

When it first opened in 1964, St. Augustine Catholic School was on the edge of Ottawa's suburban growth. There was no housing development surrounding the school at that time, and Arnot Road was not paved. Indeed, the new school was situated in an open field with a view beyond Fisher Avenue clear through to Prince of Wales Drive (then the Prescott Highway) in the east. The Auto Sky Drive-in at Baseline Road and Fisher Avenue was clearly visible, as was St. Pius X High School at Fisher Avenue and Dynes Road.

St. Augustine Catholic School was the second school to bear this name. The original, on Admiral Avenue near Carling Avenue, had been opened in 1955. This facility later became St. Elizabeth Catholic School and is now the site of St. Nicholas Adult High School, operated by the Continuing and Community Education Department of the Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board. The original St. Augustine Catholic School on Admiral Avenue quickly became overcrowded. However, instead of putting an addition on to the school, the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board opted to construct an entirely new building on Arnot Road, naming it "St. Augustine Catholic School" as it was located within the boundaries of the parish of the same name.

When the new St. Augustine School opened its doors on January 29, 1964, there were 230 students enrolled from Kindergarten through to Grade 8. The school retained its grade 8 students until 1970. After that, grades 7 and 8 students attended Frank Ryan Catholic Senior Elementary School. The school was officially blessed in a ceremony on September 27, 1964.

Terry Murphy was the first principal of St. Augustine Catholic School, but he was much more than that. He was also the classroom teacher for a combined

ST. AUGUSTINE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



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grade 7-8 class numbering 48 students, 27 in Grade 7 and 21 in Grade 8. In addition, the school at that time had no secretary, so office work was totally up to the principal as well. In 1968, with Norah Jackson as the principal, the school received its first portable classroom that was used as a gym. This stayed in place until 1973 when the portable classroom was relocated to St. Joseph Junior High School. In 1981, an addition and alterations were made to the school.

Over the history of the school, it has been blessed to have the guidance and consistent visibility of the parish priest of

St. Augustine Church on Baseline Road near the intersection of Merivale Road. Rev. Brendan O'Brien was the pastor at St. Augustine just prior to his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Ottawa.

The two-storey school has two kindergarten classrooms, ten regular classrooms, a computer lab, a library and a large schoolyard.

Present Principal

Sheila O'Farrell (2006-present)

Past Principals

Terry Murphy (1964-68)
Norah Jackson (1968-69)
Doreen A. Hamilton (1970-78)
Ken Kurs (1978-80)
Gilles Doth (1980-84)
Fergus Lyons (1984-88)
Ernest Lefrançois (1989-90)
Lorraine McFaul (1990)
John Kavanagh
Brian Brash
Wayne Moyle
Linda Mosley
Ann Louise Revells

First Teaching and Support Staff

Mary E. Lenahan
Norah Jackson
Marilyn Wolchuk
Viola McAllister
Averil Gomes
Teresa Howard
Mary Kathleen Heffernan
Terry Murphy

Former Students

Siobhan Karam has represented her country in national and international skating competitions.

Brendan Bell played for four seasons for the Ottawa 67's Junior A Hockey team of the Ontario Hockey League and was drafted in the third round (Number 65 overall) in the 2001 National Hockey League entry draft by the Toronto Maple Leafs and is now playing professional hockey.

Joseph Tang is an accomplished pianist and violinist.

Maria DeRosa won a research grant at Carleton University.

School Colours

Blue and white

Logo

The logo includes a cross centred in three interlocking circles or rings, with the school name "St. Augustine School" below. The rings represent the connection among home, school and church.

School Clothing

Students adhere to a dress code reflecting the school colours, namely, a white shirt or blouse and blue pants or skirt. Friday is a day on which they may wear regular clothes.

A Story

There is a story told about St. Augustine Catholic School regarding a police constable who used to visit the school on his motorcycle and took great delight in giving students a ride in the sidecar. One day, when the constable was visiting classrooms, the principal slipped out and hid the motorcycle. When the poor constable discovered his motorcycle missing, he was in quite a state, beset by the thought of having to report to his superior officer that his motorcycle had been stolen.