

St. Francis Catholic School Earns SAIS-SACS Accreditation

Hilton Head Island, SC

June 8, 2009

St. Francis Catholic School was officially informed on Monday, June 8th, that it is now an accredited member of the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). To earn accreditation from SAIS and SACS, St. Francis Catholic School complied with quality standards, was evaluated by an outside group of peer professionals, and implemented a school plan focused on strategic improvement and student performance.

Founded in 1996 with forty students, St. Francis Catholic School now has 215 students enrolled in grades Pre-K through 8. St. Francis Catholic School offers an educational program with high academic and behavioral expectations. Its mission is "To nurture students' intellectual growth in an authentically Catholic community committed to academic excellence." St. Francis Catholic School values faith formation, quality academics, parental involvement, a nurturing and disciplined environment, and a variety of opportunities and enrichment activities.

In today's world of accountability in schooling, accreditation serves as a critical component of a school's demonstrated effectiveness and ability to provide successful schooling for children. A school that is able to achieve accreditation demonstrates a commitment to a process that requires the school to meet a set of rigorous, research-based standards; to engage in a program of continuous school improvement; and to demonstrate quality assurance to its stakeholders through self-evaluation and peer review. SAIS-SACS accreditation provides schools access to an integrated network of services and technical assistance that supports every school's ability to identify and meet its goals for improving student performance and the teaching and learning process.

Accreditation is voluntary and must be renewed each year. In addition, the self-study process and peer review visit must be repeated every five years for continued accreditation.

SAIS began its organizational life in 1903 as the Mid-South Association of Independent Schools (MAIS). Established in 1895, SACS is a non-governmental, voluntary organization that accredits more than 13,000 public and non-public institutions from early-childhood to university. Today, SACS is the largest accrediting agency in the world.

The school is located at 45 Beach City Road, Hilton Head Island, SC.

For more information, contact Dr. Mike Rockers, principal, at 681-6501

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