotional) and academic related concerns that our students, staff, and our parents brought to their attention. This included, but was not limited to personal counseling; mental health and wellness; exam preparation, studying, and general academic coping strategies; student and community presentations on the topics of bullying & harassment, and mental health (anxiety, depression); as well as preliminary testing of students dealing with more challenging learning needs.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

We had 14 full and part-time staff in our Learning Assistance Centre (12 Educational Aides and 2 Learning Assistance teachers) who provided support and service to over 73 low and high incidence students and their families. All students with a diagnosed learning challenge received an updated Individual Education Plan (IEP) outlining the specific academic or behavioural adaptations or modifications required in order to support that individual student.

Our High Incidence students continued working on their specialized and tailored/individualized education programs (IEPs) designed by our Learning Assistance teachers and supported by

our Educational Assistants. Our MoE designated Low Incidence students as well as those students without a formal IEP, but who receive support through our Learning Resource Centre were scheduled into classes and supported directly by their classroom teachers and by the LRC Team.

POST-SECONDARY PLACEMENT: WHERE DID THE GRADS OF 2024 GO TO SCHOOL?

Our Grads of 2024 are attending 29 different post-secondary institutions (16 of which are located outside the city of Vancouver including 3 in the USA and 1 in England).

- 2 Acadia University
- 11 BCIT
- 1 Blanche MacDonald
- 3 Capilano University
- 1 Corpus Christi
- 5 Douglas College
- 3 Emily Carr University of Art & Design
- 1 Fashion Institute of Technology
- 4 Gap Year
- 1 Kiski School
- 1 Kwantlen University
- 4 Langara College
- 1 McGill University
- 1 McMaster University
- 1 Mount St. Mary's
- 1 New York University
- 6 Queen's University
- 34 SFU
- 1 Toronto Film School
- 3 Toronto Metropolitan University
- 39 UBC
- 3 UBC Okanagan
- 1 University of Alberta
- 1 Lancashire University
- 5 University of Toronto
- 1 University of Waterloo
- 1 Western University
- 3 UVIC
- 1 Vassar College



Faith

LITURGICAL LIFE

At STMC, the Eucharist is an integral part of our faith community. This school year, we deepened our liturgical celebrations with initiatives such as student-led rosaries and the meaningful presentation of candles by each class during Mass. Our expanded school-wide Reconciliation services, now spanning two days during Advent and Lent, have enhanced opportunities for students to receive this sacrament. We have also been blessed to have two chaplains as a part of our school community. On a weekly basis, Father Joachim Yoon and Father McGuckin have led class adoration and faith building activities throughout the year.

FAITH-FILLED RETREATS

Our retreat program continues to be a cornerstone of spiritual growth and community building. Every grade participates in retreats that focus on faith and fellowship, with the overnight retreats for Grades 11 and 12 standing out as transformative moments in the STMC journey. The grade 10 student retreat is an impactful day focused on Truth and Reconciliation and Care for our Common Home. Our annual staff retreat has focused on

our Mission Integration this year and Truth and Reconciliation last year.

VOCATIONS

Students have actively engaged in vocation presentations and participated in the annual visits to the Seminary of Christ the King and the Poor Clares. Additionally, our senior students had the opportunity to visit Simon Fraser University, where they explored faith-based opportunities and learned about the impactful work of Catholic Christian Outreach.

LIVING SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Our students live their Catholic faith through servant leadership, participating in initiatives that embody Christ's call to serve others:

- **Pursuit Kitchen Program:** Preparing meals from rescued food to support local charities. This program began last winter and occurs every Wednesday with rotating students.
- **Blessed Edmund Rice Team:** Leading justice campaigns, food drives, and prayer initiatives.
- **Action Team:** Advocating for the Edmund Rice mission and fostering leadership in faith.
- **Green Team:** Caring for creation through sustainability projects.
- **Legion of Mary Club:** Faith sharing based on the power of prayer at Mary's Intercession.

FOSTERING A CATHOLIC ETHOS

Catholic values are infused into every aspect of our school life. Our curriculum engages students in discussions on social justice, Indigenous reconciliation, and stewardship of creation. Activities like Eucharistic adoration and prayer journaling, guided by our chaplains, have inspired students to deepen their personal relationship with God. Our senior students have helped with junior

retreats and leading the Alpha Youth program for our grade 9 students.

SERVICE AND JUSTICE

Answering Christ's call to serve, our community participated in various outreach programs including:

- Creating prayer cards for ministries serving marginalized groups, including prison outreach programs.
- Supporting initiatives like the 12th Avenue School Breakfast Program, the Purpose Society and Good Shepherd Ministry.
- Organizing food drives, eyewear collections, and aid projects.
- Engaging in environmental stewardship through programs like Plant-a-Row, Grow-a-Row.

SACRED SPACES

Our school chapel remains a sacred space for prayer, reflection, and encountering God. Daily and lunchtime prayers bring students and staff together in shared faith, building a stronger spiritual community.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN CHRIST'S MISSION

Through events like the Christmas Toy Drive, fundraising for mission programs, Truth and Reconciliation services and commemorating Remembrance Day with a special Mass, our STMC family continues to share their time, talents, and treasures generously in service to others.

As we reflect on this past year, we remain committed to nurturing faith, service, and leadership in every aspect of our school community, continuing to live out the mission of Christ and the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice.



Advocacy & Action

We continued our commitment to transitioning from a community of service to a community of advocacy by further developing our Advocacy & Action initiatives. Steve Garland, David Mattiazzo, Darren McCormick '90, Dominic Zimmermann '93, Joe Adams, and Ben Johnston '95, our Advocacy Coordinator, has led student efforts and created opportunities for STMC community advocacy initiatives to take root and flourish.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR ADVOCACY & ACTION

- Online Workshops with ERCBNA Advocacy Coordinators: Led by Dr. Sean D'Alphonso from Iona University in New Rochelle, NY, these sessions provided networking and learning opportunities with Edmund Rice advocacy coordinators across North America.
- Online Global Student Conference with ERI: Students from Edmund Rice schools worldwide, including those in India, South Africa, England, Ireland, the USA, and Canada (two STMC students), participated.

- Action Program: 4 STMC students will represent our school alongside peers from around the globe, facilitating advocacy projects on local and global challenges.

ADVOCACY FOCUS AREAS

The Service to Advocacy workshops at the JP11 Centre focus on three key areas: **1) Truth and Reconciliation, 2) Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI), and 3) Environmental Sustainability.** These focus areas are integrated across staff development, student groups, and the alumni association.

- Student Clubs: All three focus areas are included.
- Alumni Association: All three focus areas are included.
- Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee: Formed to support these initiatives.

MOVING FROM SERVICE TO ADVOCACY

In September 2023, a delegation from the Westcourt Centre, Belfast, Ireland, Br. Denis Gleeson, Dr. Aiden Donaldson, and Mr. Cormac McArt, traveled to Vancouver to deliver a 3 day social justice training workshop that brought together over 90 staff members and students from St. Thomas More Collegiate, Little Flower Academy, Vancouver College, Holy Cross, St. Patrick's, & St. John Paul II Academy. This unique, first ever Service to Advocacy training workshop was held at the SJPII Centre.

DELIVERY OF SERVICE TO ACTION TRAINING AND WORKSHOP IN CHICAGO, IL.

The STMC staff and the Irish delegates delivered the Service to Advocacy training and workshop to the staff and students at St. Laurence High School, Brother Rice Chicago, and Brother Rice

Michigan. The workshop consisted of training teachers and students how to “look through their own windows” to identify the needs in their own cities and to formulate a plan for what needs to be done to create the Kingdom of God within their own communities. The training sessions encouraged teachers and students to direct their actions towards local social justice issues as well to expand their view beyond their windows, to look at larger and more systemic issues of abject poverty and social injustices that plague our world, especially those issues in the developing world.

Day 1 involved Religion and Social Justice teachers, Campus Ministers, Religion Department Heads and Advocacy Coordinators and utilized a Train-the-Trainer model to first introduce the Westcourt 8 Advocacy & Social Justice Training Modules to staff members at the Chicago and Michigan schools. The goal was to increase individual's personal understanding and awareness of the key elements of the initiatives, and to provide staff members with the tools and resources to actively teach the content of each module to their students.

Days 2 & 3 focused on the involvement and voice of identified student leaders within schools and took them on a similar journey through each of the 8 modules. The goal was to enable staff members to see, firsthand, the teaching of the Service to Advocacy content, and to allow students to learn firsthand from those who have help to support marginalized and vulnerable people. The third day of the workshop involved presentations by local community groups and organizations that support the most vulnerable social groups in the Chicagoland region. Two special guests were Sisters Pat Murphy and Joann Persch. Pat and Joann have dedicated most of their lives to advocating for sustainable and affordable social housing in Chicago. In recent years, they have devoted all of their time to championing the rights of Latin American refugee families in the Chicagoland area. Their goal is to help these families become independent. The Sisters led the students through the process of how they defend



human rights, beginning with actions like peaceful civil disobedience, and continuing with letter writing campaigns and finally meetings with lawmakers. The Sisters were truly inspiring.

ACTION IN KEARNY, NJ.

Mr. Adams, Mr. Zimmermann, Mr. McCormick and Ms. Doromal brought 4 STMC students to the ACTION Retreat in Kearny, NJ. At the ACTION Retreat, Cormac McArt presented on the 8 modules related to Service to Advocacy, but he also shared the story of his own childhood growing up during “the troubles” in the North of Ireland. This was a powerful presentation. The students and staff members who attended the ACTION retreat had time to identify a need in their own communities and the students also got into groups and formulated action plans.

ACTION & ADVOCACY WORKPLAN

Mr. Garland has created a workflow that allows us to put the work of Service to Advocacy into perspective and helps us stay focused on and committed to these initiatives. As a team, Mr. Garland, Mr. Zimmermann, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Mattiazzo, Mr. McCormick, Ms. Doromal and the Administration team have much work to do.

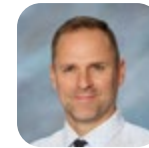
HERE IS A SAMPLE OF THE WORKFLOW FOR THE COMING MONTHS:

- Develop a survey to send out to those who took part on Day 1, as well as those that were there during Days 2 & 3 of the workshops/training in Vancouver and in Chicago.
- Develop and plan further training for those who participated in the Vancouver workshop and the Chicago workshop. Zoom training on modules for workshop participants (December '23/January '24) Zoom training on embedding advocacy into the school curriculum (2024/2025).
- Develop school-based Service/Charity to Action/Advocacy initiatives for Students & Staff.
- Develop school-based Reverence 4 the Dignity of All Life (R4DAL) advocacy initiatives for Students & Staff.
- Develop advocacy initiatives targeting the inclusion of Parents/Families/Alumni.
- Develop advocacy initiatives and continue to stay connected with St. Laurence HS, Brother Rice Chicago, and Brother Rice Michigan.
- Considerations for future advocacy immersions for Staff/Student to Belfast (Westcourt), Geneva (ERI), New York (UN).
- Consider hosting a future ERCBNA School Leaders Meeting in Ireland, tour Belfast, Waterford, Callan, & Dublin.

“It was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience to be able to go on this service learning trip. I returned to Vancouver with a fire in my belly and renewed energy to help STMC move from service to advocacy, and from charity to action. As we begin these advocacy initiatives, I am reminded of Edmund Rice looking out his window, and seeing the needs of his community, and seeing where dignity was being deprived. In moving from Service to Advocacy, we will have to do as Edmund did, we will have to first see with the eyes, and then see with the heart; we will learn to focus on not just doing good work, but on doing God’s work.”



E. Joe Adams
Principal



Dominic Zimmermann '93
Religion Head of Department



Fine & Applied Arts

As a faith and learning community committed to the holistic development of our students, the Arts (Applied & Fine) play an enormous role in the lives of our students and in the life of our school.

Band & Choir

Over **275** of our students in 2023-24 were involved in one or more aspects of our Music Program (Band, Choir).

Our Band Director hosted an after-school Elementary Band Program for our feeder schools that provided musical instruction to over 60 elementary students in Grades 5-7.

Our Choir Director hosted an after-school Elementary Choir Program for our feeder schools that provided musical instruction to over 40 elementary students in Grades 4-7.

In 2023-24, the STMC Bands and Choirs showcased their talents in numerous performances, including Senior Spring Music Knight at the Chan Centre, Christmas and Spring Junior Music Knights that filled the gym, and Jazz Knight at Rick

Bronson's House of Comedy. They also performed at school events like the Music Department Showcase, Open House, STMC Gala, Masses, and pep rallies, while community performances brought them to elementary schools, senior care homes, Burnaby Village Museum, and Royal Columbian Hospital.



Bands and Choirs continued to perform at an exceptionally high standard over the year, earning numerous gold ratings and MusicFest Canada invitations for almost every group. The music program continued to establish itself as one of the top music schools in the Lower Mainland. The Senior Choir and Senior Concert Band presented incredible performances at the Whistler Music Festival earning straight gold ratings. Our Jazz ensembles received "Extending" ratings at the Surrey Jazz Festival, along with numerous soloist awards.

Drama

The Drama production for 2023-2024 was Mermaid by Polly Teale, a dark, thought-provoking reimagining of The Little Mermaid. Our talented cast tackled complex themes, blending fantasy, reality, and social issues with creativity and dedication. The production was staged at the Anvil Theatre in New Westminster.

Visual Arts

Our STMC visual artists continued to produce beautiful artwork in 2023-2024. Much of the artwork that was created was displayed in 10 new maple and plexiglass 4' x 8' display cabinets that were purchased for Visual Arts and were mounted in the upper and lower hallways of the school.

Applied Design Skills & Technology

ADST is offering exciting opportunities for students. Grade 8 students are exploring modern IT with Winston Brown in Digital Media, with very positive feedback. Likewise, senior Digital Media students are supporting STMC's social media efforts.

Digital Media is now part of the Grade 9 rotation, giving younger students broader exposure.

Design Engineering classes continue to evolve, focusing on human-centred design, the design cycle, and critical thinking for problem-solving. The CNC router, 3D printer, and laser cutter play key roles in helping students realize solutions.

Current initiatives include:

- VEX Robotics Team for Grades 11/12
- Edison EV Challenge for Grade 10
- University of Waterloo EV Challenge for Grades 11/12

(STMC is the only school in BC offering all three initiatives)

Glyn Bough is collaborating with a STEM company to run Grade 8 coding and electronics sessions and working with Professor Olivia New from Vancouver Premier College to bring Design Thinking into classrooms, fostering critical thinking.

The Arts department is planning an Arts Week in May with potential visits from Union Tube and Transistor, guest artists or musicians, a Lego Masters Challenge, house crest art challenges, and improv activities.



Athletics

HOME OF CHAMPIONS 2023-24



Provincial Championships:
Volleyball: Bantam Girls

BNWSAA League Championships:

Volleyball: Junior Girls
Wrestling: Senior Boys
Curling: Senior Boys
Track & Field: Bantam, Junior, Grand Aggregate
Rugby: Senior Girls

Fraser North Zone Championships:

Aquatics: Senior Girls AA
Volleyball: Bantam Girls, Junior Girls, Senior Girls AA
Cross Country: Senior Boys AA, Senior Girls AA
Basketball: Senior Girls AA
Golf: Senior AA
Ultimate: Senior AA
Track & Field: Bantam Girls, Bantam Boys, Junior Boys, Grand Aggregate

Provincial Participation



FALL

Cross Country; Swimming; Gr. 8, Gr. 9, Jr., and Sr. Girls Volleyball; Gr. 8, JV & Varsity Boys Football;

WINTER

Sr. Girls Basketball; Gr. 8. & Sr. Boys Basketball; Wrestling;

SPRING

Sr. Boys Rugby 7s; Sr. Girls Rugby 7s, Jr. & Sr. Track & Field; Jr. & Sr. Ultimate; Sr. Girls Soccer; and Golf.





FALL ATHLETICS

- Football at the Gr. 8, JV, and Varsity level involves over 100 students.
- Girls Volleyball at the Gr. 8, Gr. 9, Jr. and Sr. level involves over 50 students.
- Cross Country is open to all students and involves over 30 students.
- Swimming is open to all students and involves 30 students.



WINTER ATHLETICS

- Girls Basketball at Gr. 8, Jr. and Sr. level involves 45 students.
- Boys Basketball at Gr. 8, Jr. and Sr. levels involves 45 students.
- Wrestling is open to all students (involved around 20 students).
- Curling is open to all students (involved 20 students).
- Field Lacrosse at Jr. and Sr. level (includes 40 students from Gr. 8-12).

COACHING

All of our teams had STMC teacher coaches or moderators – many of whom are either provincially or nationally certified in their specific sports. All of our coaches have first aid training and have received updated information in dealing with concussions. Criminal Record checks are completed for all outside coaches.



SPRING ATHLETICS

- Track and Field is open to all students Grades 8-12 (involved 75 students).
- Golf is open to all students (involved 12 students).
- Girls Soccer at JV & Sr. levels involved 40 students.
- Ultimate is a Co-Ed Sport at the Grade 8, JV & Sr. levels (involved 75 students).
- Rugby 7s is open to students Grades 9-12 (involved 20 students).

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTED

STMC's Athletics utilizes a "Return to Learn – Return to Play" Concussion Protocol. Coaches were briefed and informed of the protocol and our schools Admin Team and Personal & Academic Counselors worked directly with any/all students who had been (or who were suspected of having been) concussed. All STMC coaches must be trained and certified in CATT (Concussion Awareness Training Tool).

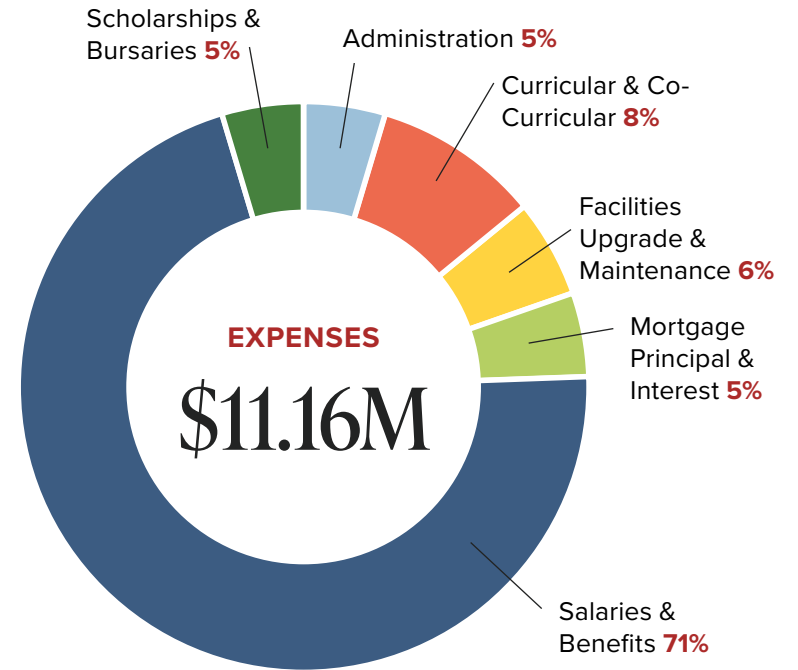
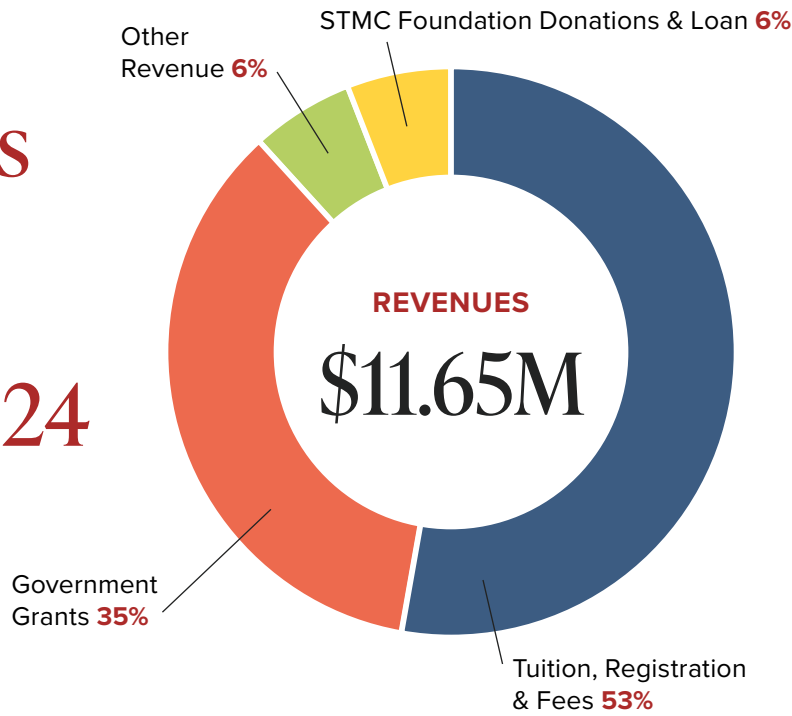
STRONG ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

We are proud of our strong alumni involvement at our Homecoming, Chancellor, and Alumni Tournaments as well as the Greater Knight Open. All of these initiatives were facilitated by our Director of Alumni Relations.

Financial Infographs

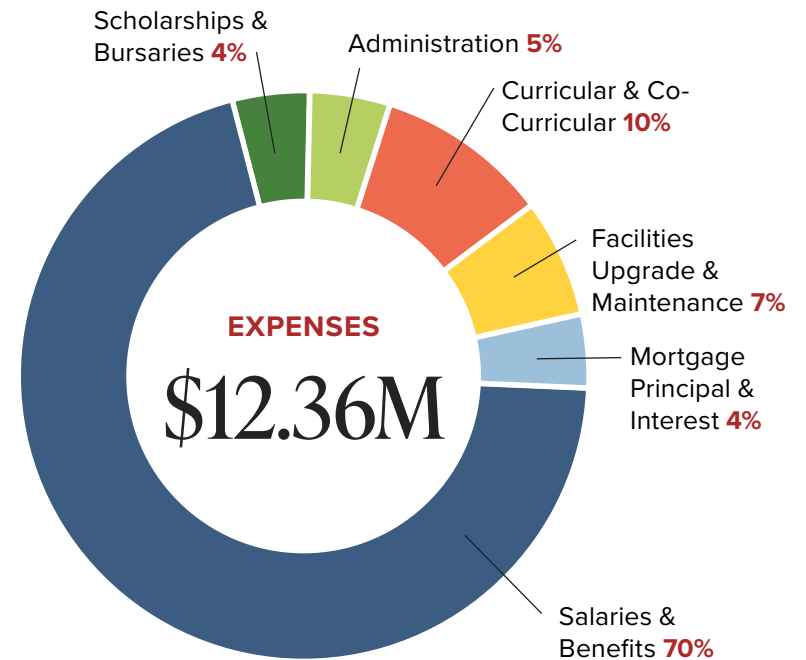
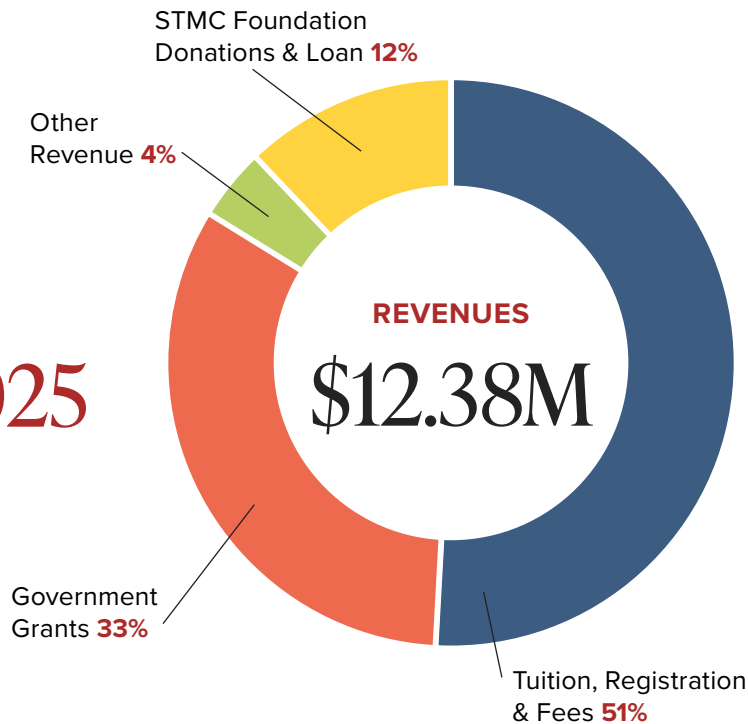
RESULTS

2023-2024



BUDGET

2024-2025





D & CR

I'd like to first thank each and every donor. I am fortunate to be back at STMC and witness the impact of your generosity, daily. This past year has been transformative, with milestones that have strengthened our programs and enhanced our community.

Transparency remains a crucial priority for us. This year, we took necessary steps to provide donors with more precise insights into the impact of their contributions. By sharing these updates, we hope our community feels even more connected to the success of our young Knights and the advancements they're making, academically and personally. This approach helped drive a remarkable *Giving Tuesday* campaign, which **exceeded the previous year's fundraising total by over 1000%**. While this success did affect our year-end donations slightly, it marked a powerful step forward and showed the potential of our growing community of supporters.

One of our proudest achievements was our first Gala in years, a celebratory event that brought our community together. The help of our Alumni, parents, staff & students, created a big impact on the success of our Gala. During this special evening, we were honoured to induct two community members into the STMC Hall of Fame. Their achievements serve as a reminder of the

lasting impact that St. Thomas More Collegiate has on its students and alum, inspiring current students and showing them the power of their own potential. The success of the Gala highlighted the strength of the STMC community and renewed our commitment to building connections across generations.

Through the *Knights Annual Fund*, we focus on fulfilling the wish lists submitted by students and teachers. These lists allow us to directly support specific needs within classrooms, extracurriculars, and student life. Senior leadership carefully vetted and prioritized every request to ensure it aligns with our mission. Thanks to our donors' generous contributions, we can make many of these wishes a reality, creating a vibrant and enriching experience for all.

Our bursary program continues to grow in response to increased financial need. Guided by the Charism of Blessed Edmund Rice and his Essential Elements, we are committed to ensuring no financial barriers to any child wanting to be a Knight. This program is made possible only by the generosity of our donors, who open doors for students who otherwise might not have access to an STMC education. We invite you to visit the Support page on our website to hear the stories of students whose lives have been transformed through the bursary program. The ripples of their positive impact on the world extend far beyond our school walls.

We also launched a new monthly campaign, the *Make it More* campaign, designed to provide a simple and sustainable way for supporters to contribute regularly. This campaign has brought us closer to our community and has helped us build a reliable base of support that allows us to better plan for the future. Each month, Make it More helps us invest in resources and programs that directly benefit our students.

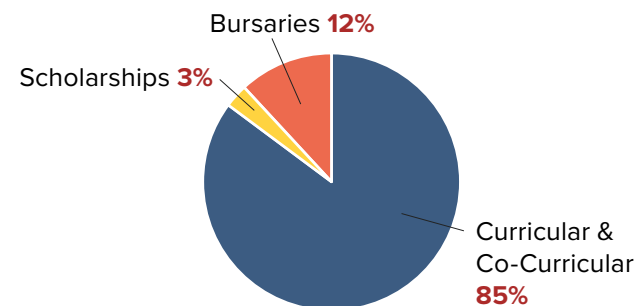
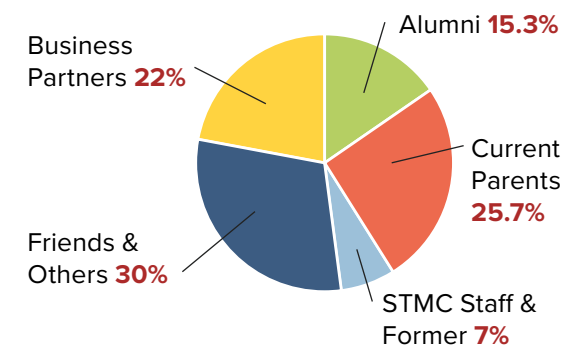
Our dedicated team, though small, has worked tirelessly to achieve these successes. Each member

regularly takes on multiple roles, adapting to the school's evolving needs and significantly impacting our advancement efforts. This ability allows us to bring new initiatives to life and ensure that we continuously respond to the needs of our students, teachers, and the broader community.

Thank you again to each of our donors who give their time, talent, and treasures. Your support makes our mission to Learn, Lead, and Serve a reality for our students, and together, we are building a strong future for our STMC community.

TOTAL DONATIONS

\$354,660



Kyle O'Genski '00
Director of Development & Community Relations



Parents Association

With the new school year for STMC, there are also new beginnings for the STMC Parents Association. At the Annual General Meeting in June, new parent volunteers were elected, and leading this dedicated group is our newly elected President Mandeep Badesha. I am writing this as my final STMC PA President's message, proudly representing the parents and guardians at our school, stewarding the PA from 2022 to 2024.

I am grateful and blessed to have had the opportunity to meet and work alongside so many dedicated parent volunteers. In the past three years, the PA collectively raised and donated nearly \$100,000 to benefit STMC and its students. A large portion of these funds was secured through the diligence of PA Treasurer Jessie Yang, who successfully acquired government Gaming Funds on behalf of the school. The STMC PA's financials were further enhanced by the PA Executives' careful management of funds throughout the school year. Despite changes in

fundraising initiatives, PA Fundraising Coordinator Beata Bulic remained committed to ensuring PA funds replenished every year.

This past year, PA volunteers contributed significantly to the STMC Gala preparations, with PA Vice-President Veronica Braico serving as one of the Gala's co-chair alongside PA Decorator Coordinator Anne Lam. Anne was pivotal in ensuring the setup and ambiance of the evening was perfect. The Gala was a successful fundraiser bringing the STMC community together in support of the school and its students.

The PA Communication Team, led by Melissa Ong-Chua and Sonia Leung, ensured that the community remained informed and connected through social media updates and the PA Scoop, our monthly parent newsletter, which has become an invaluable source of information for parents. PA Executive Secretary Teresa Dolmat played an integral role in administration, managing Gaming Licences for all school fundraising events and overseeing associated costs.

To our parents, PA members, school administration, and teachers: please recognize the dedication of the PA parent volunteers—the unsung heroes who

tirelessly devoted their time and talents throughout the school year.

As an association, the PA has parent volunteers who are responsible and have assigned key roles as Coordinators and Leads that are too numerous to mention but whose hard work and efforts should not be overlooked or forgotten. The next time there is a school event, please remember to thank those who made it possible, like our PA Hospitality Coordinator Rahiwa Fesahaye-Yonathan, Baking Coordinator Susie Doiron, and so many more.

With outgoing parent volunteers moving on as their children graduate and become STMC alumni, the need for new parent volunteers remains crucial. The STMC PA invites all parents to stay engaged and become part of the school's supportive community, where every effort contributes to a better experience for the students. Volunteering provides a meaningful way to give back to the school, especially during challenging economic times.

My message as a parent is to stay engaged, get involved in our school community, and continue striving for the shared goal of achieving great things for the betterment of our school and enhancing the students' experiences as they navigate their high school years here at STMC.

Be the change and the example.

Respectfully yours,

Evangeline Jonasson
STMC PA President 2022-2024



Alumni Association

The St. Thomas More Collegiate Alumni Association is a registered non-profit society led by a dedicated Board Executive, including President Bill Elliott (Class of '92) and Vice President Ashley Grewal (Class of '07), along with several at-large members. The Board meets quarterly to guide the Association's mission as the central hub of connectivity for STMC graduates.

We represent a visible, active, and diverse network of alumni, working to engage graduates from all classes. Our focus is on fostering meaningful connections through fun activities, sharing expertise and experiences with current students and graduates, and celebrating alumni achievements. We aim to strengthen ties between alumni and STMC by organizing events and initiatives, facilitating communication with the school, and supporting both current students and alumni in their growth and development.



2023–2024 HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2023–2024 school year, we were delighted to host a variety of events and initiatives:

- **Homecoming (September 2023):** A large and enthusiastic group of young and seasoned alumni returned to campus to reconnect and celebrate their shared history.
- **Mentorship Opportunities:** Alumni shared their expertise with current students through guest speaker sessions, career days, mock interviews, and networking facilitated via our alumni social media platforms.
- **Athletic Tournaments:** The 25th Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament and 5th Annual Alumni & Friends Volleyball Tournament brought alumni and friends together for friendly competition and camaraderie.
- **Greater Knight Open Golf Tournament:** In its 24th year, this event combined fun on the greens with fundraising, contributing to the Fallen Knights Bursary.
- **Networking Event:** We hosted a gathering at Steel & Oak Brewery for alumni from the Classes of 2015 to 2021, fostering connections within this vibrant group. Graduate Contributions: The Alumni Association proudly awarded \$2,500 to five members of the Class of 2024 during the Graduation Ceremony in June.

- **Advisory Committee Participation:** Alumni are represented on STMC's 3-Pillar Advisory Committee, which advances environmental sustainability, reconciliation, and diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the STMC community.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to fostering fun, fellowship, and growth while maintaining a strong bond between STMC and its alumni. We look forward to building on this success in the coming year. A special thanks goes to Bill Elliott for his unwavering support and servant leadership to our Alumni Association as he will be stepping down from his current role. Bill has served as our President for well over a decade. Without his leadership, guidance, and countless hours spent at events, we would not be where we are today. Thank you Bill, you are a true Servant Leader.

The Charism of Edmund Rice is alive and well in our students, staff, and alumni and we encourage you to celebrate with us as St. Thomas More Collegiate continues to grow in Faith, Academics, Advocacy, Arts, and Athletics.

Go Knights!

Contact us anytime at alumni@stmc.bc.ca



Dominic Zimmermann '93
Director of Alumni



Bill Elliott '92
Alumni Association President



Ashley Grewal '07
Alumni Association Vice President

Staff & Governance

STMC LTD.

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Mr. Dominic Zimmermann '93



Thank You

We gratefully acknowledge and sincerely thank the members of the STMC and the external communities for their financial support of St. Thomas More Collegiate, between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, as follows:

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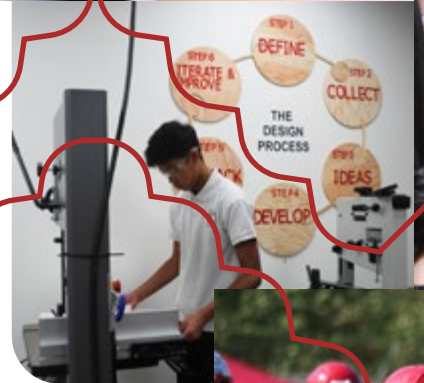
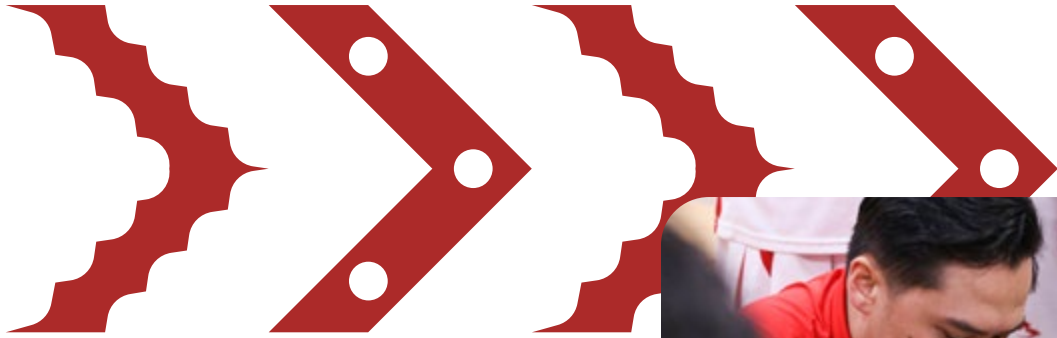
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