



## ST. PETER SCHOOL

*A Collaborative of St. Peter & St. Timothy Parishes*

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*The Mission of St. Peter Catholic School is to create a caring, mutually respectful and inclusive community that works together to promote spiritual, academic and social growth.*

May 22, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to share some important and exciting news about the accreditation process for St. Peter School. As of July 2024, our school, along with eleven other schools in the Diocese of Providence, has transitioned from NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) to **Lumen Accreditation**.

### What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary process where schools undergo a thorough review by an independent body to ensure they meet high standards of quality and effectiveness. It affirms that our academic programs, faculty, and mission are all aligned to provide an excellent education. Accreditation not only promotes accountability but also reassures families that our students are receiving the preparation needed for success in high school, college, and beyond.

### Why the Move to Lumen?

After a comprehensive review, the Catholic Schools Office, together with school principals, determined that Lumen Accreditation is a better fit for our mission of forming students in both academic excellence and Catholic faith. Lumen places equal emphasis on academic rigor, character formation, and religious education, core to who we are at St. Peter.

In addition, Lumen is affiliated with The Catholic University of America, which ensures its standards are both academically sound and aligned with our Catholic identity.

### How Does Lumen Compare to NEASC?

Lumen bases its accreditation on the **National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools**, published by the National Catholic Educational Association. These standards measure:

- Catholic mission and identity

- Governance and leadership
- Academic excellence
- Operational vitality

Furthermore, Lumen evaluates **35 distinct dimensions of academic excellence**, many of which are on par with or exceed those used by NEASC.

### **Will Lumen Accreditation Be Recognized?**

Yes. Lumen Accreditation is widely recognized and respected. Colleges and universities across the country accept students from Lumen-accredited schools. Lumen is recognized by both the **College Board** and the **National Council for Private School Accreditation**, the largest private school accrediting body in the U.S. Its affiliation with The Catholic University of America further strengthens its credibility.

We are confident that this new partnership with Lumen will support our ongoing commitment to providing a **world-class education rooted in faith**. Thank you for your continued trust in St. Peter School.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christine Desmarais".

Christine Desmarais  
Principal, St. Peter School