



**Southern
Ontario
Collegiate**

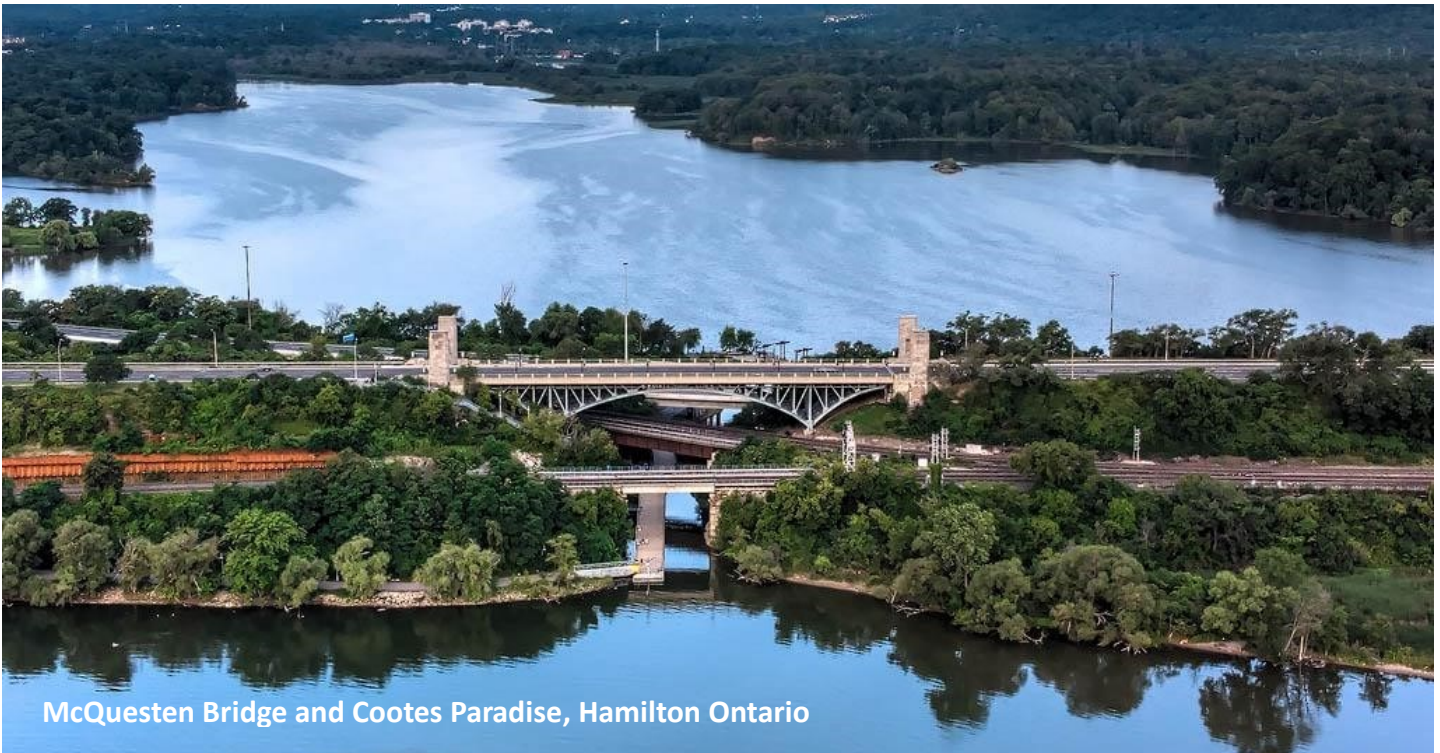
SOC Update

School Newsletter

Educating Students from Around the Globe for Over 40 Years

August 2023

From the Principal, Alison Currie



McQuesten Bridge and Cootes Paradise, Hamilton Ontario

We hope you are all having a beautiful summer. Some of you will be enjoying a summer holiday. For recent grads, August is the month they start packing up to move to university. New and returning students are starting to pack up and prepare for travel to SOC. Summer flies by, leaving us a bit more relaxed and ready for the next adventure.

Education is at the heart of our lives; it surrounds us in culture, science, business, health, travel, religion. The ability to learn is what keeps us in motion, preparing us for the life ahead and connecting us to each other. Sharing knowledge and expertise is a gift we share across generations between teachers and students everywhere.

We sometimes need to stop and take time to think about the joy of learning, the difference it makes to each one of us. It could be all too easy to move from one stage of education to the next without thinking of what it means, without seizing the moment to peel away the layers and really savour the experience, without appreciating the significance of what we're doing.

As we prepare for the new academic year at Southern Ontario Collegiate, we look forward to sharing the joy of learning with a new group of students embarking on their journey to Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. We share their anticipation of meeting new friends, engaging in new subjects, living in a new country and preparing for the life ahead – high school, university, college, graduate school, professional faculties, careers and vocations.

We welcome each one of you and look forward to supporting and guiding you on your academic journey, in your life in Canada and in this exciting new moment in your lives.

Academic Year 2023/24 begins for students on **Tuesday August 29, 2023** with a full day registration, orientation, and organization (uniforms, lockers, transportation, etc.). **Classes continue for all students on Wednesday August 30.**

Reminder: If you are a new student travelling to Canada, **please contact us no less than two weeks before your travel date so that you can receive the documents you require for travel; this information also allows us time to organize your space in residence and airport pickup**, if needed.



Travelling to SOC this summer?

Here are some key pointers to make your travels and arrival easier.

1. Please send us your itinerary as soon as possible; ideally, we should receive it no less than 14 days before you plan to travel. This helps us to arrange airport transportation and send you all necessary documentation and accommodation that may be needed.
2. Complete and print all the travel documentation sent to you by SOC. Carry it with you when you travel.
3. Don't forget to check and bring your letter of enrollment from SOC; this is normally sent to you after your payment is received. You'll need this at the airport, both for departure and arrival.
4. Check Covid vaccination requirements.

What to bring with you to SOC

If you have any questions about what you need to bring with you, please ask. We're happy to help.

Some of the following items can be purchased once you arrive.

HOME STAY AND RESIDENCE

- ⇒ You will need to supply your own linens: pillow, sheets, towels, blankets.
- ⇒ You will need to supply your own toiletries, for example: soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and lotions.
- ⇒ To feel more at home, you may want to bring a few photos or pictures and/or one or two books that are special to you!

MEDICATION

- ⇒ If you take regular medications, please bring a copy of your prescription(s) with you.

ELECTRONICS

- ⇒ mobile phone
- ⇒ laptop or electronic notebook

CLOTHING

Uniform

- ⇒ Black trousers. We supply your uniform shirts and fleeces, but trousers are difficult to fit properly. We ask you to bring your own black trousers as part of your uniform.
- ⇒ Black or white trainers/shoes.

Cold weather clothing

- ⇒ a winter coat mittens or gloves
- ⇒ a warm hat and scarf
- ⇒ wool socks
- ⇒ winter boots that are waterproof
- ⇒ warm clothing (sweaters and pullovers, long-sleeved shirts, warm trousers)

For autumn and spring

- ⇒ a mid/lightweight coat or jacket (waterproof might be useful).

Guidance

For assistance with course selection, please contact abeer.ghorieb@mysoc.ca as soon as possible. It's important that we discuss students' choice of courses for the coming year, especially as we need to help you meet all the prerequisites for university and college programs.

Placement tests for new Students

New students should contact Ms Abeer Ghorieb (abeer.ghorieb@mysoc.ca) regarding Math and English placement tests, which must be completed before mid-August.

Vaccinations

Hamilton Public Health is responsible for the enforcement of the Immunization of School Pupil's Act, an Ontario law that requires children who attend school in Ontario to have an up-to-date vaccine record. The immunization record is a document that shows the immunizations your child may have taken as a baby against various diseases such as polio, measles, etc. If you have these records, please email them to office@mysoc.ca or abeer.ghorieb@mysoc.ca. Students without records will be required to receive all relevant immunizations. While **Covid vaccinations** are no longer required to enter Canada, all students and staff of Southern Ontario Collegiate must be vaccinated against Covid. We will assist students who aren't yet vaccinated to complete this process.

Graduation Requirements

It's never too early in the year to discuss what students need to achieve in order to graduate with the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

What do I need to graduate from secondary school in Ontario?

Let's take a moment to consider some basic information about graduation in Ontario.

How many credits do I need?

To graduate from secondary school in Ontario, every student must have completed a total of 30 credits (courses) in secondary school. For international students, we are able to give you credit for many courses you have completed in your home country.

Additionally, a minimum of 6 of these 30 credits must be grade 12 courses taken at a school in Ontario. We strongly recommend that all students take 7 grade 12 credits.

Why 7 credits?

Universities look at the average of your 6 highest grade 12 marks when they consider your application. By having 7 credits, your lowest grade 12 mark is automatically dropped from the calculation, maximizing your opportunity for strong results.

Which courses should I choose?

When you begin your research, note that Grade 12 courses are coded 4U, 4M or 4C. 4C courses are not eligible for consideration for university admission, but are for college.

All students should take ENG4U as virtually every university program requires it. We also recommend that all students take one Canadian content course; we recommend CHI4U (Canadian History); CGW4U (Canadian and World Geography) or CLN4U (Canadian Law). We also offer other Canadian courses.

The remainder of your grade 12 credits will depend on your interests and the program you intend to study at university or college. Most programs have pre-requisites, courses you must take to be eligible for that university program. Some programs also require minimum marks for admission. If you are not sure what you wish to study in university, you are advised to take a fairly wide range of courses in Grade 12.

Where do I find information about universities?

Go to the Ontario Universities Information website <https://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/>

This site is where you will find the best and most up to date information about Ontario university requirements. You can search by program or by specific university. Please note that the OUF site applies only to universities in the province of Ontario. To research universities elsewhere in Canada, look at each university's website.

Summer Camp 2023

Students from Vietnam spent three fabulous weeks learning English, soaking up the Canadian summer, visiting the sights of Toronto, and learning all about Hamilton's history, natural wonders, cultural activities and the great outdoors. They ziplined and climbed through treetops at Treetop Trekking, picked cherries in the heart of Niagara's farmland, admired the views from the CN Tower and marveled at Niagara Falls. They visited museums, galleries, aquariums and restaurants. They danced, sang, bowled, golfed and taught us about Vietnamese history and culture. Many thanks to all involved for making this such a wonderful time for students, organizers and SOC staff. For more information about hosting a camp at SOC, please contact nabil.alkilabi@mysoc.ca



Welcome to Andrea Toledo

Southern Ontario Collegiate is very pleased to announce that Ms Andrea Toledo has joined the school as Head of Human Resources and Accounts. Ms Toledo joins us with a wide range of experience, and we are thrilled to be able work with her. Andrea emphasizes that *“the doors of my office will always remain open to anyone in need of assistance or for a friendly chat. My commitment to the school, its students, parents, and staff members will always revolve around serving them with dedication. I firmly believe that a person's purpose in life is to serve others, and if one does not embody this principle, they are not truly living.”* She can be reached at andrea.toledo@mysoc.ca

Upcoming Events:

7 August Civic Holiday. SOC is closed
14 August Last day to write placement tests
28 August Staff Professional Development
29 August Day 1 at SOC: Registration, Orientation, Assembly, Events, Activities
30 August Day 2 at SOC: All classes run at standard times
4 September Labour Day - National Holiday. SOC is closed
26 September Visit and Presentation by Trent University
27 September Visit and Presentation by Lakehead University

School Office hours during the summer

During the summer, the school office is generally open 8:30am – 3:00pm Monday to Friday, however this may change due to staff vacations and other events. We recommend you call the school, 905 546 1500 in advance so we can ensure arrangements for your visit.

Contact us at SOC:

Academics and Student Welfare	alison.currie@mysoc.ca
Guidance	alison.currie@mysoc.ca until new appointment is finalized
Edsembli/student results	catherine.mcfarland@mysoc.ca
Residence and Travel	nabil.alkilabi@mysoc.ca
Immigration/Study Permits	admin@mysoc.ca
Invoicing	andrea.toledo@mysoc.ca
Admissions/applications	admission@mysoc.ca

Visit our website at www.southernontariocollegiate.ca

