



AWARD of PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION

April 22, 2020

Mrs. Marybeth Okula
Principal
Saint Jane Frances De Chantal School
1900 Washington Blvd.
Easton, PA 18042-4699

Dear Mrs. Marybeth Okula:

It is my pleasure to inform you that at its April 16th meeting the Commission on Elementary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools approved the awarding of:

PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION in EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

This award attests to the fact that **Saint Jane Frances De Chantal School** has been found through a rigorous process of self-study and external evaluation to exemplify the criterion for the Program Of Distinction in Early Childhood Education:

The school's early childhood education program reflects a commitment to maximizing student outcomes in all domains of development via high quality early care and education experiences offered in partnership with families. This commitment is widely accepted, understood, and supported by the governance, staff, parents, and broader educational community of the school/system. The program implements a well-articulated, child-centered philosophy and daily experiences for young children. Evidence-based best practice is visible throughout Early Childhood operations and is effective for all enrolled children, including those with special needs and those who are English language learners. The Early Childhood program is characterized by collaborative relationships among staff and between staff and families of enrolled children. Further, the school assures the Early Childhood program full membership in the school community and actively seeks collaboration and articulation between Early Childhood and elementary grades.

Further, the Commission has determined that **Saint Jane Frances De Chantal School** has demonstrated:

- A willingness to conduct a comprehensive review for the Program of Distinction in Early Childhood Education (ECE) that *describes* the current status of the school, *reflects* on and *evaluates* what the school does well and where it can improve, and *prioritizes* these findings for future planning efforts;
- A commitment to the philosophy behind the Program of Distinction in ECE;

- That it meets the criteria established for the Program of Distinction in ECE;
- A commitment to providing its students with an excellent early childhood education;
- That its professional staff members support this goal and work to gain the knowledge and skills to provide an exemplary early childhood education to their students.

To maintain the Program of Distinction, the institution will be expected to continue to meet Middle States Standards for Accreditation and the Criterion for the ECE Program of Distinction. In addition, it must assume the following obligations:

1. Notify MSA prior to making any substantive changes to the programs, services, and activities that led to the awarding of the Program of Distinction in Early Childhood Education.
2. Remain as a member in good standing and meet all accreditation maintenance requirements listed in the institution's Official Notification of Accreditation.

Please accept our sincere congratulations on the recognition that your institution is providing an exemplary early childhood education program for your school community.

Sincerely,



Lisa Marie McCauley, Ed.D, CPA
President
Middle States Association
Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools

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