



Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools

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MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL SCHOOL FOR ITS PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — The Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS) recently recognized the Saint Jane Frances de Chantal School in Easton, Pa., for its Program of Distinction in Early Childhood Education.

The Middle States Programs of Distinction initiative provides external validation of an accredited school's accomplishments in specific areas of expertise and enables schools to take accreditation to the next level.

“Research shows that a child’s experiences during the first five years have a profound impact on all future learning and the ability for a child to become a successful adult,” said Lisa Marie McCauley, Ed.D., president of MSA-CESS. “The Early Childhood program at St. Jane School is a model for how schools around the world can provide children with positive learning experiences that will benefit them throughout their academic lives and beyond.”

The Programs of Distinction review process helps already accredited schools identify strengths and areas for growth and provides inspiration and recommendations for attaining a high-quality program. MSA accredited schools are eligible to apply for Program of Distinction recognition for outstanding programs in Global Literacies, World Languages, Visual Arts, Music, Early Childhood Education, Service Learning, School Counseling and STEM.

The Early Childhood Program of Distinction recognizes a school’s dedication to early childhood education through a rich, child-centered philosophy and best practices focusing an exploration, questioning, creativity and social-emotional development as well as literacy and numeracy.

“St. Jane School is honored to be recognized by Middle States for our Early Childhood Education program,” said Principal Marybeth Okula. “Our child centered classrooms in pre-K and kindergarten promote a stimulating and challenging environment where children can grow intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically as well as spiritually. Through play and concrete learning, our program prepares children for meeting success in later educational experiences. We are so proud of our pre-K and kindergarten.”

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.

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