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BETTY MCELMON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EARNS MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION

West Long Branch, New Jersey — Betty McElmon Elementary School announced today that it has earned accreditation by the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools, a worldwide leader in accreditation and continuous school improvement.

“Middle States accreditation serves as an independent validation of the good work we do, and the accreditation process focused our attention on strategic planning and continuous improvement practices,” said Mr. Thomas G. Farrell, Superintendent of Schools. “We are proud to have earned accreditation and look forward to continuing to work with our administrators, teachers, and parents to provide high quality education for all students.”

Accreditation is a multifaceted evaluation process that schools and school systems voluntarily use to demonstrate they are meeting a defined set of research-based performance standards. The 12 Middle States Standards for Accreditation are: mission; governance and leadership; school improvement planning; finances; facilities; school organization and staff; health and safety; educational program; assessment and evidence of student learning; student services; student life and activities, and information resources.

The accreditation process begins with a self-study that is conducted by the school or school system and requires input from school leaders, teachers, parents and students. Following the self-study, a team of volunteer educators from Middle States member schools conducts an on-site peer review visit to observe school operations and interview various stakeholders.

The visiting team makes its recommendation to the Middle States Association Commissions, which votes on the accreditation.

“The Middle States accreditation process is a proven approach to help schools and students grow and improve,” said Henry G. Cram, Ed.D., president of the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. “School leaders, teachers and parents are to be commended for working together to plan for the future and set goals aimed at advancing student achievement.”

About Betty McElmon Elementary School

Betty McElmon Elementary serves approximately 310 students in Pre-School through 4 for the West Long Branch School District. The school offers students an education enriched by a modern facility, experienced teachers, challenging curriculum, field experiences, and state of the art technology (SMART Boards, 1:1 Chromebooks, iPads, etc.). Small class sizes enable staff to give attention to the key elements of a primary education.

At the core of our philosophy is the concept that students come first and foremost. We strive to put "students first". Students should be the primary recipients of our resources, and as such, any energy that

pulls resources away from this primary focus of "students first" is contrary and detrimental to our core beliefs.

We value the student-teacher relationship; and as such, believes wholeheartedly that relationships form the foundation for learning and that no significant learning can take place without a significant relationship. This philosophy forms the basis of our foundation on education. It is relationships, not programs, that change students and make successful schools. A great program simply creates the environment for healthy interpersonal relationships to form between staff and students. Students of all ages thrive when adults care about them on a one-to-one level, and when they also have a sense of belonging to a caring learning community like ours.

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

Based in Philadelphia, the Middle States Association is the worldwide leader in accreditation and school improvement. For over 125 years, Middle States has been helping school leaders establish and reach their goals, develop strategic plans, promote staff development and advance student achievement. With more than 2,500 accredited schools and school systems in 34 states and over 100 countries, MSA-CESS is proud of its continuing legacy and its ongoing innovations to meet the challenges of improving education in the 21st century. For more information visit www.msa-cess.org.