



IMAGINE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF MABLETON

AN IMAGINE SCHOOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Marcus Barber

(678) 384-8920

Marcus.barber@imagineschools.com

Imagine Mableton receives SACS accreditation

Charter school remains committed to academic success

MABLETON, GA (August 6, 2010) – Imagine International Academy of Mableton, which opened in 2007, has achieved a major goal in its young existence – accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), one of the two accreditation divisions of AdvancED, the world’s largest educational community.

After an extensive review of the school’s policies, curricula, procedures, school culture, and personnel, SACS awarded Imagine Mableton a five-year term of accreditation as a “quality school.” The SACS recommendation caps a spring and summer of upbeat news for the three-year-old Imagine charter school. Last year’s CRCT testing produced outstanding school-wide results in reading. IIAM’s 89 percent school-wide average far surpassed state requirements and was higher than the Cobb district average. The school is eagerly awaiting the AYP results, which are dependent on math retest outcomes.

As part of Imagine Schools, a national family of public charter schools, the school is evaluated annually using five measures of excellence. The academic achievement measure focuses on “same-student learning gains” on the Stanford SAT-10, which is a better measure of school quality by demonstrating how much each child learned over the course of the year. Conversely, year-end proficiency tests only measure what students know at a point in time, which may be attributable to a former school where students have fallen behind grade level.

(continued)

Imagine Mableton administers the Stanford-10 test to the same students once in the fall semester and again in the spring. The school uses those incremental learning gains to measure its success. For the 2009-2010 school year, 59% of Imagine Mableton students demonstrated average learning gains of one year or more in reading and math. With learning gains exceeding the national norms (in which 50% of students exceed learning gain expectations), students at Imagine Mableton are demonstrating above average academic gains.

Principal Marcus Barber attributed the successful accreditation and learning gain scores to the positive partnership between the teachers, staff, parents, and students. He commented, “The involvement of parents in Imagine Mableton is one of the leading indicators of maturity and success. This past May, the Georgia PTA recognized imagine Mableton’s PTA as a Model PTA. I am confident that this strong relationship between the PTA and the school staff will further enhance our opportunities for academic success and dampen the impact of budget reductions.”

Barber further stated, “With the major hurdle of accreditation review behind us, Imagine Mableton now looks toward its next challenge – maintaining a commitment to low teacher-pupil ratio and retention of teachers and support staff, despite budget-driven trends toward larger class sizes. Other major focuses include further improvement of reading and math test scores and increased emphasis on developing the school’s International Baccalaureate Curriculum.”

This year, accreditation review teams from SACS reviewed three of Imagine’s Georgia regional schools. All three schools – Imagine Smyrna, Imagine Wesley, and Imagine Mableton – were recommended for accreditation. Imagine Marietta, the fourth school in the Imagine Georgia family, was accredited before the last school year began.

###

Imagine Mableton is a tuition-free public charter school in Cobb County and currently serves 583 students in grades K-8. For more information about Imagine Mableton, visit www.iamableton.com. For more information about Imagine Schools, go to www.imagineschools.com.

Imagine International Academy of Mableton * 6688 Mableton Parkway * Mableton, GA 30126