



10 November 2021

Nicolle Hutchinson, MEd  
Executive Director  
Gillingham Charter School  
915 Howard Ave.  
Pottsville, PA 17901

Dear Ms. Hutchinson:

What an interesting two years we have had with the Covid-19 pandemic. Many plans have had to be put on hold and much is not as it was. Gillingham Charter School (GCS) has moved forward even in such difficult times. CMI looks forward to a continued relationship.

The purpose of this letter is to affirm GCS' accreditation is in good standing with the Charlotte Mason Institute (CMI), to mention some evidences for GCS' good standing, and to give you a brief map for what is ahead over the next year.

First, please know that GCS is in compliance and has maintained accreditation through CMI.

Second, listed below are several important details in support of GCS' "good standing" in terms of accreditation through CMI.

Third, this letter ends with what to expect in the near future related to accreditation renewal which has been delayed because of Covid-19.

There were six (6) areas of recommendations that the visiting team gave to the school from the last accreditation in 2017. These areas were: Professional Development, Instruction, Curriculum, School Future, Assessment and Governance. Listed below is each area of recommendation and a few examples of how GCS has met those. All the examples of how GCS has met the recommendations are too many to list.

***Professional Development***



GCS has shown growth and provided documentation for continued efforts in the area of professional development. An example of this is the math program. CMI monitored mathematics examinations and as a result a joint decision with CMI and GCS was taken to synthesize the Singapore Math program with the Right Start Math program. On the recommendation of CMI, Suzanne Bazak, a mathematics professional coach from Roanoke City Public Schools trained the faculty in relational mathematics instruction that included pacing guides, mathematics lesson planning and the methods of Singapore Math. There are other examples of your continued professional development with CMI. In the autumn of 2020, CMI recommended that Andra Smith provide two (2) sessions that would train faculty on working memory and reward issues in children with Executive Function Deficits/ADHD and the need for making accommodations to their particular needs, especially during remote instruction. Based on feedback from Ms. Hutchinson and the faculty, these sessions were helpful and successful.

### ***Instruction***

One of GCS' goals for instruction was to get official training for teacher certification in the methods of Charlotte Mason. CMI is continuing to develop protocols in order that teachers may gain certification as Charlotte Mason Trained (CMT) and/or Charlotte Mason Certified (CMC) teachers. In 2017 to accomplish this goal CMI was granted funds from the Templeton World Charity Foundation to develop courses. This project was completed this past summer having been held up for a year or more because of Covid-19. The CMI protocols are still under development and hopefully, will be available in the autumn of 2022. In the meantime, to assist GCS in the preparation of new teachers who come on staff and need assistance, Dr. Carroll Smith provided training in mentoring, preparing several teachers at GCS to become mentors for new teachers. This program enables faculty to receive on the spot training and support.

### ***Curriculum Development***

Based on the evidence in the reports, GCS completed its humanities rotation in 2017. Further you have implemented a procedure for continuous review of your humanities curriculum. Pacing guides have been developed as well.

### ***School Culture***

GCS' goal was to train a number of faculty in Restorative Practices and Responsive Classrooms. This goal was accomplished by training all faculty and staff and training several faculty to be Restorative Practices Trainers. This has proven to be money well spent.

### ***Assessment***

Lisa Cadora on the recommendation of CMI trained the faculty in the writing of rubrics in the autumn of 2015 and monitored their work for several months and followed that with a check-in in the spring of 2017 to determine how the project was proceeding.



### ***Governance***

An example of how GCS has responded to the governance recommendation is the Strategic Calendar which indicates when decisions are made throughout the calendar year. GCS has also supplied a list of Risk Management Policies that are evidence of how seriously GCS takes this responsibility. There are many other examples.

The evidences for GCS' continued good standing as an accredited school through CMI are clear.

Because of Covid-19, accreditation processes have been delayed yet another year, that is, until the autumn of 2022. This goes past the six (6) year period. Each year that renewal accreditation is delayed GCS will receive a visit by a CMI School Inspector. This inspection, as GCS just received this past October, keeps the school in good standing with CMI.

And, further, because of the time that schools were closed as a result of Covid-19, CMI took advantage of the time and restructured its accreditation process. This new process will be forthcoming by this summer. Another decision as to whether or not to proceed in the autumn of 2022 with GCS' renewal will be made this summer by the first of July 2022. If the pandemic has subsided, then plans can move forward with a full accreditation process. If the decision is not to move forward because of the continued disruption caused by the pandemic, GCS can expect a surprise visit by a CMI School Inspector. Costs for this visit will be determined once the decision for the autumn of 2022 has been made in July of 2022.

GCS will also be expected to send to CMI your yearly goals and the evidences of the accomplishment of those goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with Gillingham Charter School. The Institute looks forward to our continued relationship.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JCS", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

J. Carroll Smith, EdD  
Coordinator of Accreditation