



# St. Jerome Regional School

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## **SAINT JEROME REGIONAL SCHOOL PREK-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE EARNS MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION**

Tamaqua, PA — Saint Jerome Regional School announced today that it has earned 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 that we do, and the accreditation process focused our attention on strategic planning and continuous improvement practices,” said Principal, Amy M. Hannis-Miskar. “We are proud to have earned accreditation and look forward to continuing to work with our faculty, staff and families to provide a high quality education for all of our students.”

Middle States accredits preK-12 public, private, parochial, and charter schools. In addition, MSA-CESS accredits non-degree granting career and technical post-secondary institutions and learning services providers.

Middle States 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 a peer review visit.

Traditionally Middle States peer review visits are conducted onsite. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Middle States is conducting all visits virtually for the 2020-2021 school year. Where possible, the chairperson of the peer review team may go onsite for one day. The peer review team makes its recommendation for accreditation or reaccreditation to the Middle States Association Commissions, which votes on the recommendations at its biannual meetings.

“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.”

SJRS Mission Statement- Through our call to discipleship, we, St. Jerome Regional School, have made it our mission to live fearlessly through faith. St. Jerome once said, “Search the scripture...seek and you shall find.” Inspired by our patron, we strive to instill family values while teaching superior academics and preserving traditional standards. St. Jerome Regional School teaches for life to create a community of conviction, respect and excellence. Our base is family, our mission is faith and our future rests in the courage to leave behind a legacy.