



# *Gatewood Schools*

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October 8, 2008

Dear Parents and Gatewood community,

Following thirteen months of surveying, gathering information, and planning, we did it! Mr. Em Hubbard delivered the oral exit report from the SAIS Peer Review Team Tuesday afternoon, October 7, 2008. The report included commendations, recommendations for improvement in the next five years, and assurance that the team will recommend us for SAIS-SACS Dual Accreditation.

The report will be delivered to the SAIS office within two weeks. The SAIS office advises schools should allow up to 90 days to receive final approval and a certificate of accreditation. Mr. Hubbard has never known of the SAIS to deny accreditation to a school which was recommended by their peer review team.

The SAIS office did a spectacular job of assembling a team of five people with a wealth of knowledge who contributed greatly in the three days they were here. Our team represented educators from Trinity Collegiate School (Darlington, SC), Charleston Day School (Charleston, SC), Tattnell Square Academy (Macon), McCallie School (Chattanooga, TN) and St. George's Episcopal School (Milner, GA). I would be remiss not to mention the outstanding work of Cristi McElhenney during this entire process. She has become an awesome asset to our school in a short period of time. Additionally, a special thank you is extended to Ed and Michelle Blume who hosted the peer review team at their condos at Sojourn at Cuscowilla, Andrew Ward for his donations to the Sunday evening dinner at Waterside Restaurant, and all of you who provided food for the team.

The entire faculty, staff, board of directors, parents and student body are to be commended for this historic accomplishment in the life of our school.

Sincerely, Laura K. Thompson, Head of School