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## BRANDON ACADEMY CHOSEN TO RECEIVE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

Brandon, FL (September 23, 2010) - Brandon Academy has been named a National Blue Ribbon Award winning school by the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Secretary Duncan made the announcement on behalf of the U.S. Dept of Education.

"We qualified for the award because our school scored in the top ten percent in the nation on the Stanford Achievement Test," said School Head Master Robert Rudolph. "We also had to show what made our school unique through a self assessment of all aspects of our school including our curriculum, instructional methods, enrichment in the arts and technology, physical education, athletics and other extra-curricular activities, field trips, participation and success in national academic competitions including the Geography Bee and the Scripps Spelling Bee as well as our parental involvement."

Selected from thousands of schools, Rudolph says the National Blue Ribbon Award was given to only 50 private schools in the nation. "Only three other private schools in the state of Florida received the award this year and Brandon Academy was the only school, public or private, to win the honor in Hillsborough County." Rudolph stated "The award is a validation of all of the hard work by our teachers and students. It's fulfilling to know that hard work is recognized and honored. It shows that the best resides here in Brandon."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. Officials from Brandon Academy will be travelling to Washington, D.C. in November when each school receives a plaque and flag signifying their status. These schools then serve as models for other schools throughout the nation.

"Now that we have been chosen for the award, Brandon Academy is recognized as one of the elite in the nation. This will help our students who will be able to attend the high school of their choice which has become a very competitive task," said Rudolph.

Brandon Academy is located at 801 Limona Road, Brandon, Florida. This year, celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year, Brandon Academy, a PreK–8<sup>th</sup> Grade school, is the only Private School in Brandon with an accreditation in Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) and the Florida Kindergarten Council (FKC). For more information, call Brandon Academy at (813) 689-1952 or visit <u>www.brandonacademy.com</u>