



For Immediate Release
August 28, 2012

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**Pemberton Township Schools Kicks-Off 2012/2013
Accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools**

First in State to Be Accredited through MSA's New System Protocol

Pemberton, NJ – At the first meeting of the 2012/2013 school year, Pemberton Township Board of Education (BOE) welcomed Henry G. Cram, Ed.D., president of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS), who presented the district with its official MSA-CESS certificate of accreditation. Pemberton Township School District is the first district in the state to earn accreditation through Middle State's new System Protocol.

In addressing the Pemberton Township BOE, Cram reiterated the findings of the MSA-CESS Visiting Team, "The Pemberton School Community is doing much more and with greater success than they give themselves credit for or are getting credit from others. This inclusive school community places a genuine emphasis on individual student achievement."

Cram added, "The district is a pioneer in the state of New Jersey for completing the new system accreditation. By achieving Middle States accreditation, Pemberton Township Schools are ensuring parents and the community a level of educational quality that goes beyond the accountability requirements of state and federal inspection, reporting and monitoring. Pemberton clearly has demonstrated a commitment to a positive, progressive culture of continuous improvement."

Pemberton Township School Superintendent Michael Gorman thanked Cram and said, “This accreditation is additional substantiation that Pemberton is on the forefront of educational progress, along with our participation in the Excellent Educators for New Jersey pilot program, and the NJ State School Choice program.”

To achieve MSA-CESS accreditation, Pemberton Township Schools completed a comprehensive self-evaluation and hosted a volunteer evaluation team of independently-appointed educators, which conducted its own assessment and evaluation. Pemberton Township Schools has created a Strategic Plan to ensure ongoing school improvement. This months-long process was governed by a Steering Committee and involved the entire school community, including faculty, parents and students. For the seven-year-term of the accreditation, the Pemberton Township School community will engage in a Commission-directed series of reports and/or site visits to maintain the rigor of the accreditation process.

“This accreditation nationally recognizes the Pemberton faculty and staff for the great work they do in affording students the opportunity to get the best education possible,” said BOE president Perry Doyle, Sr.

Accreditation by MSA-CESS is recognized world-wide as an indicator of educational quality, trustworthiness, and commitment to ongoing school improvement. Cram offered his congratulations to the Pemberton Township School community, adding “Middle States accreditation recognizes prior achievements, a commitment to future accomplishments, and continuous improvement to help ensure that every child receives a quality education.”

Celebrating its 125th Anniversary in 2012, the Middle States Association accredits more than 3,500 public, private, parochial schools and school districts, including traditional and online programs, early-age education schools and supplementary education programs serving students preK-12, as well as colleges and universities. The Middle States region includes Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and in more than 85 countries around the

globe.

The Middle States Association is comprised of three commissions: Commission on Elementary Schools (CES), Commission on Secondary Schools (CSS) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHE).