

February 16, 2009

Hello all,

I recently visited an independent school in north Orlando and I found myself reflecting on the visit as I drove home. I was asked to be part of the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) Accreditation team and we were visiting a school to help them with their accreditation. Every five years, FCIS member schools conduct a rigorous self-study followed by a visit of experienced independent school heads and administrators who immerse themselves in the school for three days. The team evaluates curriculum, verifies faculty credentials, affirms financial stability, examines the governance model of the Trustees, and confirms the safety practices of the school.

While honored to be part of the evaluative team, it was a greater honor to bring stories and examples of standards and practices of All Saints' Academy to my colleagues on the accreditation team. Even though members of the team consisted of school heads and leaders from well-known and established schools, it was clearly evident that All Saints' Academy is succeeding in providing our students and families with an outstanding, second-to-none, college preparatory experience. It was an honor to share our college admissions success, our successful E-team (lower school) and A-team (upper school) records, our campus conservation program, competitive athletics, world-class fine arts, our tenth National Merit Finalist and one of our student's recent perfect 1600 on the math and verbal portions of the SAT.

As evidence of ASA's growing reputation, the Florida Council of Independent Schools has asked All Saints' Academy to host a state wide technology workshop, attended by independent schools across the state, to demonstrate the effective use of technology in today's classroom. Our congratulations to Chad Lewis, Director of Information Services, and his outstanding team for this recognition. With leadership in the FCIS convention in November, participation as part of the accreditation process and hosting the statewide technology conference, All Saints' is fast becoming a resource for independent education in Florida.

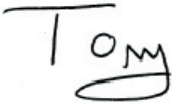
This past year, the faculty and staff have been hard at work on our own self-study. The first part of the year, we vigorously examined our curriculum through the "scope and sequence" process. Scope, or breadth of curriculum, and sequence, the longitudinal thread of curriculum, are critical aspects that allow faculty to provide a consistent delivery of excellence. As the parent survey last year indicated, the expectation for us is a **culture of excellence**, not islands of excellence. This study involved all faculty members, crossing both divisional and subject boundaries, and ensures we are delivering relevant content and that the trajectory of learning is seamless from PK3 through 12th grade. It is a powerful document.

Currently, faculty and staff are hard at work on evaluating operational aspects in all areas of the school. This involves assessing the current "state of" with recommendations and strategic plans for growth and improvement. All of this information will be collected and used by the visiting committee, next year, to help guide All Saints' continue its delivery of unique and singular independent education for central Florida. I look forward to presenting our fine school and receiving constructive feedback on ways to provide your remarkable children with an equally remarkable educational experience.

We are excited to see our families return to us next year as we continue re-enrollment through Friday, February 20th. We absolutely understand the economic climate has provided a level of uncertainty that is unprecedented. We know the decision to re-enroll is one that, this year, requires additional scrutiny and consideration. In this time of few safe investments, the investment in the education of your child is one that carries the highest level of guarantee. These are important years and cannot be recaptured. Choosing the right school for our children remains as our highest priority as parents. We know great schools require great families and we look forward to seeing all our great families join us next year.

Timely re-enrollment provides us with the information to ensure great teaching appointments, balanced class sizes, and sustain our great programs. Knowing flexibility is key this year, we hope you will consider strategies to help with managing resources; credit card payment, semi-annual, or monthly payments are all available to provide individual families with options. However, should you have a circumstance that prohibits you from re-enrolling, please contact the business office so we may work together on a plan that supports your families' needs and keeps our great families at our school.

Take care all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom". The letter "T" is large and has a horizontal top bar. The "o" is a simple circle, and the "m" has two vertical strokes with rounded bottoms.