





# Lakewood Catholic Academy & St. Edward's High School

Diocese of Cleveland

NCEA Members Since: 2006 (LCA) and 1997 (St. Ed's)

● **Lakewood Catholic Academy is paving the way for Catholic schools across the country as the first Catholic school to introduce the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) in the state of Ohio.** It's neighboring high school, St. Edward's, is home to the largest IB Diploma Programme in the state. Together, these schools are showing that a faith-based institution provides world class education. IB recognizes each student's critical role as a citizen of the world and therefore encourages and promotes international mindedness.

● **Using global contexts, MYP students develop an understanding of their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet through developmentally appropriate explorations of:**

- identities and relationships
- personal and cultural identity
- orientations in space and time
- scientific and technical innovation
- fairness and development
- globalization and sustainability

The MYP is not a curriculum. Rather, it outlines an approach to teaching and learning that emphasizes inquiry, reflection, and action.

● **The partnership between LCA and St. Ed's began through discussions between school presidents Brian Sinchak and Jim Kubacki two years ago.** The two began to discuss the merits of IB approaches to teaching and learning, and St. Edward's success with the implementation of the IB Diploma Programme. It became clear to both leaders that the opportunity to form a partnership between middle and high school programs located in close proximity in Lakewood, based on the outstanding curriculum, assessment and pedagogy of IB, would be differentiating for the two schools. And it would represent a tremendous and unique educational opportunity for Catholic students throughout metro-Cleveland.

● **Partnerships between elementary and secondary Catholic schools serve to optimize resources, both intellectual and structural.** Catholic schools traditionally look at themselves as K-8 or 9-12. Although informal collaboration exists, formal partnerships that are sustained over time rarely do. Catholic schools at every level must be innovative and must constantly strive for excellence. Joining talented teachers and leaders to pursue goals, IB or otherwise, results in greater growth over time and promotes a positive, challenging atmosphere where we can work to create the very best educational institutions.

● **Change is challenging.** Time is our most precious resource. Positive, intentional, transformational change takes time. Teachers have devoted time and effort to design a more active, student-centered classroom. Our students experience language immersion, frequent scientific investigations, engaging debates, and challenging problem solving activities. Increasingly, classrooms are filled with student inquiry rather than traditional direct instruction. Any substantive change is both invigorating and challenging. The IB journeys at St. Ed's, now six years in, and at LCA, over the past year, have served as catalysts to ensure that teaching and learning at both schools is authentic, student-centered, inquiry-driven and 21st-century skill-building. In the end, however, the leadership at both schools knows that the IB approach and values are consistent with the best of Catholic education and mission in 2016 and beyond. Catholic schools must innovate in positive and forward-thinking ways in order to remain critical educational institutions.