

23. The Parent Teacher Association is active and positively supportive of the school.

Strongly Agree-69.9%

Agree- 22.9%

Somewhat Agree-4.6%

Disagree-2.6%

24. The school's facilities are maintained effectively.

Strongly Agree-72.5%

Agree-24.8%

Somewhat Agree-2.6%

Disagree-0%

You may have noticed on our annual calendar that Feb. 19-22 is earmarked as Middle States Evaluation. The following is a brief explanation of that event.

St. Catharine School received accreditation from the Middle States Association, Commission on Elementary Schools in May 1999. To achieve this distinction, the faculty and staff embarked on a yearlong self-study. Our philosophy of education was articulated and an appraisal of the school's offerings, organization, personnel and facilities was completed. Our self-study was evaluated by a team of recognized educators named by the Association. The findings were verified during a three-day on site visit. As a result, accreditation was granted by Middle States.

Accreditation is not a one-time event. Schools that are accredited must continue the momentum. We are required to continue to evaluate who we are, what we intend to be in the future and how we will get there. This has led to the re-accreditation process we have been involved in for the past year.

Once again we embarked on a self-study. It has been a renewal process this time entailing revisiting our mission and beliefs, restudying our community, re-describing our programs and re-examining our resources. We completed our self-study and submitted it to the Middle States Association. Now on Feb. 19th the 3 day evaluation by a visiting team of professional educators will begin. The team will follow the path laid down by us in our self-study. They will confirm its content, consider our recommendations, assess the practicality and appropriateness of our strategic plan and offer its own commendations and recommendations.

We anticipate the end result of all this work will be re-accreditation. What does that mean to you, the parents of our students? It means we are a school devoted to its mission, we are a school that knows itself, we are a school that is student oriented, we are a school that plans for the future and we are a school that keeps its promises.

We are now busy with last minute preparations for this very important visit. At the end of this week, you will be receiving an invitation to join us in welcoming the Middle States team at a **Prayer Service on Sunday Feb. 19th**. We know it is a holiday weekend for many, but we hope you will **save the date** and join us. We are justly proud of our wonderful school community and we know you will extend a warm welcome to the team as they begin their important task.

Thank you.

Sister Margo & Mrs. Rowan

FATHER DAUGHTER DINNER DANCE –REMINDER

The Father Daughter Dinner Dance will be held this Friday, February 3rd at Jumping Brook Country Club from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For your convenience, you may arrive up to 30 minutes prior to the start of the dance for pictures. We look forward to seeing you at this very exciting event.

