



St. Thomas Aquinas
Catholic Secondary School
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RE: Reports in Media re. Inflated Student Grades

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Members of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Community,

You may have read the recent article reported in the media alleging that some secondary schools are inflating student grades. The article contains a list obtained from the University of Waterloo that highlights a number of schools they have been tracking across the province, including St. Thomas Aquinas.

On the surface, this article makes some general assumptions about the level of readiness of graduates for university. However, the list in the article provides limited information, and without seeing the raw data, it would be difficult to interpret this report and understand the factors underlying the findings.

I want to assure you that **as a school, we are very committed to ensuring that reported grades accurately reflect student achievement of the curriculum expectations.** Our teachers are highly skilled and qualified professionals who use the principles within the Ministry of Education's *Growing Success* policy to guide the assessment, evaluation and reporting of student achievement.

We are proud of the reputation for excellence for which the STA community in Oakville is known, and we are confident that the academic programs, extra-curricular activities, and school environment at St. Thomas Aquinas prepare our students to meet their post-secondary future with confidence.

Sincerely,

Paul Di Ianni
Principal