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MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Diocese of Rochester Catholic Schools One of First in Nation to be Recommended for Prestigious Accreditation
Middle States Accreditation based on performance of quality in education

Rochester, NY (November 9, 2016)– The Diocese of Rochester’s Department of Catholic Schools announced today that all 19 of their schools have been recommended for Systems Accreditation by a Visiting Team from the [Middle States Association Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools \(MSA-CESS\)](#), a worldwide leader in accreditation and continuous school improvement.

MSA-CESS is a non-profit organization that evaluates and accredits school systems throughout the world. Their accreditation process is voluntary, and schools/dioceses/districts choose to undergo the extensive process to demonstrate they are meeting a defined set of performance standards. The accreditation process helps schools – and ultimately students – to continuously grow and improve. By examining institutions within the system as a whole, Middle States Association Commission is able to assure that the students and families within our communities are receiving an excellent quality of education provided by Rochester Catholic Schools. “Our principals and teachers are truly deserving, and we are honored to receive this prestigious recommendation,” says Dr. Anthony Cook, Superintendent of Catholic Schools. “Upon the expected approval of the visiting team’s recommendation in the Spring of 2017, our school communities will continue on a trajectory of growth as a system of schools.”

Of note:

- To gain accreditation, Diocese of Rochester Catholic Schools underwent a rigorous, three-year process that included an extensive self-study report and visits from an appointed team of individuals from peer institutions.
- The Rochester Catholic School system is in the third diocese to receive this recommendation for accreditation. The Diocese of Rochester would join the Diocese of Syracuse and the Diocese of Greensburg when the Commission votes on the recommendation in the Spring of 2017.
- Accredited institutions accept responsibility for the level of performance of its students and commit to continuous improvement both in student learning and producing the levels of learning desired and expected by the Rochester community.
- Accreditation requires the Rochester Catholic School system to implement a seven-year plan based upon the school's vision of the future.

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About Rochester Catholic Schools: The Diocese of Rochester Department of Catholic Schools operates 19 schools in a 12-county region that encompasses Greater Rochester, the Finger Lakes Region and the Southern Tier. Nearly 4,000 students in grades K-8 are served. As a significant component of life long faith formation, Catholic Schools provide a learning faith community which fosters academic excellence and nurture young people to become service-oriented, responsible and self-disciplined individuals. For more information, visit dorschools.org

About Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS):

The Middle States Association is a worldwide leader in accreditation and school improvement. For over 125 years, MSA has helped school leaders establish and reach their goals, develop strategic plans, promote staff development and advance student achievement. With more than 2,700 MSA-accredited schools in nearly 100 countries, MSA is proud of its continuing legacy and its ongoing innovations to meet the challenges of the 21st century and improve educational opportunities for all children. More information regarding MSA can be found at www.msa-cess.org.