

Sarasota Military Academy Oral Exit Report

October 21, 2008

Quality Assurance Review Team
School Accreditation



Hooah !!!

- **On behalf of the Quality Assurance Team, I extend:**
 - **Our appreciation for your hospitality, support, and professionalism;**
 - **Our respect and acknowledgement of the dedicated staff; and**
 - **Our congratulations for completing the Quality Assurance Review process.**

A Picture of AdvancED



World's Largest Educational Community

- 23,000 public and private schools
- 30 states and Navajo Nation
- Department of Defense Education Activity
- 65 countries
- 15 million students
- 18,000 volunteers
- 3 million plus teachers

A Picture of AdvancED

Dedicated to Advancing Excellence in Education through:



Accreditation

- Standards, continuous improvement, quality assurance
- **NCA CASI and SACS CASI** are the accreditation divisions of AdvancED

Professional Services

- Professional development, technical assistance, conferences, consulting

Research and Innovation

- Publications, resources, tools, evaluation

School Accreditation

A national protocol for schools committed to systemic, systematic, and sustainable improvement

- Builds the capacity of the school to increase and sustain student learning
- Stimulates and supports improvement and effectiveness throughout the school

School Accreditation

- Ensures all people, processes, departments in the school work in concert
- Strengthens efforts to meet accountability requirements
- Encourages growth beyond compliance to achieve excellence
- Promotes continuous not episodic improvement

Pillars of Accreditation

To earn and maintain accreditation, schools must:

1. Meet the **AdvancED Quality Standards**
2. Engage in **Continuous Improvement**
3. Demonstrate **Quality Assurance** through Internal and External Review



Purpose & Role of the Quality Assurance Review Team

1. Determine the extent to which the School meets the *AdvancED* standards.
2. Assess the efficacy of the School's improvement efforts.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the School's methods for quality assurance.
4. Provide high-quality feedback with clear recommendations and actionable next steps.
5. Make an accreditation recommendation.

Activities of the Quality Assurance Review Team

- Artifacts/documents review
- Interviews
- School visits
- Observations
- Professional deliberations

Interviews with Stakeholders

- During the on-site Quality Assurance Review, team members interviewed:
 - 4 Administrators & Leadership Team
 - 10 Teachers
 - 6 Support Staff
 - 25 Parents and Community Members
 - 22 Students

TOTAL of 67 stakeholders

Sarasota Military Academy Voices

“Finest kids I have ever seen ” *citizen from Kentucky*

“Discipline is such that it allows teachers to teach” *parent*

“ Everyone is given an equal opportunity to lead” *parent*

“ We’re a great school, but we want to get better” *teacher*

“Her voice is being heard and being molded into a leader ” *parent*

“We are perpetuating honor of God, country, family, self ” *teacher*

“They teach leadership begins with leading self ” *parent*

“I enjoy coming here” *student*

“We’re doing good things in a better way” *student*

“There isn”t a better civic education than their community involvement” *community leader*

“I was so impressed with the politeness of the cadets” *citizen*

“I am proud of their academic accomplishments, but I am even more proud of the lessons they have learned in citizenship, respect and patriotism” *Board member*

Criteria Used to Arrive at the Team's Findings

- When reviewing evidence to arrive at its findings, the team:
 - Sought a school-wide perspective;
 - Pursued evidence that could be corroborated through multiple sources;
 - Examined the context and capacity of the school in relation to its vision, mission, and beliefs; and
 - Applied the criteria for accreditation.

Summary of Team's Findings

Commendations

- Significant accomplishments in meeting and/or exceeding accreditation standards and requirements

Recommendations

- Actions that will enhance school effectiveness and improve student learning; recommendations must be addressed within two years of the visit

Commendations

The Quality Assurance Review Team commends Sarasota Military Academy for:

- Far exceeding the school vision as it provides a superior education in a military environment instilling principles of leadership, discipline, patriotism and honor.
- Committing to a safe and orderly learning environment enhanced by a student requested annual random drug test
- Providing an extraordinary variety of extracurricular activities
- Recognizing and fully implementing gender equity in all activities
- Participating in a high level of student competitive activities that bring credit to themselves and SMA

Commendations

- High number of faculty volunteers who give of their own time to assist students
- High level of parental involvement that is specific, purposeful and measurable
- Extraordinary active community service- color guard, CERT, senior citizen breakfast, Mail to the Military, Adopt a Family
- Enhanced classroom technology level with Active Boards, 1 student to 2 computer ratio, science labs with 12 computers and virtual lab capability
- Students enjoy challenging curriculum with high expectations
- Awarded US Army Honor Unit with Distinction 586/600pts 2008
- SMA focuses on character development to build better citizens
- SMA culture and climate enhances enjoyment, engagement and ownership
- Five Star High School six consecutive years
- 89% graduation rate
- 92% accepted in college

Commendations

- **Commitment to the future through construction of a new \$4.3 million dollar two story academic and gymnasium building, which enhances the existing positive learning environment and instilling a new sense of pride**
- **Planning for the future with a vision to replace existing academic wings and renovation of cafeteria**
- **The high percentage of faculty with advanced degrees**
- **The inspirational leadership by the Headmaster who guides the school through integrity, passion and dedication to its vision and mission.**

Recommendations

The Quality Assurance Review Team recommends that Sarasota Military Academy :

- ✓ **Review need for on line capability for data warehousing to provide access by parents to their student's academic performance**
- ✓ **Review the SMA organizational chart to ensure continuity of instructional leadership**

Next Steps

- Written report of findings submitted within 30 days
- After receipt of the report, the school is expected to:
 - Review and communicate the findings.
 - Address the recommendations.
 - Monitor accreditation standards on ongoing basis.
 - Monitor strategies for improvement.
 - Submit the Accreditation Progress Report two years following this review.

Accreditation Recommendation

- The Quality Assurance Review Team recommends to the Advanced Accreditation Commission that the **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY** be awarded **SACS CASI Accreditation** as a quality school.
- Once reviewed and approved by the Advanced Accreditation Commission, the school is granted a 5-year term accreditation.

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for Quality Systems
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Excellence in
Education Worldwide***

