

## CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ACCREDITED SCHOOL. . .

The accredited school:

- *is devoted to a mission.* It cares enough about what it does to seek validation by a recognized accreditation authority.
- *knows itself.* The school operates from an examined vision of service to students, family, and community.
- *keeps its promises.* An accredited school promises what it can deliver.
- *accepts objective evaluation.* Outside evaluators who have no prior involvement with the school or its sponsoring authority provide periodic evaluation.
- *is self-correcting.* An accredited school demonstrates the capacity to control its own quality.
- *is student-oriented.* Its philosophy of education expresses what it does for the whole student.
- *plans for its future.* An accredited school continuously plans for higher levels of quality.
- *examines performance.* Accredited schools regularly obtain and analyze objective evidence on student achievement and growth.
- *participates in the responsibilities of the academic profession.* Accredited schools support the activities of evaluation and accreditation through the peer review process.
- *is recognized.* Schools accredited by the Commission are listed as accredited schools in registries available throughout the world.

## A MESSAGE FOR PARENTS

# Your Child is in an Accredited School

MIDDLE STATES

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*Middle States Commission on  
Elementary Schools*

## HOW YOUR SCHOOL BECAME ACCREDITED. . .

- Self-Study

*The Commission believes students benefit from being in a school that knows itself thoroughly.*

The first step is a year-long, in-depth, analytical self-study that begins with defining a philosophy of education and a description of the school community. This is followed by an appraisal of the school's offerings and a self-evaluation of the organization, personnel, facilities, and materials of instruction.

Through the self-study, the school discovers if it has what is needed to fulfill the promises offered by its philosophy. It also acquires the self-knowledge needed to plan with confidence.

- Objective Evaluation

*The Commission believes students benefit when their school undergoes an evaluation based on accreditation standards.*

Having completed a successful self-study, the school is visited by a team of recognized educators named by the Commission.

The educators, who have no prior relationship with the school or its sponsoring authority, verify the findings of the self-study and during a two- or three-day on-site visit, offer recommendations based on accreditation standards for educational improvement.

- School Improvement Plan

*The Commission believes students benefit from being in a school that constantly strives for improvement.*

The implementation of a school improvement plan serves as the foundation for continued quality education.

- Accreditation

*The Commission believes students benefit if their school continues to be actively involved with other high quality schools both to improve themselves and to participate in the national movement to improve education.*

Accreditation is granted by the Commission when self-study, evaluation, and planning reports reveal that the school meets the standards for accreditation. Accreditation is normally granted for a period of seven years.



## YOUR ACCREDITED SCHOOL HAS MET STANDARDS FOR...

- defining appropriate educational goals and providing educational programs to achieve them;
- maintaining a qualified faculty and an effective school organization;
- assessing outcomes of school experiences and controlling the quality of educational programs;
- responding to concerns of parents and needs of the school community;
- providing for the continuity of its programs and planning for the future; and,
- describing with accuracy the content of its services and programs.

Accreditation standards are established by the profession and applied by the Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. The Middle States Association was established by the academic profession in 1887 to set standards for American education. It is a non-profit corporation. The Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools serves Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and certain regions overseas. The Commission is a member of the Council on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation, Inc. (CITA).