

# WRISA

## ACCREDITATION NEWS

### Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation

*The Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation serves school communities through standards of excellence that promote continuous improvement.*

Volume XIV, 2008  
Beatrice Weiland, Editor

#### **Board Accredits 251 Schools**

At the September 8-9 and November 12, 2008 meetings, the WRISA Board of Directors met in Madison and accredited 251 schools. The Board of Directors is the sole authority in determining the accreditation status of a school. Its decision may differ from the "Recommendation" for accreditation made by the Visiting Team.

To view the complete list of schools, visit the WRISA website: [www.wrisa.net](http://www.wrisa.net) after December 15, 2008, and click on the "WRISA Schools" link.

#### **Schools Accredited for a Subsequent Cycle of Accreditation**

Congratulations to the following schools that completed a seven year cycle of accreditation. After conducting a new self study, these schools hosted a site visit and submitted new Visiting Team documents and Long Range Plan to the Board of Directors.

Delavan Christian School, Delavan  
Divine Mercy School, South Milwaukee  
Holy Ghost-Immaculate Conception School, Kieler  
Holy Rosary School, Medford  
Holy Spirit School, Appleton  
Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Monona  
Our Lady of the Lakes School, Random Lake  
Twin City Catholic Educational System, Neenah/Menasha  
St. Aloysius School, Sauk City  
St. Alphonsus School, Greendale  
St. Andrew School, Delavan  
St. Bernard School, Green Bay  
St. Bruno School, Dousman  
St. Dennis School, Madison  
St. Dominic School, Brookfield

St. Frances Cabrini School, West Bend  
St. Francis de Sales School, Lake Geneva  
St. Francis Xavier School, Merrill  
St. Henry School, Watertown  
St. John the Evangelist School, Greenfield  
St. John Vianney School, Brookfield  
St. Joseph School, Big Bend  
St. Joseph School, Grafton  
St. Joseph School, Hazel Green  
St. Mary School, Tomahawk  
St. Mary School at Blessed Trinity Parish, Sheboygan Falls  
St. Matthew School, Oak Creek  
St. Paul School, Genesee Depot

#### **Schools Accredited for the First Time**

After successfully completing an intensive self study and hosting a Visiting Team, the following candidate schools were recommended for and were granted initial accreditation by the Board of Directors.

Congratulations to:  
Ceria M. Travis Academy, Milwaukee  
David's Star Lutheran School, Jackson  
San Juan Diego Middle School, Racine  
St. Martini Lutheran School, Milwaukee  
St. Patrick School, Sparta  
Travis Technology High School, Milwaukee  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School, Brillion

#### **Board Expresses Gratitude to Outgoing Representatives**

The Board of Directors expresses its appreciation to Mort Zaydel, who served on the Board of Directors as the representative for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for five years and WRISA treasurer for five years; and, to Jeff Inniger for serving as representative for the

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) for six year. Jeff served as vice-president of the Board for two years.

### **Board Welcomes New Representatives**

The WRISA Board of Directors welcomes jurisdiction representatives: David Bartelt, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS); Carol Ward, Archdiocese of Milwaukee; Helen Gilles, Independents, At-Large.

### **School Improvement Plan (SIP) Committee Reports on Progress**

By Susan Holman

The committee studying school improvement for WRISA includes Carol Ward (Milwaukee), Diane Walter (Green Bay), Peggy Schoenfuss (Superior), Sue Nelson (Milwaukee), Beatrice Weiland, and Sue Holman (La Crosse) – chair.

Currently, School Improvement is included in Standard 9. Most schools use their long range goals to fulfill the Quality Indicators of Standard 9. However, the definition of a school improvement plan is not a direct match to the function and realities of a long range plan. As defined by the SIP committee, 'A School Improvement Plan is a multi-year, data driven, systematic process that identifies what will be improved and how action plans will be implemented to demonstrate measurable gains in student performance.'

The committee has discussed expanding the intent of Standard 9 to focus each school on one or two specific goals that would directly improve student learning. This would require an action plan to identify the goals, activities and resources necessary to implement the plan; staff development related to the goals; and assessments to determine the effectiveness of the school's efforts. A one page form for the School Improvement Plan would be added to the current WRISA annual packet to describe the plan and document the school's progress.

The committee is currently discussing the School Improvement Plan as an enhanced version of accreditation, that would earn

Accreditation with Distinction. The details of plan approval, implementation of the process, and the relationship of the plan to the accreditation site visit are some of the items for future discussion before any recommendation can be presented to the WRISA Board.

### **WCRIS Announces Leadership Conference**

The fourth WCRIS Leadership Conference will be held at the Bishop O'Connor Center in Madison, Wisconsin, on February 12th and 13th, 2009. For more information regarding the conference go to: [www.wcris.org](http://www.wcris.org).

The leadership conference will provide administrators of religious and independent schools throughout Wisconsin the opportunity to:

Participate in sectional presentations on key education related issues;

Share experiences, challenges and solutions with fellow administrators during a social hour on each day of the event;

Attend general sessions featuring keynote speaker who will share their vision of education and the needs of schools today;

Visit with exhibitors displaying the latest products and resources for schools.

WCRIS is an association of jurisdictions representing the interests of Wisconsin's religious and independent school community. WCRIS currently represents 750 of Wisconsin's 1,000 religious and independent, elementary and secondary schools. WCRIS promotes the understanding of educational issues, and supports students and the schools their parents choose.

#### **Contact Information:**

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Discriminatory practices based on race, ethnicity, or national origin are not used in admissions or other services. Church affiliated schools may give preference to members of their faith as allowed by law.