



ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, CANADA



Today

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Elementary School is a nurturing environment where each person feels they belong. Our community of learners come from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds with 20% of our population having unique learning needs. Recognizing that each child communicates differently, Apple technology allows them to make their thinking and learning visible in a variety of ways while leveraging their strengths and interests.



261 students of diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds with 20% of our population with unique learning needs.

20 Teachers, 13 Educational Assistants, and 2 Registered Early Childhood Educators

Publicly-Funded Catholic

Kindergarten-Grade 8

Apple Technology

1:2 iPad ratio; Osmos; Apple TV; 1:1 Teacher iPad

Apple Professional Services



Vision

At St. Kateri Tekakwitha we strive to provide a personalized learning environment where learners are active participants with an internal motivation to learn. Our educators are inspired to support 21st century learners and work to utilize Apple technology to provide new and interesting learning opportunities for their students so that they become resourceful and confident leaders.



Click to watch a video where Pia uses the iPad to communicate and access learning.



Learning

Using their personal learning styles, students work collaboratively to solve problems and develop their communication skills. Apple technology allows the students to use a range of media and applications (i.e., Clips, iMovie, Keynote, Pages) to make their thinking and learning visible in a variety of accessible ways (i.e., voice notes, drawing, text-to-speech, speech-to-text, multi-modal

choice boards, screen recording). Furthermore, students use the technology to engage in multi-modal (text, audio, video) teacher, peer, and self-feedback.

Our teachers engage in regular professional development in order to expand their knowledge of and comfort with Apple technology. Their commitment to the use of technology in our school has an immediate and profound impact on our students.

Our learning environments are developing into creative and flexible learning spaces. Every classroom has an Apple TV to support collaboration and the sharing of student thinking and learning in an efficient and engaging manner.



Grade 1 students learning to code using Scratch Jr.

67%

APPLE TEACHER

67% of teachers have used Apple Teacher for professional learning

80%

TECH ACCESS

80% of students have access to iPad for personalized learning

100%

TEACHER EFFICACY

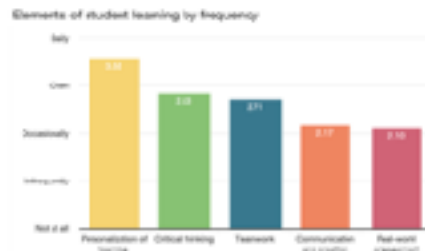
Educators report positive feelings of preparedness around the use of technology



Success

As a part of our ongoing journey we have prioritized growth and development on transforming learning environments to reflect our core values, developing educator and learner efficacy with technology and leveraging technology to personalize learning experiences for students. To help understand our current state, we have engaged in the collection of qualitative and quantitative evidence to help inform strategies for future development.

The focus on personalized learning is a key indicator of the successful integration of technology. Through the use of the Learning Technology Survey (LTS - Stanford Research Institute, 2017) data shows the use of iPads has increased the frequency of personalized learning experiences as well as provided opportunities for critical thinking (Fig 1). Additionally, over 90% of students note that the iPad has become a critical tool for their learning process.



Another key indicator of early success of implementation is the degree to which participants believe that technology has value for teaching and learning. LTS data shows that all educators have adopted the belief that the iPad helps students to grasp difficult concepts, increases student interactivity and improves efficiency related to instructional workflows.

The collection of this evidence has also lead to the increased commitment of our Catholic School Council to using future fundraising to continue to increase our complement of student iPads and technology in the classroom. This sustained commitment serves as another indicator of the efficacy of our first phase of implementation and provides the resources and foundation necessary for future growth and development.



What's next

Student Mentorship Program: Our students will continue to build on their leadership skills through the implementation of our SKT Genius Bar. This team of students will provide leadership and mentoring for students, staff, & the community to support the skills and knowledge necessary to best utilize technology.

Student Use of Technology: We aim to continue to teach students how to use technology to showcase their thinking and learning in personal, efficient and creative ways that develop their confidence.

Community Engagement: Our SKT Staff and Student Innovators will demonstrate the “why” and “how” of the power of Apple technology in developing skills and confidence that will benefit every student as they become faith-filled, productive and engaged global citizens of our future.

Professional Development: Our staff will continue to deepen their understanding of how Apple technology can elevate the teaching and learning process resulting in increased student engagement and achievement.

We believe in the power of authentic evidence of impact and encourage the exploration of the following examples as a representation of the impact on our students, staff and community.

“Personally, I have ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). I use my iPad as a learning tool to help bridge the gap between my special needs and my classmates. I am a visual learner. I use a variety of apps on my iPad to help me with the challenges I have being in an inclusive classroom. A special needs student like myself, can easily use an iPad to provide visual aids. It helps me stay organized and to communicate better.”



Piper, Grade 6 Student



Click here to learn about how Nadia D’Amico, Grade 7 teacher, talks about the power of Apple Technology on student engagement and teacher workflow.

Grade 2 Student, Lennon used ‘Clips’ to present his research project on his home country demonstrating exceptional communication and presentation skills.



Click here to listen in on our Grade 4 students using Lego to build an accessible house and using iPad to code a working elevator



Distinguished School

Recognized by Apple as a distinguished school for continuous innovation in learning, teaching, and the school environment.