We are happy to share the Orchard Lake good news that the Prep's accreditation has been renewed! Thanks to all who share in the Unity of making *God. Family. St. Mary's.* a shining reality for our students and community.

"On behalf of our students, dedicated faculty and leadership team here at OLSM, I am proud to take this opportunity to share that though this was a Herculean Task – it was always a joy throughout, as we were able to open our doors to the Site Team and welcome them into our daily vocation of bringing about God's Kingdom through His Son Jesus and our Patroness – The Blessed Mother Mary," said Mr. Leonard Karschnia, OLSM Headmaster. "Thank you to all who contributed, and please know of our commitment to mission integrity and school improvement – the true essence of the accreditation journey. I'd like to share the following letter acknowledging everyone's efforts in this process."

A Letter from the Accreditation Team

Dear Mr. Karschnia, Headmaster of St. Mary's Preparatory –

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Detroit, the Department of Catholic Schools, and the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS) Accreditation Site Team, we are pleased to inform you and the St. Mary's Preparatory community that we fully affirm this community and feel you have done a wonderful job to receive accreditation status!

You should be very proud of all the hard work you and your staff have put into this process. This was a daunting task, but you took it on with grace and efficiency. On behalf of the Site Team, we thank you for your hospitality and grace. You have put your heart and soul into the students, staff, and community of St. Mary's Preparatory.

Congratulations!

Overall Comments from the Site Team:

St. Mary's Preparatory of the Orchard Lake Schools completed the MNSAA accreditation process using the second edition of the NCEA National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Secondary

Schools. The site team found a school community distinguished by a clear Catholic identity, collaborative leadership, strong academic aspirations, and sound operational practices. The review addressed the four pillars of Catholic school effectiveness: Mission and Catholic Identity, Governance and Leadership, Academic Excellence, and Operational Vitality.

St. Mary's Preparatory is a Catholic college-preparatory school for young men and women. Its programs are co-divisional, and the girls' program has been added since the last accreditation site visit. The school's mission states: Orchard Lake St. Mary's, a Roman Catholic college preparatory, is centered on God, strengthened by Family, and inspired by the tradition of Mary; committed to developing students of faith, intellect, and character. The site team observed this commitment to Catholic identity throughout the school. Teachers and students welcomed team members into their classrooms; the weekly "Convocation" united the Girls and Boys Divisions around the motto God. Family. St. Mary's. and the same values were evident across the campus and its programs. Together, these observations showed how the mission is implemented in daily school life.

The site team was impressed by the strong working relationships among the administrative leadership team, the Board of Directors, and the parent organizations. In interviews, Leonard Karschnia, Headmaster; Candace Castiglione, Director of Enrollment and Student Activities; and Russ Bone, Academic Dean, demonstrated mutual support and a shared commitment to staff, students, and families. This collaboration is reflected in structured student activities, building improvements, and service projects. Andrew Harrington, Chairman of the Board of Directors, also explained the Board's purpose, its relationship with the leadership team, and its members' dedication to the continued success of the Orchard Lake Schools.

St. Mary's Preparatory clearly values and strives for academic excellence. Classroom visits and discussions indicated that the academic program is robust and that students are valued and supported for success. Students also have access to a wide range of extracurricular activities that reflect varied interests and talents.

The site team also reviewed the school's Operational Vitality. Interviews with Todd Covert, CEO, and Mirko Vukelic, Business Manager, indicated that effective budgeting practices and financial checks and balances are in place. They also described a broader network of employees who support this pillar. In addition, the school's marketing and advancement plans are well developed and monitored.
St. Mary's Preparatory School's students, staff, parents, School Board, and leadership team share a strong commitment to Catholic faith and academic success. Throughout the review, the site team observed a community sustained by dedicated leadership, active parent partnership, and a clear sense of purpose. The team commends the school community for its accomplishments and for the demanding work that supports them.

You have much to be proud of at St. Mary's Preparatory. Thank you for the opportunity to review your report and learn about your school community.

The site team also thanks the school community for its generous hospitality. Congratulations on completing this important step in the accreditation process.