



ANSAA Member Newsletter

Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association
2209 South 18th Place - Rogers, AR 72758
479-246-0032

August 1, 2017

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On behalf of the ANSAA Board of Directors, we welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year. We are pleased to have you as part of our association and we look forward to assisting you in maintaining your school's excellent reputation by adhering to professional standards through the ANSAA Accreditation Process.

ANSAA Board Members

ANSAA Officers 2017-2018:

President / Gary Arnold, Head of School; Little Rock Christian Academy, LR
Vice President / Sharon Stewart, Principal; Southwest Christian Academy, LR
Secretary / Ileana Dobbins, Principal; Our Lady of Holy Souls, Little Rock
Treasurer / Sharon Morgan, Head of School; The Anthony School, Little Rock

ANSAA Board Members Re-elected for Three Year Terms / 2017-2018

Board Position #7 Gary Arnold, Head of School; Little Rock Christian Academy, LR
Board Position #8 Sharon Stewart, Principal; Southwest Christian Academy, LR
Board Position #9 Greg Jones, President; Shiloh Christian School, Springdale
Board Position #10 Sharon Morgan, Head of School; The Anthony School, LR

ANSAA Board Members Currently Serving

Position #1 Vernell Bowen	2015-18	Position #6 Sharon Blentlinger	2016-19
Position #2 Leesa Renshaw	2015-18	Position #7 Gary Arnold	2017-20
Position #3 Dennis Chapman	2015-18	Position #8 Sharon Stewart	2017-20
Position #4 Bode Teague	2016-19	Position #9 Greg Jones	2017-20
Position #5 Ileana Dobbins	2016-19	Position #10 Sharon Morgan	2017-20

New ANSAA Board Member, Dennis Chapman

Dennis Chapman, The New School, Fayetteville (Position #3) will begin serving on the ANSAA Board of Directors this year. His expertise, guidance, and wisdom will be a tremendous assistance to the organization. Mr. Chapman fills the position vacated by Dr. Ron Fellers last year due to a career change. We thank both Dennis and Ron for their dedication to ANSAA.

New Administrators are invited to attend ANSAA Orientation on

Friday, September 8, 2017 from 12:00-2:30 at St. John's Center, LR. Lunch provided.

New Chief ANSAA Administrators for 2017-2018

Bentonville Christian Academy, Bentonville
Blessed Sacrament School, Jonesboro
Christ the King Catholic School, Fort Smith
Crowley's Ridge Academy, Paragould
Episcopal Collegiate School, Little Rock
Ridgefield Christian School, Jonesboro
St. Boniface Catholic School, Fort Smith
St. John Catholic School, Hot Springs
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School, Rogers
Subiaco Academy, Subiaco
Trinity Christian School, Texarkana
Union Christian Academy, Fort Smith

Clay Hendrix, Headmaster
Mary Kay Jones, Principal
Jeff Plake, Principal
Raymond Lasley, Superintendent
David Perkinson, Head of School
Willet Young, Headmaster
Rebecca Kaeline, Principal
Paul Guild, Principal
Alice Stautzenberger, Principal
Mike Berry, Interim Headmaster
Thad Todd, Head of School
Ricky Massengale, Principal

Congratulations Schools Completing ANSAA Accreditation in 2016-2017

Accreditation Renewals:

Immaculate Conception School, NLR (K-8)	Marcia Brucks, Principal
North Little Rock Catholic Academy, NLR (K-8)	Denise Troutman, Principal
Trinity Catholic Jr. High School, Fort Smith (7-9)	Dr. Karen Hollenbeck, Principal

Dual Accreditation Renewals:

Central Arkansas Christian Schools, NLR (K-12)	Dr. Carter Lambert, President
Little Rock Christian Academy, LR (K-12)	Dr. Gary Arnold, Head of School

Initial Accreditation:

Annoor Academy of Fort Smith (K-9), Fort Smith	Fareeda Al Refai, CEO
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ANSAA Site Visit Dates 2017-2018

ANSAA Renewals:

Crowley Ridge Academy (K-12), Paragould	Greg Kinser, President	February 18-20, 2018
Mount St. Mary Academy (9-12), Little Rock	Angela Collins, Principal	December 3-5, 2017
Trinity Christian School (K-12), Texarkana	Thad Todd, Head of School	February 4-6, 2018

Dual Accreditation Renewals:

Avilla Christian School (K-12), Alexander	Rich Meyers, Principal	TBA
Columbia Christian School (K-12), Magnolia	Ted Waller, Superintendent	April 8-10, 2018
Life Way Christian School (K-12), Centerton	Dr. Luke Bowers, Administrator	Sept. 24-27, 2017

Initial Accreditation Candidate Status:

Harvest Time Academy (K-6), Fort Smith	Michelle Sloan, Director	TBA
Our Lady of Fatima, (K-8), Benton	Jan Cash, Principal	TBA

ANSAA School Updates

New Associate School: Bentonville Christian Academy (K-6), Bentonville has joined ANSAA for the 2017-2108 school year. The school opened in 2010.

School Closure: Aspire Academy (K-5), Little Rock, Ambassadors for Christ Academy (K-12), Bentonville, and Equip K-12 Academy (K-12), Jonesboro closed their doors at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

ANSAA Self Study

The 2017 Edition of the ANSAA Self-Study is complete. The instrument is an accreditation tool that directly correlates with the ANSAA standards found in the current ANSAA Policy Manual. Any school interested in obtaining a copy of the Self-Study or scheduling staff training on the use of the instrument should contact Kristine Grelle at 479-246-0032 or kristine.grelle@cox.net.

ANSAA Summer Workshops

Thanks to all host schools, presenters, and participants assisting in making the ANSAA 2017 Summer Professional Development Workshops such a success. Evaluations will continue to be reviewed to develop future recommendations for the use of the Title II-A federal funds. ANSAA appreciates all the cooperation and guidance offered by the Arkansas Department of Education and Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative in supporting our collaborative efforts in organizing professional development for our ANSAA schools. The workshops and all supporting materials continue to be offered free of charge.

Bring attention to your school's accreditation and national recognition by adding links to your school's website and promotional materials that includes ANSAA (ansaa.net), NFSSAA (nfssaa.com), and CAPE (capenet.org). Your school is a member of both of these national organizations through ANSAA.

Arkansas New Laws and Regulations

Specific information regarding state laws can be found on ANNSA.com under the “Laws and Legislation” tab. This includes all changes made in the last legislative session.

1. **Act 1178 / The Succeed Scholarship Program**

The Succeed Scholarship Program was established to provide a scholarship to a private school of choice for students with disabilities that have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. At the conclusion of the Legislature 2016 Fiscal Session, up to \$800,000 was appropriated for the program starting in the 2016-2017 school year.

House Bill 1056 – PASSED, Act 637

This bill would allow a family to request that their local Superintendent waive the 1-year public school attendance requirement in order to be eligible for the Succeed Scholarship Program. It is our understanding that this bill was filed in direct response to requests from families who wish to be eligible for the program.

House Bill 1461 – PASSED, Act 327

This bill expands the number of schools who are eligible to participate in the Succeed Scholarship Program. The bill would allow schools who are in the process of becoming accredited to receive students through the program. This bill was filed as a result of several schools who specifically serve students with learning differences and special needs who are currently unable to participate in the program.

2. **Act 173 / Dual Enrollment in Public-Private School**

This bill allows a homeschool or private school student to enroll in an academic course at a public school. In many curriculum areas, this practice is already being done, but this bill formalizes the process.

3. **Act 453 / Homeschool Students Participate in Private School Activities**

This bill would allow homeschool students to participate in an extracurricular activity through a private school. A similar bill, also sponsored by Rep. Lowery, was passed in 2013 to allow homeschool students to participate in public school extracurricular activities.

2017-2018 ANSAA Events:

Friday, Sept. 8

New Admin. Orientation

Monday, Sept. 11

ANSAA Board Meeting

Monday, Nov. 13

ANSAA Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 14

ANSAA Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 6

ANSAA Board Meeting

Monday, June 4

ANSAA Board Meeting

June 6-7, St. Louis

NFNSSAA Annual Meeting

Summer 2018

CAPE Meeting

National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Associations (NFNSSAA.com)

The NFNSSAA Annual Meeting was held in Detroit, MI on June 7-8, 2017. The following states were present: Arkansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. The agenda items included:

NFNSSAA Action Plans Completed in 2016-2017

- Set-up monthly teleconferences with member states to assist in carrying out action plans
- Upgraded NFNSSAA website and logo to include highlighted information on state chapters (NFNSSAA.com)
- Distributed NFNSSAA Recognition Certificate for state chapter accredited schools

NFNSSAA Action Plans for 2017-2018

- Continue to use the NFNSSAA Dropbox for electronically storing state reports and membership data
- Continue to market NFNSSAA and encourage school's to link to the website
- Continue to network with states regarding accreditation challenges and processes
- Link Member States with the NFNSSAA website
- Revised fee structure and increased state dues

NFNSSAA Officers for 2017-2018: Dan Bauer, President (MO), Angelia Salas, Vice President (MI), Bea Weiland, Secretary (WI), and Sarah Mueller, Treasurer (MN)

Arkansas Activity Association / AAA

The Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) Annual Meeting of the Governing Body was held on July 31, 2017 in Little Rock. The focus of the meeting was to consider the following nine proposals to amend the AAA Constitution and Bylaws which will be voted on by the state membership.

Proposal No. 1 / Ejection Penalty and Review

* Pass

Participant is prohibited from participation (ineligible) from the point of ejection plus next 4 consecutive quarters (football) or next comparable event (all other sports).

Proposal No. 2 / Football Game Limitations

* Pass

Participants are prohibited from participating in more than 5 quarters per calendar day.

Proposal No. 3 / District Conversion Charter

* Pass

The school of innovation or district conversion charter school shall participate at the same classification as the highest classified school in their district.

Proposal No. 4 / Christmas Dead Period

* Pass

All AAA member schools will observe a 3 consecutive day athletic dead period during Christmas Break.

Proposal No. 5 / Amateurism

* Pass

Creates a clearer definition of amateurism.

Proposal No. 6 / Summer Competition Days

* Pass

School teams and individual students are limited to 8 days of competitive activities during summer break.

Proposal No. 7 / Tennis Season

* Pass

Revise "Season and Event Limitations:" Tennis begins on week 6 and state event held on week 15.

Proposal No. 8 / Classification of Schools

* Fail

Revise classification of schools for regional and state tournament.

Proposal No. 9 / Classification of Schools

* Pass

Revise classification of schools for regional and state tournament.

ANSAA's Mission and Advocacy Work

"The mission of the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (ANSAA) is to maintain and enhance the quality of education within our diverse member schools through assessment, accountability, and internal review. Using a process of self-study and professional site visits, ANSAA schools demonstrate compliance with established standards which are designed to support ongoing improvement."



Again this year the ANSAA Board of Directors would like to invite each school to consider making a donation towards the advocacy work of ANSAA that extends beyond its mission. These efforts include working with the Arkansas Department of Education to provide professional development, national and state recognition and verification of our accredited schools, clarification of regulations and state laws pertaining to private schools, and inclusion in state programs such as non-traditional licensure (APPEL). Additionally, ANSAA works with national organizations such as NFNSSAA and CAPE to provide schools with national networking acknowledgement. These efforts require a financial commitment which has been offset by pursuing ANSAA Corporate Sponsorships. If your school would like to make a contribution, please include your donation on the "Annual Membership Application & Fees" Form.

ANSAA Mandatory Reporting Information

All forms for the 2017-18 ANSAA Annual Reports are listed on ANSAA.com with detailed instructions. Contact the ANSAA office (479-246-0032) if you need assistance with the forms. All forms have been updated with some deletions and additions from previous years. Please do not alter the forms to fit a different format or use forms from previous years. Note that the filing process for accredited schools has been changed from that of previous years. Details regarding these changes are noted on the ANSAA website, August email to administrators, and beginning at the top of the column to the right.

ANSAA Forms, Reports, & Fees - Due September 15

All forms and information related to the ANSAA Annual Report must be submitted either electronically or by mail, according to the directives provided, to the ANSAA office by the September 15, 2017. If the forms and/or payments are submitted after the September 15th deadline, include a late fee of \$100.

ANSAA Policy Manual

The ANSAA Policy Manual Edition 2015 will be used as a reference to identify all ANSAA Standards. Annual Report Forms (Elementary, Secondary, and Non-Accredited) are correlated to the 2015 Policy Manual Edition which was e-mailed to all head administrators in August, 2017.

E-Mail Addresses for Administrators & Directory

ANSAA information will be sent to school administrators by e-mail. The Membership Application indicates the school e-mail address that will be listed in the ANSAA Directory. Under Chief Executive Officer on the membership form, include the e-mail addresses of other school administrators that need to receive ANSAA information. The new ANSAA Directory for 2017-2018 will be posted on ANSAA.com the first week in October after the review of all ANSAA Annual Reports.

Associate Schools Annual Reports:

Mail to ANSAA Office by September 15

ANSAA Non-Accredited Associate Schools must include the following forms along with applicable payments to:

*Kristine Grelle, ANSAA Executive Director
2209 South 18th Place / Rogers, AR 72758*

- Associate Schools Annual Membership Application & Fees
- ANSAA Non-Accredited Associate Annual Report
- ANSAA Annual Meeting Registration
- Application for Initial Accreditation (candidate status schools only)
- ANSAA New Administrator Qualifications (if applicable)
- ANSAA New Administrator Orientation (if applicable)

Accredited Schools Annual Reports:

Email to ANSAA Office by September 15

All Accredited School Forms will be completed in Microsoft Excel. The complete Excel Annual Report must be submitted electronically by September 15, to kristine.grelle@cox.net.

The following information must also be attached to the email:

- Written Report Addressing Major Recommendations

A list of the Major Recommendations from the school's last accreditation site visit must be sent annually along with a current progress report stating how the school is addressing the recommendations. Schools completing site visits in the past six years were sent templates for reporting on major recommendations.

- Audit Verification Letter (if applicable)

If the school conducted a 2016-2017 school audit, include a verification letter from the auditing firm or CPA with the annual report.

- ANSAA New Administrator Qualifications Form (if applicable)

Mail to ANSAA Office by September 15

ANSAA Accredited Schools must mail a copy of the "Accredited Schools Annual Membership Application & Fees" page from the Excel Electronic Annual Report along with applicable payments to:

*Kristine Grelle, ANSAA Executive Director
2209 South 18th Place / Rogers, AR 72758*

Payment included with the "Accredited Schools Annual Membership Application & Fees" form includes:

- Base Fees (\$450 Elementary/ \$450 Secondary) and Enrollment Fees (\$2/student in K5-12)
- Registration fee of \$50 for first participant/\$25 for each additional person for the November Annual Meeting
- ANSAA Renewal Filing Fee of \$100– *only applies to the list of schools below

*The following schools must apply for ANSAA Renewal during the 2017-2018 school year (due the fourth year of the seven year cycle):

Abundant Life School, Blessed Sacrament Catholic School, Catholic High School for Boys, Columbia Christian School, Conway Christian School, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Shiloh Christine School, St. John Catholic School (Hot Springs), St. Joseph Catholic School (Fayetteville), St. Vincent de Paul School, and Subiaco Academy.