

## **Accreditation group gives Cooksville school approval**

*Woodmont Academy subject to annual reviews*

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Woodmont Academy, a Catholic school in Cooksville, has received accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools.

The accreditation process serves as an assurance by an outside entity that the school is committed to its mission and to improving education, said Jeanne Gallagher, manager of membership information for the elementary schools commission.

The Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools is a subsidiary of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the second-oldest regional accrediting association in the U.S.

According to Gallagher, the review includes a self-study process, in which the school examines all of its internal workings, whether it be their academic programs, facilities, or personnel, and a visit to the school by an evaluation team of education professionals.

Other Howard County schools that have been accredited by the elementary schools commission include Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Resurrection St. Paul, Trinity, St. Louis, and St. Augustine schools. Public schools also can apply for accreditation, but so far, none in the county have done so, according to Gallagher.