



ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE OF THE FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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March 5, 2010

Sister Eileen Marie Woodbury  
Principal  
Notre Dame Catholic School  
1095 Commercial Way  
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Dear Sister:

I am writing as a follow up to the Third Year Conference held on February 10, 2010 at the Chancery of the Diocese of St. Petersburg. It was indeed a pleasure listening to your presentation. Underlying all the data that you have gathered is that hard to quantify passion for Catholic education and for Notre Dame that came across to me. I enjoyed meeting with you, Father Jankowski, Karen Grover, Lissette Drinkwater, Sr. Alice, Patricia Arndt, Dr. John Cummings, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Concetta Rizzo and Helen Marston, Associate Superintendents for the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Your presentation was exceptional. It is apparent that Notre Dame has made significant progress on action-plan goals per the Power Point presentation and the written report for SIP that was provided. Your commitment to surveying your stakeholders, the faculty's continuance of using the research that is so important for school improvement and the need you felt to revise the action plan, all show that you have taken the SIP process very seriously. One result has been the presence of the priests on the campus. It is wonderful that the children see their priests coming into the school.

You have seen quantifiable growth in the three goals you set: writing, thinking and reasoning and technology. The use of a research based writing program, Criterion, as well as rubrics have shown an improvement in this area. Each year you have seen improvement in math across the grades and you indicated that you would like to expand this "thinking and reasoning" goal into the science and social studies curricula. You have also made technology as priority and have seen an increase in teacher use of technology throughout the curriculum.

The students have taken the challenge of their faith seriously as evidenced by the many Christian service projects that they have undertaken.

You have also attended to the recommendations of the visiting committee in the various section of the SIP.

Bishop Gerald Barbarito (Episcopal Moderator) • Mrs. Kay Rizzo (Chair) • Mrs. Pat Bronsard (Vice Chair)  
• Sr. Rose Mary Collins, SSJ • Mr. Jim Cooney • Sr. Joan Dawson, OSF • Ms. Kristen Hughes • Mr. Michael Kooi (FDOE)  
• Mr. Ken Manuel (SACS CASI) • Dr. Michael McCarron • Dr. Kathleen Schwartz • Mr. Kevin Vickery

Notre Dame Catholic School is commended for creating and fostering a positive, supportive learning environment for students. Both Mrs. Rizzo and Mrs. Marston indicated that were extremely proud of your presentation and, more importantly, they know that the SIP with its Third Year Review has shown how the process can work for the betterment of the students.

In closing, I will report to the Florida Catholic Conference Accreditation Committee (FCCAC) that Notre Dame Catholic School is meeting the standards as set forth by the Accreditation Program, implementing recommendations and gathering data for the next cycle of accreditation. The FCC wishes to thank you and your staff for your dedication and commitment to providing Catholic education.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Tierney  
Representative  
Florida Catholic Conference

cc Dr. John Cummings  
Concetta Rizzo  
Helen Marston  
Father Jankowski  
Michael McCarron  
James Herzog