

For Immediate Release:

**PIUS X JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
ANNOUNCES MIDDLE STATES RE-ACCREDITATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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The Middle States Association's Commission on Secondary Schools has announced that Pius X Junior / Senior High School has been re-accredited for the period ending 2015.

The decision to re-accredit Pius X Junior / Senior High School was made following a three and one-half day visit to the school in November of 2007 by a visiting team of five educators from member schools of the Middle States Association of colleges and Schools appointed by the Commission on Secondary Schools.

During the visit, the Middle States team met with and interviewed representatives of the school's stakeholders, including teachers, students, parents and administrators, as well as representatives of the Advisory Board. Team members also toured the school's facilities, studied the school's strategic plan for school improvement and other documents related to the school's work, and observed teaching and learning in the classrooms.

To be accredited by the Commission on Secondary Schools, a school must meet the Middle States Association's standards for each major area of a school's work and activity. These areas include the school's philosophy / mission / beliefs / objectives, governance and leadership, organizational design and staff, educational programs, learning media services and technology, student services, student life and activities, facilities, health and safety, finances, assessment of student learning and planning. However, because Pius X Junior / Senior High School, elected to use the Accreditation for Growth protocol for accreditation, the school was required to do more than just meet the Association's standards to be accredited. Accreditation for Growth (AFG) is a unique accreditation process that uses strategic planning as a vehicle for school improvement and growth in student performance. In AFG, the primary determinants of progress are not the resources a community provides for its schools (the inputs) but, instead, the actual results of the school's work – the students' performance. AFG requires the school to establish objectives for improving student performance based on a vision of a preferred future for the school. The student performance objectives identified by Pius X Junior / Senior High School are:

1. By 2015, Pius X students will demonstrate improved math skills as measured by PSAT (9, 10, 11), SAT (12), ITbs (7&10) and mid-term & final exam test scores.
2. By 2015, Pius X students will demonstrate improved reading/writing skills as measured by PSAT (9,10,11), SAT (12), ITBS (7&10) tests and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade research paper scores

**“Pius X Junior / Senior High School is to be congratulated for having completed the rigorous and demanding accreditation review process successfully”, said Dr. Henry G. Cram, Executive Director of the Commission on Secondary Schools. “By meeting the standards of the Association and by having established a comprehensive and challenging strategic plan to improve targeted areas of student performance, Pius X Junior / Senior High School has joined a growing number of schools in the Middle States region that are committed to public accountability for their results. The Commission encourages the entire Pius X Junior / Senior High School community to join together in supporting the school as it seeks to achieve its objectives.”**

**Pius X Junior / Senior High School is a regional college preparatory school of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown, PA and is accredited by the Middle States Association. It exists to educate young men and women to grow in faith, excel in academics and mature in self-discipline. For further information, contact (610) 588-3291 ext. 306 or [www.piusxhs.org](http://www.piusxhs.org).**