



## *Hope Academy*

*“Sowing the seeds of hope”*

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### **What Does it Mean to Be an ACSI Accredited School?**

Our administration, staff, and Board of Directors are working diligently on earning accreditation with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) to update our current AdvancED / Northwest Accreditation Commission accreditation. The accreditation program of ACSI is designed to assist member schools in achieving a standard of excellence and to encourage them in a continuous process of assessment and ongoing development. To desire excellence is to take seriously our commitment to Christ, whose name is excellent (Psalm 8:1). The process of achieving and maintaining accredited status is a means of proclaiming our commitment to doing things well.

The major benefit of ACSI accreditation for our school is the documentation of an intensive appraisal of each component of our ministry. The subsequent benefit is the status of being an accredited school. “Accreditation is a process of recognizing educational institutions for their standards, performance, integrity and quality” (Lowrie, 1984).

Accreditation enables our school to maintain and improve the quality of our educational program and to expand our implementation of a philosophy of Christian education. Two major themes are obvious throughout the ACSI accreditation program. First, the program probes the spiritual aspects of each component of our school. Second, the program addresses the educational quality and integrity of our school. The latter addresses the issues that demonstrate that the school is true to its own statements of philosophy, mission, and goals, and that it is meeting the standards of quality that are recognized by ACSI.

Meeting the accreditation standards and completing the self-study is a rigorous but very worthwhile process. It requires the intensive work of the school staff for several years. In responding to the questions in the ACSI Manual for School Accreditation-Evaluative Criteria, the school explains its approaches and assesses its strengths and weaknesses. It also suggests plans for improvement in each of the component areas of the self-study. Supplementary documentation was required to support the answers and conclusions of the self-study.