

Why Accreditation?

“Accreditation is an activity, not a status. Schools are accredited because of the way they move, not the way they stand.”

*...John A. Stoops, former Middle States
Executive Director for Elementary Schools*

Here is what quality schools do...

- Continuously improve.
 - Look at where you’ve gone and where you are going.
 - To assure continuous improvement or at least set the groundwork.
 - Look at what we do, why and how can we do better?
 - Measure ourselves against standards for all.
 - Set goals.
 - Investigate culture.
- Are dynamic, evolving, in motion.
 - Refocus energy on new goals.
 - Focus on all aspects of Catholic education.
- Are learning communities.
- Make every effort to ensure that staff has access to resources they need to fulfill their responsibilities.
 - Professional development plans.
 - Respond to professional advances.
 - We need to lead our teachers to be the best professionals possible.
 - Encourage professional improvement.
- Stay current with latest educational research.
 - Review practices.
 - Analyze and review programming.
 - Evaluate and inform stakeholders of our findings.
- Adapt to changing conditions.
 - Our parishes deserve a good investment on the money given to support us.
 - If we fail to change and improve our schools, students will suffer.
 - Gather input from a variety of stakeholders.
- Adjust to meet student needs.
 - We are preparing students for a complex world and strong Catholic schools are key to providing leadership into the future.
 - Ultimately increase student learning.
 - Provide best possible education for our students.
- Consistently and constantly reinvent themselves.
 - No plateaus, always moving forward, looking at new ways to meet the needs of all students.
 - Self-knowledge within the school community.

- Realize that the opportunity set is always changing.
 - The external environment.
- Understand that the skill set must change to meet the changes in the external environment.
- Define responsibilities in terms of being vision driven which becomes a reality in mission and is based on a set of core values and beliefs (priority is the learner).
 - Gives us visual, long-term goals.
 - Get everyone on the same page and focused on a common mission.
- Are committed to a process rather than a product.
 - Continuous improvement.
- Believe that every staff member needs, wants, and is able to improve...therefore improve student outcomes (empowerment).
- Promote close working relationships among staff.
 - Communication to cooperation to collaboration.
 - Allows us to grow individually as people and collectively as community.
- Involve staff in decisions that affect their work and the success of their learners.
 - Collegiality.
- Recognize good work being done.
 - Reaffirm great things already in place.
- Be accountable.
 - Set ourselves “against” “standards” that should be met for our Diocese.
 - Demonstrate credibility.
 - Prioritize projects.