

# THE STANDARD



A Newsletter from the Middle States Association  
Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools

## MSA Pride...

### Most parents **Promoting Your School's Accreditation**

assume their child's school is an accredited institution, but as we all know, assumptions are often not reality. In many cases, a school that is perceived to be accredited, in fact has not completed or has chosen not to continue the self-assessment, external validation and school improvement process that sets accredited institutions apart from those that are not accredited.

Conversely, accredited schools often do not get the full recognition they deserve for successfully completing the rigorous and rewarding accreditation process. Many accredited schools miss valuable opportunities to be sure parents and the community know and understand that, as an accredited school, you are ensuring a level of educational quality and effectiveness that goes well beyond the accountability requirements of state and federal inspection, reporting and monitoring.

As an accredited member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, your school is part of an educational network that includes major colleges and universities and a full spectrum of private and public educational

#### *Message from the President Henry G. Cram Ed.D*

institutions in the United States and in more than 85 countries around the world.

The MSA Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS) encourage our member institutions to celebrate and take great pride in Middle States Accreditation. MSA-CESS supports your efforts to promote and publicize Middle States accreditation to the audiences that matter most: parents, staff, students, community members, business leaders and public officials.

**MSA Pride** materials - banners, window clings, brochures and media materials - are available to all MSA-CESS member institutions. We encourage you to publicize and celebrate membership on websites, through social media, in school newsletters and in all official publications and communications. See page 2 for tips to promote your school's accreditation

from MSA-CESS  
Manager of  
Membership

Information, Jeanne Gallagher.

MSA's mission is to improve the quality of education available to every student by assisting schools in achieving excellence and by recognizing those schools committed to continuous improvement. Your MSA accreditation certifies that your school has joined the thousands of member schools pursuing that quest.

You have already completed the most difficult part of the accreditation process by achieving accreditation. Celebrate that success with your school community by letting your students, parents and community members know that they are a part of an MSA accredited schools. Show your **MSA Accreditation Pride**. You've earned it! ||

*Accredited by...*



**Middle States Association  
Commissions on  
Elementary and Secondary  
Schools**

MSA-CESS Window Cling

# Make the Most of Middle States Accreditation

## Celebrate and Publicize Your Achievement

By Jeanne M. Gallagher,  
Manager of Membership Information, MSA-CESS

For 125 years, Middle States Association membership has represented an assurance of quality educational opportunity.

As a MSA-CESS-accredited institution you are in good company among a wide variety of public and private schools, including traditional and on-line programs, early-age education schools, charter schools, faith-based schools, and supplementary education programs—an entire range of 21st century education! Taking steps to publicize your educational community as part of this esteemed company adds value to your school's reputation and standing.

We at MSA-CESS offer the following suggestions for ways to celebrate and publicize your school's prestigious Middle States Accreditation:

**Include the MSA-CESS logo and a tagline** indicating accreditation on school stationery, website, and any other published materials.

Display your **Certificate of Accreditation** in a prominent place in your main office or entryway; a location where it can be viewed by everyone who enters the building.

Purchase MSA-CESS **Banners and Window Clings** to provide an eye-catching reminder of achievement.

Contact your Agent of Responsibility (AOR) or the MSA-CESS offices to **arrange an Accreditation Certificate presentation ceremony**. Invite students, staff, parents, civic leaders, community members and the local media to attend.

Note your **Middle States-accredited status** in your standard **phone greeting**, live and recorded.

Check out **local cable and public access channels** for opportunities to profile your school and the accreditation process on programs such as COMCAST's "Schools on Demand." If your school broadcasts its own television programming, produce a feature about accreditation and be sure to include

the MSA-CESS logo in all credits.

**Add our brochure, "A Message to Parents: Your Child Is In An Accredited School"** to your registration packets and make them available in the main office, guidance departments and at Back-to-School nights.

**Contact local and regional media** including daily and weekly newspapers, magazines for parents and families, online publications like Patch.com, local education bloggers, radio and television stations. Ask the editor or reporter if he/she is interested in a story about your school and how accreditation adds value to your academic reputation.

These are just a few ways you can gain full value from your Middle States Accreditation. Your school and district can likely find more opportunities to reach your stakeholders. If the MSA-CESS staff can be of any assistance with your publicity endeavors, don't hesitate to contact us! **II**


MSA-CESS Banners, Window Clings, and Embossers can be ordered by contacting us at [info@cess-msa.org](mailto:info@cess-msa.org) or 267-284-5000.

MSA-CESS Embosser



**Educational Program:** The educational program consists of a carefully planned and well-executed curriculum that includes appropriate academic standards, solid pedagogy, and assessment, all based on research and best practices. The educational program is aligned with the school's mission, approved by the governance, sufficiently financed, and periodically reviewed by stakeholders. It is developed to address the needs of all students and designed to foster and challenge student learners at all levels. Effective policies and procedures are in place, along with instructional materials, technology, and equipment that are appropriate, functional, and well maintained. Written curriculum guides are current, functional, available, and in use. They define scope and sequence of the educational program as well as program objectives and reflect sound approaches to teaching and learning. **Assessment and Evidence of Student Learning:** The school systematically collects and rigorously analyzes quantifiable and observable evidence of individual learning and growth from multiple valid and reliable sources. Evidence of student learning is used to evaluate and improve curriculum effectiveness, instructional practices, professional development, and support services. Progress in student learning and performance is expected and is accurately, clearly, and systematically reported to the school community. **Student Services:** The school implements written policies and procedures, in partnership with families and the community, that provide all students with, or refer them to, services that are age- and developmentally appropriate to optimize opportunities for life-long success. Student services are systematic and integral to the educational program. They are provided in a timely, equitable, and philosophy/mission appropriate manner. **Student Life and Student Activities:** The school provides a variety of age- and developmentally appropriate activities to supplement the educational program. A balance of activities is provided to foster intellectual, cultural, and social growth as well as physical health and wellness. Student activities provide opportunities for student leadership and social interaction and encourage development of student interests. These activities are adequately financed, periodically reviewed by stakeholders, managed by school governance and leadership, and appropriate to the school's philosophy/mission. **Health and Safety:** A safe, orderly, and healthy environment for teaching and learning is provided. The school adheres to local, state, and federal government health and safety requirements. Health, safety, preventive/emergency procedures, and crisis management

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Schools**

**Facilities:** School facilities are safe, clean, and well maintained. The physical environment supports delivery of the educational program/services as well as optimal student development and achievement. Facilities are appropriate and adequate to implement the philosophy/mission of the school. They are regularly inspected for effective operation and meet all applicable laws including health and safety code requirements. **School Climate and Organization:** The school's organizational structure and climate facilitate achievement of its core values as expressed in the philosophy/mission. The school culture supports successful implementation of age- and developmentally appropriate educational programs and services. Roles, responsibilities, expectations, and reporting relationships are clearly defined. Administrative, instructional, and support staff are qualified, competent, and sufficient in number to effectively provide quality educational experiences. The school regularly conducts staff performance appraisals and offers professional development opportunities informed by its philosophy/mission. Relationships among the staff and leadership are collegial and collaborative.

MSA-CESS Banner

# Dynamic Middle States Credentials Program

## Recognition for Outstanding Achievement Among Accredited Institutions

By Kelly Christian, Assistant Director, MSA-CESS



The Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools have developed a suite of Credentials to recognize exemplary programs in Middle States-accredited schools worldwide. Established in 2008, the dynamic Credentials Program is among the services and programs offered by MSA-CESS to support continuous school improvement and to recognize the achievements of its members.

MSA-CESS-accredited institutions are eligible to earn credentials for outstanding achievement in six areas of particular significance in today's complex and challenging educational environment: **21st Century Skills, International Education, Music, School Counseling, Service Learning and World Languages.** An Early Age Education Credential is currently under development. In addition, MSA-CESS Credentials are excellent program evaluation tools, providing a framework for improvement in specific areas, which may ultimately result in the awarding of a Middle States Credential. Each credential consists of a rigorous set of criterion and indicators developed by experts in the related field.

The MSA-CESS Credentials are relevant to Middle States-accredited institutions worldwide. Recently, international schools have expressed a keen interest in the credentials as they coincide with an increased focus on and new initiatives in areas such as global citizenship and the arts, fostered by such regional organizations as the Near East South Asia Council of International Schools (NESAC), the Mediterranean Association of International Schools (MAIS), and the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA).

"We developed the Credentials Program in response to a desire by many of Middle States accredited institutions to receive recognition and external validation for achievement in areas that are particularly relevant in today's educational climate," said Henry G. Cram, Ed.D, MSA-CESS President.

Among the schools that have received a prestigious MSA-CESS credential is St. Francis Preparatory School, the largest private Catholic secondary school in the United States. St. Francis Prep was featured in a recent issue of *The Standard*, after it was the first Middle States-accredited school to earn the Music Credential. Visit [www.sfponline.org](http://www.sfponline.org) to learn more about "the proud traditions of St. Francis Preparatory School" that dates back to its founding in the fall of 1858. Located in Queens, NY, the school as has been "providing intellectual and spiritual growth to young men and women who seek the finest Catholic education available."

Other schools, including the ABA-An IB World School in Oman, [www.abaoman.edu.om](http://www.abaoman.edu.om), are using MSA-CESS credentials as a relevant program evaluation tool. ABA (formerly the American British Academy) recently celebrated its 25th anniversary providing an international education to a student body representing 64 nationalities and a staff that represents 22 countries. The school is using the World Languages Credential's self-assessment and external review process to guide this prestigious institution as it makes beneficial changes to support students' language acquisition and intercultural understanding. According to Superintendent Mona Nashman-Smith, the school is committed to implementing a stellar World Languages Program that meets or exceeds Credential standards.

For more information about the MSA-CESS Credentials Program, email [info@cess-msa.org](mailto:info@cess-msa.org). ||

# Fall 2011 Accreditation Actions

At their Fall 2011 meetings, the Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools took the following actions:

## **Actions Taken by the Commission on Elementary Schools**

### **Accreditation - Seven Years**

Altoona Central Catholic School, Altoona, PA  
Archbishop Ryan Academy for the Deaf and Saint Lucy Day School for Children with Visual Impairments, Philadelphia, PA  
Ascension Lutheran School, Landover Hills, MD  
Assumption Academy, Emerson, NJ  
C.F. Richards Junior Academy, Staunton, VA  
Chapin School, Princeton, NJ  
Christ the King School, Manville, NJ  
Christ the King School, Rochester, NY  
Columbia Greenhouse Nursery School, New York, NY  
Faith Christian Academy, Poughkeepsie, NY  
Flushing Christian School, Flushing, NY\*  
Fourth Presbyterian School, Potomac, MD  
Freidrich Froebel Bilingual School, Inc., Aguadilla, PR  
Good Shepherd Academy, Kingston, PA  
Good Shepherd Regional School, Collingswood, NJ  
Hillel Yeshiva, Ocean, NJ  
Hoboken Catholic Academy, Hoboken, NJ  
Holy Child Catholic School, Bridgeville, PA  
Independence Charter School, Philadelphia, PA  
Ivy League School, Inc., Smithtown, NY  
John Nevins Andrews School, Takoma Park, MD  
Lakeview School, Edison, NJ  
Manhattan Christian Academy, New York, NY\*  
Mary Queen of Angels Catholic School, Cheektowaga, NY  
Our Savior's Lutheran School, Albany, NY  
Penn-Mont Academy, Hollidaysburg, PA  
Planet Abacus Charter School, Bala Cynwyd, PA  
Pope John Paul II Regional School, Willingboro, NJ  
Sacred Heart School, Lyndhurst, NJ  
Saint Ann School, Emmaus, PA  
Saint Gregory's School, Loudonville, NY\*  
Saint Ignatius Loyola Regional School, West Lawn, PA

Saint Jerome Regional School, Tamaqua, PA  
Saint Joseph of the Palisades Elementary School, West New York, NJ  
Saint Joseph Catholic School, Warren, PA  
Saint Joseph School, Ronkonkoma, NY  
Saint Leo the Great, Lincroft, NJ  
Saint Mary Magdalen Regional School, Millville, NJ  
Saint Mary School, Bordentown, NJ  
Saint Patrick School, York, PA  
Saint Paul School, Princeton, NJ  
Saint Peter School (2NJ)  
Saint Peter School, Merchantville, NJ  
Saint Rose of Lima School, Thomasville, PA  
Saint Rose of Lima School, Haddon Heights, NJ  
Saint Stanislaus Kostka School, Sayreville, NJ  
Saint Theresa School, Hellertown, PA\*  
Saint Thomas Apostle School, Bedford, PA  
Saint Thomas Aquinas School, Philadelphia, PA  
Saint Vitus School, New Castle, PA  
Saints Cyril and Methodius School, Deer Park, NY  
Santa Maria School, Bronx, NY  
The Goddard School-Gaithersburg, Gaithersburg, MD  
The Red Oaks School, Morristown, NJ  
Tree of Life Christian Preparatory School, Fredericksburg, VA  
Valley Christian School, Huntingdon Valley, PA

### **Accreditation - Six Years**

Olney Adventist Preparatory School, Olney, MD

### **Accreditation - Three Years**

Castelar College, San Pedro del Pinatar (Murcia), Spain

### **Accreditation - Remainder of Term**

American International School of Freetown (1370S)

### **Accreditation - Additional Grade(s)**

Community Academy PCS-Amos III, Washington, DC  
E. L. Haynes PCS, Washington, DC  
Northampton Community College Children's Center, Bethlehem, PA

### **Accreditation-Removal of Stipulations**

Our Lady of the Assumption Preschool, Stafford, PA

### **Accreditation - Merged/Divided**

### **School**

All Saints Catholic School, Wilmington, DE  
Holy Savior Academy, South Plainfield, NJ  
Assumption BVM School, Pottsville, PA  
Good Shepherd Regional Catholic School, Northampton, PA

### **Recognition of Accreditation by another Agency**

Goddard Systems, Inc. (GSINC)  
Corpus Christi Catholic School, Temple Terrace, FL

### **Probationary Accreditation**

Holmesburg Baptist Christian Academy, Philadelphia, PA  
Mount Aetna Adventist Elementary School, Hagerstown, MD  
The Montessori Society of Central Maryland, Inc., Lutherville, MD

## **Actions Taken by the Commission on Secondary Schools**

### **Accreditation - Ten Years**

George School, Newtown, PA  
Lehigh Valley Christian High School, Catasauqua, PA\*

### **Accreditation - Seven Years**

Academy for Allied Health Sciences, Scotch Plains, NJ  
Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School, Brooklyn, NY\*  
Bishop McGann-Mercy High School, Riverhead, NY  
Blair Academy, Blairstown, NJ  
Burlington City High School, Burlington, NJ  
Charter School of Wilmington, Wilmington, DE  
Colonia High School, Colonia, NJ  
Communications High School Monmouth County Vocational, Wall, NJ  
Deer Lakes High School, Russelton, PA  
Du Val High School, Lanham, MD  
George Washington Carver Center for Arts & Technology, Towson, MD  
George Washington High School, Philadelphia, PA  
Henry E. Lackey High School, Indian Head, MD  
Highlands High School, Natrona Heights, PA  
Holy Angels Academy, Buffalo, NY  
Holy Spirit High School, Absecon, NJ  
Hudson School (The), Hoboken, NJ  
Indian River High School, Dagsboro, DE  
Irvington High School, Frank H. Morrell Campus, Irvington, NJ\*  
Jersey Shore Area High School, Jersey



## Fall 2011 Accreditation Actions (cont.)

Shore, PA  
Kenwood High School, Baltimore, MD  
Keystone Oaks High School, Pittsburgh, PA\*  
Lansdowne High School, Baltimore, MD  
Millville Senior High School, Millville, NJ  
Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School, East Elmhurst, NY\*  
Mount Saint Joseph High School, Baltimore, MD  
North Allegheny Senior High School, Wexford, PA  
North Catholic High School, Pittsburgh, PA\*  
Online School for Girls, Bethesda, MD  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Corapolis, PA  
Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School, Midland, PA  
Pine - Richland High School, Gibsonia, PA  
Princeton High School, Princeton, NJ  
Randallstown High School, Randallstown, MD  
Samuel P. Langley High School, Pittsburgh, PA  
Sayreville War Memorial High School, Parlin, NJ  
School Without Walls Senior High School, Washington, DC  
South Hunterdon Regional High School, Lambertville, NJ  
Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne, PA  
Westbury High School, Old Westbury, NY  
Western School of Technology & Environmental Science, Baltimore, MD  
Westlake High School, Waldorf, MD

### Accreditation - Remainder Term

Blue Mountain High School, Schuylkill Haven, PA  
Community High School, Teaneck, NJ  
Fordham Preparatory School, Bronx, NY  
Free Will Baptist Christian High School, St. Croix, VI\*

### Accreditation - Removal of Stipulations

Cathedral Preparatory Seminary, Elmhurst, NY  
Grier School, Tyrone, PA  
Punxsutawney Area Senior High School, Punxsutawney, PA  
Saint James School, Saint James, MD

### Probationary Accreditation

Archbishop Curley High School, Baltimore, MD (drop in database)  
Barringer High School, Newark, NJ  
Benjamin Banneker Academic High

School, Washington, DC  
Bishop Timon - Saint Jude High School, Buffalo, NY  
Bladensburg high School, Bladensburg, MD  
Bowie High School, Bowie, MD  
Bregado Flax Educational Centre (Secondary Division), British, VI  
Burnt Hills - Ballston Lake High School, Burnt Hills, NY  
Cape Henlopen High School, Lewes, DE  
Cardinal Gibbons School, Baltimore, MD (drop in database)  
CedarBridge Academy, Devonshire, Bermuda  
Charles Herbert Flowers High School, Springdale, MD  
Dallas Senior High School, Dallas, PA  
De Sales High School, Geneva, NY (drop in database)  
Delcastle Technical High School, Wilmington, DE  
Dr. Charles E. Brimm Medical Arts High School, Camden, NJ  
Du Val High School, Lanham, MD (also in accreditation)  
Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt, MD  
Elmore Stoutt High School, Tortola British, VG  
Fairmount Heights High School, Capitol Heights, MD  
Forestville Military Academy, Forestville, MD  
Frederick Douglass High School, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Friendly High School, Fort Washington, MD  
Greenburgh-North Castle Union Free School District, Dobbs Ferry, NY  
Gwynn Park High School, Brandywine, MD  
Henry P. Becton Regional High School, East Rutherford, NJ  
High Point High School, Beltsville, MD  
Lakeland Junior-Senior High School, Scott Township, PA  
Largo Senior High School, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Laurel High School, Laurel, MD  
Lincoln High School, Yonkers, NY  
Middletown High School - South, Middletown, NJ  
Monroe Township High School, Monroe Township, NJ  
Montgomery High School, Skillman, NJ  
Morris Catholic High School, Denville, NJ  
New Milford High School, New Milford, NJ  
New Providence High School, New

Providence, NJ  
Northern High School, Dillsburg, PA  
Northwestern High School, Hyattsville, MD  
Orange High School, Orange, NJ  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School, Baltimore, MD  
Oxon Hill High School, Oxon Hill, MD  
Parkdale High School, Riverdale, MD  
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Washington, DC  
Pope John XXIII Regional High School, Sparta, NJ  
Ridgefield Park Junior-Senior High School, Ridgefield, Park, NJ  
South Plainfield High School, South Plainfield, NJ  
Springfield Township High School, Erdenheim, PA  
Suffern High School, Suffern, NY  
Suitland High School, Forestville, MD  
West Essex Senior High School, North Caldwell, NJ  
Wilson High School, West Lawn, PA  
Wyomissing Area Junior-Senior High School, Wyomissing, PA

### Recognition of Accreditation by another Agency

Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, MI  
Riviera Preparatory School, Miami, FL  
Wisconsin Academy, Columbus, WI

### Removal of Accreditation

Albert Einstein High School, Kensington, MD  
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Baltimore, MD  
Benjamin Franklin High School, Philadelphia, PA  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Bethesda, MD  
Camden High School, Camden, NJ  
Clarksburg High School, Clarksburg, MD  
Colonel Zadok Magruder High School, Rockville, MD  
Damascus High School, Damascus, MD  
East Side High School, Newark, NJ  
Edmondson-Westside High School, Baltimore, MD  
Francis L. Cardozo High School, Washington, DC  
Gaithersburg High School, Gaithersburg, MD  
George W. Hewlett High School, Hewlett, NY  
James Hubert Blake High School, Silver Spring, MD

## Fall 2011 Accreditation Actions (cont.)

John F. Kennedy High School, Silver Spring, MD

John P. Stevens High School, Edison, NJ  
Liberty Junior Senior High School, Liberty, PA

Luke C. Moore Academy Senior High School (The), Washington, DC

Manasquan High School, Manasquan, NJ  
Mansfield Junior Senior High School, Mansfield, PA

Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, MD

Montville Township High School, Montville, NJ

Mount Pleasant High School, Wilmington, DE

North Penn Junior Senior High School, Blossburg, PA

Northwest High School, Germantown, MD  
Northwood High School, Silver Spring, MD

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Washington, DC

Poolesville High School, Poolesville, MD  
Quince Orchard High School, Gaithersburg, MD

Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, MD

Rockville High School, Rockville, MD  
Salisbury High School, Allentown, PA

Seneca Valley High School, Germantown, MD

Sherwood High School, Sandy Spring, MD  
Springbrook High School, Silver Spring, MD

Thomas S. Wootton High School, Rockville, MD

Trenton Central High School, Trenton, NJ  
Waldwick High School, Waldwick, NJ

Walt Whitman High School, Bethesda, MD  
Walter Johnson High School, Bethesda, MD

Watkins Mill High School, Gaithersburg, MD

West Side High School, Newark, NJ  
Wheaton High School, Wheaton, MD

Winston Churchill High School, Potomac, MD

Woodrow Wilson High School, Camden, NJ

### **Actions Taken by the Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools**

#### **Accreditation – Ten Years**

Friends School of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD

International School of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland

Maplebrook School, Amenia, NY

#### **Accreditation - Seven Years**

American Community School, Abu Dhabi, UAE

American International School of Abuja, Abuja, Nigeria

Bingham Academy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Eden Christian Academy, Pittsburgh, PA

Education Strengthens Families Public Charter School, Washington, DC

El Limonar, Murcia and Villamartin, Spain  
Ephrata Mennonite School, Ephrata, PA

Excellence Christian School, Upper Marlboro, MD

International Gateway Academy, Istanbul, Turkey

Mercy Ships Academy, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Nanuet Union Free School District, Nanuet, NY

A. Mac Arthur Barr Middle School  
George W. Miller Elementary School

Highview Elementary School  
Nanuet Senior High School

Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child, Summit, NJ

QSI International School of Astana, Astana, Kazakhstan

QSI International School of Atyrau, Atyrau, Kazakhstan

Robinson School, San Juan, PR

Saddle River Day School, Saddle River, NJ  
Saint Patrick's Bilingual School, Guayama, PR

Sinai Special Needs Institute, Teaneck, NJ  
Spuce Hill Christian School/City Center Academy, Philadelphia, PA

St. Mary's School, Inc., Cupey, PR  
Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School, Syracuse, NY

Woodstock School, Mussorie, India

#### **Accreditation - Six Years**

Atholton Adventist Academy, MD\*

Huntington Learning Center AH0, Abington, PA

Huntington Learning Center KZ2, Schaumburg, IL

Huntington Learning Center OT0, Charlottesville, VA

Huntington Learning Center PG0, Downers Grove, IL

Huntington Learning Center RM0, New York, NY

Huntington Learning Center XS0, Geneva, IL

Huntington Learning Center ZE0, Lutherville, MD

Spencerville Adventist Academy, Silver Spring, MD

Sylvan Learning Center #01026, Cookeville, TN

Sylvan Learning Center #02502, Worcester, MA

#### **Accreditation - Five Years**

Rhodora J. Donahue Academy of Ave Maria, Ave Maria, FL

#### **Accreditation - Remainder of Term**

Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, Rockville, MD

Pinewood Schools of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

Ross School, East Hampton, NY

#### **Additional Grades**

American International School of Vilnius, Vilnius, Lithuania

Champion Christian School, Champion, PA  
Claremont Preparatory School, New York, NY

Kathmandu International Study Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal

#### **Accreditation-Removal of Probation**

The International School of Nice, Nice, France

Academia Nuestra Senora de la Providencia, San Juan, PR

#### **Accreditation-Removal of Stipulations**

American Cooperative School of Tunis, Laouina, Tunisia

Palmas Academy, Humacao, PR

#### **Probationary Accreditation**

American Academy for Girls, Hawalli, Kuwait

Asmara International Community School, Asmara, Eritrea

Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy, Huntingdon Valley, PA

Manor School, Christiansted, St. Croix

#### **Recognition of Accreditation by another Agency**

Ombudsman Educational Services, Libertyville, IL

K12 Private School Division, Herndon, VA

K12 International Academy, Herndon, VA  
Evangelical Christian School, Fort Myers, FL

Greater Miami Adventist Academy, Miami, FL

\*Accredited with Stipulations

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# MSA-CESS Welcomes...

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## New Commissioners

The Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools welcomes three new commissioners with expertise in and knowledge of a range of schools accredited through Middle States Association. Equally important, the new commissioners have experience with and share a resolute commitment to the accreditation and school improvement process.

### **Richard Bock - Commission on Elementary Schools**

As a Huntington Learning Center franchise owner, Richard Bock of Bel Air, Maryland, brings a wealth of education and business experience to the Commission on Elementary Schools. Bock has owned and operated the Bel Air Huntington Learning Center since 1997 and opened a second Center in Perry Hall, MD in 2001.

Bock earned a bachelor's degree in History and Secondary Education from William Paterson University and holds a Secondary Teaching Certificate in New Jersey.

Prior to returning to the education field in 1997, Bock had a 23-year career with Volvo Cars, where he held various positions including as Senior Vice President, sales and marketing for Volvo Cars Europe.

Bock serves on the boards of directors of Harford Business Roundtable for Education and Harford County Community College Foundation. He also served on numerous Harford County Public School (HCPS) committees, including General Curriculum, Grading and Reporting, as well as spokesperson for a "Study Circle" steering committee (addressing issues of minority achievement).

Bock and his wife Judy have one daughter, Amy who graduated from HCPS and Harford Community College and is currently attending The College of Notre Dame.

### **Michael Kuchar, Ph.D. - Commission on Secondary Schools**

Dr. Michael Kuchar has dedicated his life to public service in the field of education. Since 2005, Dr. Kuchar has served as Bergenfield's Superintendent of Schools, where he has rejected the status quo and instead led with visionary initiatives, including several that focus on students with special needs.

In 2006, Bergenfield School District partnered with two other districts to establish the Tri Valley Academy for Children with Autism. The following year the district was awarded a grant from the United States Golf Association (USGA) to pilot a summer golf program for students with autism. In May of 2008, Dr. Kuchar was presented with the *Innovations in Special Education Award* from the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) and the Association of Schools and Agencies for the Handicapped (ASAH) for this innovative program, which partners with the USGA and continues to serve students throughout Bergen County.

In the fall of 2008, Bergenfield School District was the only district in New Jersey and among only 50 districts nationwide to be awarded the United States Department of Education's Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Grant, worth more than \$1 million, to establish an elementary school counseling program. In September 2010, NJ Monthly Magazine rated Bergenfield High School as the "Most Improved High School in NJ" as its academic ranking went from 234 to 136 in just two years.

Dr. Kuchar holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Teaching from Fordham University, an Ed.M. in Counseling Psychology from Columbia University, Teachers College, a M.A. in School Counseling from Columbia University, Teachers College, and a B.A. in Theology from Seton Hall University. He has also completed post-graduate work at Harvard University and Columbia University.

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# MSA-CESS Welcomes... (cont.)

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## Mary Tigie – Commission on Elementary Schools

Mary Tigie’s appointment to the Commission on Elementary Schools is another chapter in her involvement with the Middle States Association, beginning in the late 1980s. She has chaired many Middle States teams throughout the years, with a visit scheduled in March.

For the past five years, Tigie has served as Assistant Superintendent in the Office of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Scranton, where she is primarily responsible for curriculum and instruction. Prior to joining the Diocese of Scranton, she served for 18 years as principal of Gate of Heaven School in Dallas, PA. She began her career in education as a teacher and principal at the Scranton Hebrew Day School.

Tigie was an adjunct faculty member at Marywood University in the graduate school’s education department.

“Perhaps its worth noting that my husband is one of the Middle States ambassadors and our daughter, Bridget, is also a yearly chair,” added Tigie. “Irene (Raatzs) refers to our family as a Middle States dynasty.”

## New Staff

The Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools recently named two new members to its staff.

### Dr. Angela C. Rufo – Associate Director

We welcome Dr. Angela C. Rufo to MSA-CESS as an Associate Director. A career educator, Dr. Rufo served for almost 25 years in both teaching and administrative positions with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, most recently as Principal at St. Basil the Great Catholic School in Kimberton, PA. No stranger to Middle States accreditation, she served as a volunteer with the association since 1995.

Dr. Rufo earned a bachelor’s degree in History with Secondary Education Certification in Social Studies from St. Joseph’s University, a master’s degree in Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Pennsylvania State University and an Ed.D. from Immaculata University.

In her new role with MSA-CESS, Dr. Rufo serves as Agent of Responsibility (AOR) for Catholic elementary schools in New York (Arch) Diocese; New Jersey (Arch) Dioceses; Pennsylvania eastern (Arch) Dioceses; and the Diocese of Wilmington. She continues to provide Catholic schools with the same excellent service they have experienced as Middle States member institutions.



### Sarah Seraphin, MSLS - Clerical Assistant

Sarah Seraphin joins the MSA-CESS staff as Clerical Assistant. In addition to joining Middle States Association, Seraphin is a special collections librarian at La Salle University.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and completing the Graduate Archival Studies Sequence at Temple University, Seraphin earned a master’s degree in Library Science from Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia campus.

In addition to her experience at La Salle, Seraphin held positions at Princeton Theological Seminary and Swarthmore College Library. ||

