

Accreditation Overview

All schools in the Archdiocese of Seattle participate in an Accreditation process through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS) and the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA).

The 2005-2006 school year was St. Joseph Catholic School's "Self-Study" year which began the Accreditation process. We took a step back, looked at what we do, identified our strengths and challenges, and then created a plan of action to make our school even better than it already is. All of this information was compiled into our Self-Study Document and given to an Accreditation Team for review. Also called the "Visiting Team", this group of professional educators was comprised of principals and teachers from other Catholic schools.

In February 2007, the Accreditation Team spent three days at St. Joseph Catholic School. During this time, they observed classrooms and spoke with students, teachers, parents, and parishioners. They wrote a response document called the Visiting Team Report. This is available for viewing on our website at www.stjoevanschool.org. We are very pleased that the Visiting Team agreed with and validated our strengths and areas for growth.

From here, both the Self-Study Document and the Visiting Team Report are sent to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS) and the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA) for review. We will learn our Accreditation status in late summer 2007.

What happens next? The Accreditation process does not end here. The next step is to make improvements in the areas of growth identified by the staff and Accreditation Visiting Team. St. Joseph Catholic School will now use the Action Plan stated in the documents to begin a School Improvement Process.

This has been a wonderful process for the school community. Please take time to read the Visiting Team Report on our website. It validates the work done by our school staff and gives a great synopsis of the strengths and areas for growth at St. Joseph Catholic School.