

For immediate release
February 11, 2011

More students in southwest Ontario connect to the global grid of research networks

WALLACEBURG, ONTARIO – Students in southwest Ontario are the latest to join the over 1 million Ontario K-12 students connected to the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION) and the global grid of advanced research and education networks, as the St. Clair Catholic District School Board connects to ORION.

“Connecting to ORION just makes sense for us,” said Paul Wubben, Director of Education. “Our board is actively seeking new ways to enhance learning experiences for our students, by providing access to advanced technologies and collaboration tools. ORION is a huge part of that.”

The St. Clair Catholic District School Board provides Catholic elementary and secondary school education to students in 30 schools in the Sarnia-Lambton and Chatham-Kent areas of southwestern Ontario, including the municipalities of Sarnia, Wallaceburg, Chatham, Petrolia, Dresden, Thamesville, Port Lambton and Ridgetown.

“We welcome the board to ORION,” said ORION President and CEO, Dr. Darin Graham. “It is so important for K-12 students all over Ontario to have access to our ultra-high-speed network not only to enhance learning outcomes, but also to connect with their peers around the province and the world.”

By connecting to ORION, the school board’s students and faculty will be able to access and participate in exciting new and innovative teaching and learning resources and applications. Ontario schools connected to ORION already enjoy significant benefits, including advanced and interactive videoconferencing and vastly enhanced participation in new programs offered by Canada’s leading cultural and educational organizations, such as the Virtual Researcher on Call (VROC) program, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and the Canadian Space Agency.

St. Clair Catholic is the 25th Ontario school board to join the ORION network, and the 10th Catholic board. The board will connect to the network at ORION’s PoP hosted at Lambton College in Sarnia.

Learn more about the St. Clair Catholic District School Board at www.st-clair.net.

About ORION

Supporting speeds hundreds of times faster than the Internet, ORION is Ontario’s advanced research and education network. A not-for-profit corporation, ORION links 1.7 million Ontario researchers, scientists, students, teachers and staff who depend on ORION for teaching and learning and to enable their research collaborations and discoveries in physics, cancer research, environmental science and technologies, social sciences and the humanities and multiple other disciplines. Part of Canada’s advanced network alliance, ORION connects users and institutions to each other and, through CANARIE - Canada’s advanced research and innovation network, to high-capacity research and education networks, partners and collaborators across Canada and around the world. Visit www.orion.on.ca.

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