

Eastwood College -Mansourieh
September 28,2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I trust that you and your families have enjoyed the summer holidays and are ready for a new, exciting school year.

Eastwood College is proud to announce that it is officially beginning the accreditation process this year with *The Commission of International and Trans- Regional Accreditation (CITA)/AdvanceEd*. CITA/AdvanceED is an internationally recognized organization for accrediting schools within the United States and in 65 other countries.

Accreditation is a means of maintaining school improvement and measuring school processes against external standards. The main aim of accreditation is to provide an opportunity to improve the quality of education offered at the school. There are a number of benefits associated with the award of accreditation to a school:

- **An internationally recognized mark of quality:** an accredited school's is a reassurance to the school community and to other individuals and establishments (including universities) that the school offers a quality education
- **Rigorous self-examination:** all school staff will undergo a yearlong self-study and will meet collaboratively to discuss issues, to identify concerns, and to propose improvements for the whole school
- **Objective external assessment:** at the end of a self-study, external professional educators from CITA will provide Eastwood with feedback and will continue to monitor the school's progress and improvement over the years

The self-study or self-review will engage all members of the school community. Your input in this process is extremely valuable; therefore, over the next few months, you will be encouraged to fill in surveys to provide us data about your opinion of the school. Every Wednesday afternoon, teachers will be engaged in conducting the self study and analyzing data, and receiving professional development. The self-study will help identify points of weakness and strength in the following areas:

- Philosophy and objectives
- Leadership and governance
- Curriculum, assessment and teaching
- Staff selection, training and evaluation
- Resources and student services: guidance, safety, health, transportation, facility maintenance, and nutrition
- Communication and relationships between the school and community

This October, we will be hosting a CITA representative in order to plan the steps for the next year and clarify the evaluation process. Hopefully, the school will move to Candidate status following the visit.

I encourage you to come to me with any questions concerning the school's accreditation. I look forward to working together with you towards the school's improvement.

Kind regards,

Joelle Khoury
Accreditation Facilitator