

# PRINCE Leadership MONTHLY



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## The Value of School Accreditation

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Accreditation by national education agencies, one of the most important hallmarks of Prince Avenue Christian School, provides assurance to our families that our school exceeds both academic and organizational standards for educational institutions. Colleges and universities recognize that graduates of accredited schools are well prepared for the challenges of post-secondary education, and that these students have been educated in a manner consistent with other outstanding private and public schools.

We earned our initial accreditation by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Advanced Ed/Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) many years ago, and the rigorous process of securing our re-accreditation every five to seven years provides us with great insight to the quality of our policies, programs, curriculum, and procedures. We are once again embarking on the journey of re-accreditation, and this time Prince Avenue is seeking to gain additional accreditation by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). When our current re-accreditation process is complete next March, we will be the only area Christian school, and one of the very few schools in Northeast Georgia, to secure all three agencies.

The SAIS accreditation and ACSI Advanced Ed/SACS re-accreditation journey actually never ends since we must remain vigilant in assuring that we are consistently exceeding the quality standards set by these accrediting agencies. We cannot simply meet the standards for accreditation then allow ourselves to become complacent and stagnant until the next re-accreditation period rolls around. We must consistently reevaluate and refine our policies, procedures, programs, and Biblical integration in order to provide the highest possible level of education

for our students.

As we continue our re-accreditation journey over the next 12 months, we will be conducting a self-study which will help us to determine our strengths and weaknesses as well as our areas of focus for the next three to five years. This intensive internal review requires input from all our stakeholders, including our students, parents, faculty, alumni, and board members. All of our stakeholders will be asked to help with the process in some way through involvement in program evaluation teams, surveys, or interviews. The process will conclude next year when we host an on-site visit from a peer review team who will evaluate our self-study and provide insight into whether we are, in fact, who we say we are, and if we are doing what we say we should do as a Christian educational institution.

We are excited about the work ahead as we intently study ourselves. We are confident that we are on a strong and consistent path serving as a leader in education in our community, remaining firm in our commitment to partner with parents to provide a Biblically-based foundation of education for our students, and securing a strong and dynamic future for Prince Avenue Christian School.

