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Contact: Marybeth Okula  
610-253-8442  
principal@stjaneschool.com

## **ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL SCHOOL EARNS MIDDLE STATES RE-ACCREDITATION**

Easton, PA — St. Jane Frances de Chantal School announced today that it has earned re-accreditation by the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools, a worldwide leader in accreditation and continuous school improvement.

“Middle States accreditation serves as an independent validation of the good work we do, and the re-accreditation process again focused our attention on strategic planning and continuous improvement practices,” said Marybeth Okula. “We are proud to have earned re-accreditation and look forward to continuing to work with our administrators, teachers, and parents to provide high quality education for all students.”

Accreditation is a multifaceted evaluation process that schools and school systems voluntarily use to demonstrate they are meeting a defined set of research-based performance standards. The 12 Middle States Standards for Accreditation are: mission; governance and leadership; school improvement planning; finances; facilities; school organization and staff; health and safety; educational program; assessment and evidence of student learning; student services; student life and activities, and information resources.

The accreditation process begins with a self-study that is conducted by the school or school system and requires input from school leaders, teachers, parents and students. Following the self-study, a team of volunteer educators from Middle States member schools conducts an on-site peer review visit to observe school operations and interview various stakeholders.

The visiting team makes its recommendation to the Middle States Association Commissions, which votes on the accreditation.

“The Middle States accreditation process supports schools in developing a strategic plan for the future that is built upon continuous school improvement,” said Lisa Marie McCauley, Ed.D., president of the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. “Middle States accredited schools should be commended for their commitment to collaboration, growth and advancing student achievement.”

About St. Jane Frances de Chantal School St. Jane Frances de Chantal School was founded in 1926 as a parish school with 145 children. It has grown to a population of nearly 500 students, including students not only from St. Jane Parish but also from neighboring parishes, as well as many students who are not members of the Catholic faith. The school complex consists of 19 classrooms preschool through eighth grade. The school office, library, chapel and preschool through sixth grade classrooms are housed in the main school building located at the corner of 19th and Washington Boulevard. The junior high, the gym,

computer lab, art room, and cafeteria are housed in the Bennett Building located at 1922 Washington Blvd., a short walking distance from the main school building. Through the Colonial Intermediate Unit 20, classes for speech and remediation in math and reading are held in the Conference Center located next to the main school building. St. Jane Frances de Chantal School is part of the Diocese of Allentown School System under the direction of Bishop Alfred A. Schlert, ordinary of the Diocese, and Dr. Philip Fromuth, Superintendent of Schools.

About Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)

Based in Philadelphia, the Middle States Association is the worldwide leader in accreditation and school improvement. For over 130 years, Middle States has been helping school leaders establish and reach their goals, develop strategic plans, promote staff development and advance student achievement. With more than 2,500 accredited schools and school systems in 39 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and in over 110 countries, MSA-CESS is proud of its continuing legacy and its ongoing innovations to meet the challenges of improving education in the 21st century. For more information visit [www.msa-cess.org](http://www.msa-cess.org).