



The Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools is pleased to announce that Gwynedd-Mercy Academy has been awarded accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The award was announced by Dr. Thomas L. Seidenberger, Chair of the Commission and Superintendent of the East Penn School District (Emmaus, PA), following the Commission's November 2010 meeting. Gwynedd-Mercy Academy was one of 70 schools so honored by the Commission.

MSCES accreditation signifies the educational community of Gwynedd-Mercy Academy has engaged in a rigorous process of developing self-knowledge; has hosted an evaluation team of independently-appointed educators; and has created an on-going Strategic Plan to move school improvement forward. This eight-month process was governed by a Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Mrs. Kathleen O'Neill. The process involved all elements of the Gwynedd-Mercy Academy community, including faculty, parents, students and the Board of Trustees.

Accreditation also signifies that Gwynedd-Mercy Academy has met the MSCES Standards for a quality school. These Standards reflect current research and best practices from throughout the education profession. During the term of accreditation, the school community will engage in a Commission-directed series of reports and/or site visits to maintain the vigor of the accreditation process.

MSCES, which works with public and private schools from New York State to the District of Columbia, in the U.S. Caribbean, and in various locations around the globe, is one of three accrediting Commissions of the 100-year old Middle States Association. The Middle States Association is the second-oldest regional accreditor in the United States and, in addition to its elementary component, is also comprised of the Commission on Secondary Schools and the Commission on Higher Education.

Accreditation by MSCES is recognized around the world as an indication of trustworthiness, educational quality, and a commitment to on-going school improvement. F. Laird Evans, Ed. D., President of the Commission, offered his congratulations to the entire Gwynedd-Mercy Academy community, adding: "MSCES accreditation is a recognition of both prior achievements and a commitment to greater future accomplishments."