



News Release

1101 West 7th Street
Columbia, TN 38401
Main: (931) 388-5363

Spring Hill Campus
756 Beechcroft Road
Spring Hill, TN 37174
Main: (931) 982-4529

CONTACT: Emily Lansdell
931-490-4302 / 615-686-1768
emily.lansdell@cabulldogs.org

Columbia Academy earns renewed accreditation with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

COLUMBIA, TENN (June 16, 2011) – Following a thorough internal review and the five-year review from an external quality assurance review team, Columbia Academy has received a renewal of its accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Columbia Academy is the **only private, college-preparatory school in Maury County** with this prestigious accreditation.



As part of parent organization AdvancEd, SACS is a non-governmental, voluntary agency that accredits nearly 13,000 public and non-public institutions throughout the world. Dedicated to advancing excellence in education through accreditation, research, and professional services, AdvancED is the world's largest education community, serving and engaging over 27,000 public and private schools and districts in 69 countries and serving nearly 16 million students.

“Accreditation with SACS is a great process that gives our school an opportunity to evaluate our strengths and weaknesses from external evaluators,” said CA President Dr. James Thomas. “It gives us the confirmation we need to move forward on exciting changes already underway. It gives our families the confidence to know that we’re committed to increasing student performance and maintaining a challenging, yet positive learning environment.”

The rigorous re-accreditation process is ongoing, added Thomas, but the external review team visits every five years with a follow-up after 2.5 years. CA received four commendations in this five-year review, which included the following commendation report statement: *“Columbia Academy students understand the rich history and purpose of the school and benefit from an environment which is a safe, orderly and nurturing Christian community whose focus is to foster a spirit of student success.”*

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“SACS accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school on the primary goal of creating lifelong learners,” said Dr. Mark Elgart, President/CEO of AdvancED. “Columbia Academy is to be commended for engaging in this process and demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement.”

Parents and interested community members can learn more about SACS accreditation at www.advanc-ed.org.

Columbia Academy is a PreK-12th grade college preparatory school founded in 1979 to provide high quality academics from a Christian perspective. With an enrollment of more than 650 students, CA is located on a beautiful 67-acre campus in Columbia, Tenn., formerly home to the Columbia Military Academy. CA also maintains a satellite campus for Jr. K- 4th grade students in Spring Hill, Tenn.

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