



**Catholic Schools Office  
Diocese of Baton Rouge  
News Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Diocese of Baton Rouge Recommended for District Accreditation**

Baton Rouge, LA – December 8, 2010 – Dr. Melanie B. Verges, Superintendent announced today that Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge were recommended for District Accreditation by the Quality Assurance Review Team from the AdvancED Accreditation Commission, the national commission that confers the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS/CASI) accreditation seal. The commission will meet in February to finalize the accreditation status of the district. This means that the district and all of the Catholic schools involved in the district accreditation process are recommended to be nationally accredited, and that the Diocese of Baton Rouge is recognized across the nation as a quality school system.

Six schools participating in district accreditation with the diocese have maintained accreditation status as individual schools in the past: Ascension Catholic, Redemptorist High, St. Michael the Archangel High School, St. John, Catholic Inter-parochial, and St. Thomas Aquinas. Nineteen elementary/middle schools in the diocese are recommended for initial accreditation through the district process: EA/EI Partnership (St. Theresa and St. John Primary), Holy Family, Holy Ghost, Mater Dolorosa, Most Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Mercy, Redemptorist Elementary, Sacred Heart, St. Aloysius, St. Alphonsus, St. Elizabeth, St. Francis Xavier, St. George, St. Jean Vianney, St. Joseph, St. Jude, St. Louis King of France, St. Peter Chanel and St. Thomas More. The district's special education program, which is located at Redemptorist, is also part of the accreditation process.

The accreditation process involves three ongoing components: 1) meeting high quality standards; 2) implementing a continuous process of improvement; and 3) engaging in quality assurance through internal and external review. The district's accreditation is for a five year term with regular monitoring of progress and reporting occurring during the term.

“The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge have a long tradition of excellence in education, and the accreditation process has only strengthened schools by fostering better communication and collaboration,” stated Dr. Verges. “Shared leadership has increased for each school and throughout the diocese as stakeholders came together to collaborate on common issues and solutions. Many bridges have been built along the way, and we look forward to continuing that direction as we travel together on the road to school improvement. Our vision is to *Evangelize Hearts, Educate Minds, and Embrace the Future.*”

Dr. Mark Elgart, President/CEO of AdvancED, stated, “District Accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school system on the primary goal of creating lifelong learners. The Diocese of Baton Rouge is to be commended for engaging in this process and demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement.”

Parents and interested community members can learn more about the District Accreditation Process at [www.advanced.org](http://www.advanced.org). More information about the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge is available at [www.csobr.org](http://www.csobr.org).