



September 9, 2022

Dear School Community Parents and Employees,

Welcome to a new school year! Since 2007 the Catholic Diocese of Richmond has held a system-wide accreditation from one company who has changed names from SACS to AdvancEd and is currently Cognia. All of our individual schools are accredited by virtue of our system-wide accreditation. As an organization, Cognia decided this summer to voluntarily withdraw from their association with the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE) and therefore Cognia accreditation is no longer recognized by VCPE.

With our Catholic schools being located in the Commonwealth of Virginia, it was important for us to maintain our system-wide accreditation with an organization that will allow our schools to still be recognized by and be active members in VCPE.

Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA) is a 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. Hundreds of faith based schools seek out MSA accreditation because MSA supports and recognizes the importance of having schools fulfill their missions under their specialized faith-based traditions and values.

I am pleased to announce that MSA has completed a preliminary review of our system-wide procedures and granted the Catholic Diocese of Richmond initial system-wide accreditation for two years effective immediately. The Office of Catholic Schools will go through a comprehensive self-study evaluation to be completed within the next two years. We are looking forward to working with MSA as our new accreditor. Our schools will continue to operate in the same manner that we always have in providing an exceptional education to our students while exceeding the highest of standards. Your school is still fully accredited and this transition in accreditation agencies will be seamless.

If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Catholic Schools or me directly.

Yours in Christ,

Kelly M. Lazzara
Superintendent of Schools