



**Media Contact:** Angela Sanders  
Dir. of Development & Communication  
[asanders@lawtoncatholic.com](mailto:asanders@lawtoncatholic.com)

FOR RELEASE 5/22/19

## **St. Mary's earns accreditation**

Lawton, OK: 5/22/19 – St. Mary's Catholic School has once again been accredited by the Oklahoma Conference of Catholic Schools Accreditation Association (OCCSAA). The OCCSAA Board of Directors voted to approve the recommendation made by the Council of Commissioners to grant the school's preschool through eighth grades full accreditation.

"Our faculty works very diligently to meet and uphold standards of quality in order to maintain accreditation status," said Rev. Brian Buettner, pastor of St. Mary's. "I am so proud of how hard they work each and every day."

The OCCSAA is a member of the Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Commission (OPSAC), which assists the Oklahoma State Board of Education by monitoring and approving organizations that accredit private schools in the state.

OCCSAA Coordinator Allyson Helm said, "All members of the school community who worked toward this goal can be very proud."

St. Mary's goes through the accreditation process every seven years, and the entire faculty and staff is involved. Among meeting many other requirements, each teacher, along with Principal Stan Melby, was interviewed by the Council of Commissioners, which includes representatives from OPSAC, the Archdioceses of Tulsa and Oklahoma City and Newman University, as part of the accreditation.

"I could not be more proud of St. Mary's and our wonderful staff," said Melby. "All of them played a part in the school receiving accreditation for the next seven years."

St. Mary's is the region's only fully-accredited Catholic school, serving grades Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The school strives to develop the whole student – mind, body and spirit – in a safe and supportive environment. As a Project Lead the Way Distinguished School, St. Mary's is one of Oklahoma's top STEM schools. Visit [www.stmarys-ok.org](http://www.stmarys-ok.org) or call 580.355.5288 for more information.

###