

BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION BY THE OCSA

The process as well as the status of accreditation can help a school in the following ways:

1. The school examines its own programs and processes in a methodical way which reveals areas needing attention.
2. The school receives external recognition of its commitment to a quality education.
3. The school receives clear and reasonable recommendations for improvement.
4. The school receives valuable input, validation, and support from other Orthodox educators working under the authority of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops.
5. The school receives accredited member status and benefits related to OCSA conferences and workshops.
6. The school gains access to member-specific levels of the OCSA website.
7. The school gains access to many grants, loans, matching funds, and scholarship programs that require a school be accredited.

THE PROCESS IN BRIEF

1. A school applies to be a candidate for accreditation from the OCSA.
2. The OCSA identifies the school as a candidate, supplies the school with the Accreditation Standards, and appoints a Site Visit Chair to work with the school.
3. The candidate school begins its Self-Study.
4. The school submits its Self-Study with necessary documentation to the OCSA Accreditation Committee.
5. A Site Visit is scheduled and conducted to validate the Self-Study, offer feedback to the school, and offer a recommendation to the Accreditation Committee.
6. The Site Visit Chair provides a written report to the school's Coordinator.
7. The school may respond in writing to the report.
8. The Site Visit Chair presents team's report and any responses from the school to the OCSA Accreditation Committee with the team's recommendation for or against accreditation.
9. The OCSA Accreditation Committee votes on the school's accreditation and notifies the school in writing of its decision with explanations.
10. Upon receipt of a positive vote, the school is an accredited member of the OCSA.

Fees

One time application fee	\$350.00
Annual membership fee (due w/application)	\$200. for schools w/under 200 students \$400. for school w/200-500 students \$600. for schools w/over 500 students
Stipend for visiting team leader (due at time of visit)	\$1500. -\$3000. depending on the size of the student population
Travel/hotel/meal expenses for the visiting team members	This amount will vary

OCSA APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION

Name of School _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

School phone _____ Fax _____

Parish and Diocese _____

Jurisdiction _____

Current Enrollment _____ Grades _____

Name of Head of School _____

Other Contact Person _____

Level of Accreditation the School is Requesting

- Single Star
- Double Star
- Triple Star

Other Accrediting Agency that Currently Recognizes the School _____

\$350.00 Application Fee Enclosed

Head of School Date

Head of Board Date

OCSA MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associate members are those school which:

- Have submitted an Associate Member application with an annual fee of \$350.00 to the OCSA
- Have filed a statement of principles with the OCSA
- Have provided a statement of accreditation with a recognized accrediting organization

Associate members may:

1. use the OCSA name and associate member logo on their promotional literature and websites
2. participate in the “school of the month” highlight on the OCSA website
3. receive self-study consultation as outlined in the OCSA Accreditation Handbook

CANDIDATE SCHOOLS

Candidate Schools are those schools which have applied to enter the accreditation process and have paid the appropriate fees to begin that process: \$350.00 one time application fee and \$500.00 annual membership fee.

ACCREDITED MEMBERS

Accredited members are schools which have completed the accreditation process and have been approved for accreditation and paid all related fees, stipends, and visiting team expenses.

SINGLE STAR ACCREDITATION

Single Star Accredited members are those schools which have met OCSA accreditation standards by:

- having completed an OCSA self-study
- having a broadly conceived and understood Mission, Vision, and Principles statements
- having a thoughtful statement of how an Orthodox school differs from other religious and secular schools with evidence that these differences are embodied in the day-to-day life of the school
- having a mapped curriculum
- having a strategic management process in place
- having conducted and published a stakeholder survey
- having a salary and professional development scheme based on a sound professional management plan
- having evidence of an active parent association
- having appropriate handbooks and employee policies and contracts in place
- having been visited, assessed, and approved by an OCSA directed site visitation team
- having paid site visit expenses and annual membership fees

Accredited members may:

1. use the OCSA name and accredited member logo on their promotional literature and websites,
2. participate in the “school of the month” highlight on the OCSA website,
3. access member-specific resources on the website,
4. receive consultation as outlined in the OCSA Accreditation Handbook

DOUBLE STAR ACCREDITATION

Double Star Accredited members are member schools which have met four of the following seven targeted outcomes:

- three years of audited and balanced budgets
- all grades scoring above 50% on a nationally normed test
- over 80% parent participation in annual fund
- teachers and administrators achieving 75% or more of SMART goals
- three consecutive years of enrollment growth
- a professional endowment fund established and producing 5% of annual budget based on a 5% drawdown of 3-year rolling average
- all buildings paid for or debt not in excess of endowment's market value

TRIPLE STAR ACCREDITATION

Triple Star Accredited members are member schools which can show that they have met six of the seven targeted outcomes outlined above.