



## **History of Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary School**

Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary School (ACRSS) was founded in 1994 by the Roman Catholic parishes of the northeast suburbs of Vancouver, from Maple Ridge to Coquitlam.

The school was named in honour of the late Most Rev. James F. Carney, who was Archbishop of Vancouver for 21 years, from 1969-1990 and was a great supporter of Catholic Education.

From an initial student enrolment of only 87 Grade 8 students, today ACRSS has the capacity to accommodate 750 students from grades 8-12. Most hail from the eight associated parishes and the corresponding four Catholic Elementary schools. ACRSS also welcomes Catholics from other parishes, non-Catholics and international students, as space allows.

ACRSS had humble beginnings. In its first year in 1994, the school operated from portable classrooms on the parking lot of Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Elementary School in Port Coquitlam.

The first wing of the permanent school was opened in September 1995. Phase two, a second wing of classrooms, expanded gymnasium and multi-purpose room followed two years later. In September 2014, a fine-arts wing was added. Today, plans are being made to add a third phase; a classroom complex and field house.

Many outstanding clergy, administrators, teachers, staff, parents, students and community supporters have contributed to ACRSS's success, however there are three notable people that need mentioning. The first is the late Fr. Christopher Vermeulen, whose patience and persistence led to the archdiocese's decision to launch the school. The second is Fr. Stanley Galvon who oversaw construction of the permanent campus. Finally, the third is the founding principal Peter Dawe who led the school from 1994-2007 and under whose leadership the school built a reputation for academic, athletic and artistic excellence.

This high standard continued under the direction of Principal Lorraine Parruzzolo from 2007-2015. She oversaw the construction of the modern and timely Fine Arts wing which was completed in September 2014.

Now under the direction of Principal Deacon Henk Luyten, ACRSS continues to encourage students to live their Catholic faith to the fullest. As such, the school dedicates itself to developing the spiritual, moral, physical and intellectual well-being of its young people.