



# ANSAA Member Newsletter

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

August 1, 2019

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On behalf of the ANSAA Board of Directors, we welcome you to the 2019-2020 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 2019-2020:

President / Gary Arnold, Head of School; Little Rock Christian Academy, LR

Vice President / Sharon Stewart, Principal; Southwest Christian Academy, LR

Secretary / Ileana Dobbins, Associate Superintendent; Catholic Schools of Arkansas, LR

Treasurer / Sharon Morgan, Retired Administrator, Little Rock

### ANSAA Board Member Re-elected for Three Year Terms / 2018-2019

Board Position #5 Ileana Dobbins, Associate Superintendent; Catholic Schools of AR, LR

Board Position #6 Sharon Blentlinger, Principal; Immaculate Conception School, Fort Smith

### ANSAA Board Members Currently Serving

Position #1 Theresa Hall 2018-21      Position #6 Sharon Blentlinger 2019-22

Position #2 Leesa Renshaw 2018-21      Position #7 Gary Arnold 2017-20

Position #3 Justin Moseley 2018-21      Position #8 Sharon Stewart 2017-20

Position #4 Mary Alice Brooks 2019-22      Position #9 Matt Dempsey 2017-20

Position #5 Ileana Dobbins 2019-22      Position #10 Sharon Morgan 2017-20

### New ANSAA Board Members, Mary Alice Brooks & Matt Dempsey

Mary Alice Brooks, Harding Academy, Searcy (Position #4) and Matt Dempsey, Catholic High for Boys, Little Rock (Position #9) will begin serving on the ANSAA Board of Directors this year. Their expertise, guidance, and wisdom will be a tremendous asset to the organization.

Mary Alice Brooks fills the position vacated by Bode Teague and Matt Dempsey fills the position vacated by Greg Jones. We thank Mary Alice, Matt, Bode, and Greg for their dedication to ANSAA.

## New Chief ANSAA Administrators for 2019-2020

Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock

Christ the King, Fort Smith

First Baptist Church Christian School, Rogers

Mount St. Mary Academy, Little Rock

New School, The, Fayetteville

St. John Catholic School, Russellville

St. Michael Catholic School, West Memphis

Trinity Christian School, Texarkana

Cara Steely, Interim Principal

Myndi Keyton, Principal

JoLynn Burke, Principal

Pattie Davis, President

Nancy Lang, Head of School

Vivian Fox, Principal

Laura Long, Principal

Greg Jones, Head of School

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*New Administrators are invited to attend ANSAA Orientation on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 from 10:00-2:30 at St. John's Center, LR. The meeting includes the presentation, "What Great Principals Do Differently" by Dr. Todd Whitaker. Lunch provided. Any ANSAA administrator or potential administrator may also attend Dr. Whitaker's presentation.*

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## Congratulations Schools Completing ANSAA Accreditation in 2018-2019

### Initial Accreditation:

Harvest Time Academy, Fort Smith (K-6) Michelle Sloan, Director

### Accreditation Renewals:

Anthony School, The, Little Rock (K-8) Blane Covert, Head of School  
 Arkansas Christian Academy, Bryant (K-12) Tina Goddard, Principal  
 Southwest Christian Academy (K-12), Little Rock Sharon Stewart, Principal  
 St. John Catholic School (K-5), Russellville Vivian Fox, Principal

### Dual Accreditation Renewals:

Christ Lutheran School (K-8), Little Rock Cara Steely, Interim Principal  
 Pulaski Academy (K-12), Little Rock Matt Walsh, Head of School  
 Shiloh Christian School (K-12), Springdale Ben Mayes, Acting President/CEO

## ANSAA Site Visit Dates 2019-2020

### ANSAA Renewals:

The Baptist Preparatory School (K-12), Little Rock	April 5-7, 2020	Laura Bednar, Head of School
Christ the King School (K-8), Little Rock	Oct. 20-22, 2019	Kathleen House, Principal
Immaculate Conception School (K-6), Fort Smith	Oct. 6-8, 2019	Sharon Blentlinger, Principal
Our Lady of the Holy Souls School (K-8), Little Rock	Dec. 8-10, 2019	Nancy Handloser, Principal
St. Joseph School (K-12), Conway	Oct. 13-15, 2019	Diane Wolfe, Principal
St. Joseph Catholic School (K-8), Paris	Nov. 17-19, 2019	Shirley Kiefer, Principal
West Side Christian School (K-12), El Dorado	Jan. 12-14, 2020	Robin Colley, Principal

### Dual Accreditation Renewals:

Episcopal Collegiate (K-12), Little Rock	Nov. 3-5, 2019	David Perkinson, Head of School
West Memphis Christian School (K-12), W. Memphis	TBA	Shane Edwards, Headmaster

### Initial Accreditation Candidate Status:

Academy of Excellence (K-8), Eureka Springs	March 1-3, 2020	Patty Sanders, Principal
Our Lady of Fatima, (K-8), Benton	April 19-21, 2020	Jan Cash, Principal

## ANSAA School Updates

**School Closure:** St. Edward Catholic School (K-8), Little Rock and St. Boniface Catholic School (K-6), Fort Smith closed at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

## ANSAA Summer Workshops

In August 2019 we will have Dr. Wendy Mogel present, “May the Circle Be Unbroken: Reducing student emotional distress and increasing academic performance by establishing robust parent-teacher alliances” (full description at [www.ansaa.com](http://www.ansaa.com)). Schools registered in spring 2019 to attend.

The training will take place on the following days, times, and locations:

August 7, 2019 (Wednesday) / 9:00-11:45 / Harding Academy, Searcy

August 8, 2019 (Thursday) / 9:00-11:45 / Pulaski Academy, Little Rock

August 9, 2019 (Friday) / 9:00-11:45 / The New School, Fayetteville

ANSAA has also organized a workshop for new and veteran educational leaders and educators training to become administrators on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 from 10:00-12:00 at St. John’s Center in Little Rock. To register for the workshop, please send the name/s and email address/es of the administrators from your school that are interested in attending to [kristine.grelle@cox.net](mailto:kristine.grelle@cox.net). The workshop is, “What Great Principals Do Differently” presented by Dr. Todd Whitaker. The description for the presentation can be found on [www.ansaa.com](http://www.ansaa.com).

## 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. The Regular Session of the 92st General Assembly convened on Monday, January 14, 2019. The following bills are of special interest to Arkansas private schools as they impact the educational choices and opportunities of Arkansas families.

- HB 1413 (Act 429)– An act that prohibits a public school district or an open enrollment public charter school from charging a private school or a home school student for the cost of an endorsed concurrent enrollment course unless a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school student is also charged for the course. This is an extension of AR Code 6-18-232.
- HB 1419 (Act 430)- An act that amends AR Code 6-18-232 concerning the enrollment of a private school or home-schooled student in an academic course at a public school or an open-enrollment public charter school, if approved by the public school. Includes policy making provisions for admittance, participation, transportation option, course credit, and attendance.
- HB 1385 (Act 983)-Amends the definition of “schoolhouse,” which includes public or private schools or daycare facilities, as it applies to the laws regarding the operation of a retail liquor business.

### 2019-2020 ANSAA Events:

**Monday, Sept. 9**  
ANSAA Board Meeting  
**Tuesday, Sept. 10**  
New Admin. Orientation  
**Monday, Nov. 11**  
ANSAA Board Meeting  
**Tuesday, Nov. 12**  
ANSAA Annual Meeting  
**Monday, March 9**  
ANSAA Board Meeting  
**Monday, June 1**  
ANSAA Board Meeting  
**June 9-10, Minneapolis, MN**  
NFNSSAA Annual Meeting  
**Summer 2019**  
CAPE Meeting

## Arkansas Department of Education - Changes in Licensure

The Awareness Training component of Act 1063 WILL affect licensure for private school teachers when renewing Arkansas teaching licenses. According to ADE, beginning in 2021-2022 school year, private school teachers WILL need to complete professional development related to an Awareness of Scientific Reading Instruction. (Awareness level will be required for renewal of a license expiring 2021 and thereafter.) Although this information is not reflected in the current Rules Governing Educator Licensure (October 2018), ADE is working on rules to help guide schools and license holders through the 2021-2022 school year. Options for Awareness Training for private school educators can be found [here](#).

As a point of reference, Act 1063 also has a requirement for elementary teachers to demonstrate Proficiency in the Knowledge and Practices of Scientific Reading Instruction. This component of the law applies only to educators employed at a public school and will NOT be required for private school educators. If a private school teacher transfers to a public school, they will have one year to complete the Proficiency component.

## ANSAA Self Study

The 2019 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, Edition 2019. 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.

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

The NFNSSAA Annual Meeting was held in Rogers, AR on June 5-6, 2019. The following states were present: Arkansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. The agenda items included:

- Continue using certificates and letters of recognition from NFNSSAA.
- Maintain our NFNSSAA website.
- Encourage the use of the NFNSSAA logo among accredited schools.
- Report on NFNSSAA strategic goals and conference calls to state board members.
- Create a joint marketing statement to be utilized nationally and within individual state agencies.
- Maintain contact with Dr. Maureen Dowling, Director of the Office of Non-Public Education.

**NFSSSAA Officers for 2019-2020:** Dan Bauer, President (MO), Angelia Salas, Vice President (MI), Bea Weiland, Secretary (WI), and Sarah Mueller, Treasurer (MN)

## Arkansas Activity Association / AAA

The AAA Annual Meeting of the Governing Body was held on July 29, 2019 in LR. The focus of the meeting was to consider the following nine proposals to amend the AAA Constitution and Bylaws which was voted on by the state membership. For additional information go to: <http://members.ahsaa.org/public/userfiles/Admin/Proposals.pdf>

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|--|---------------|
| <b>Proposal No. 1 / Administration Consolidation of Middle Schools</b>   | <b>* Pass</b> |
| To create more extracurricular activity opportunities for MS students that do not currently have extensive program offerings.  |               |
| <b>Proposal No. 2 / Junior Varsity Basketball Tournaments</b>  | <b>* Pass</b> |
| To allow JV teams to play in two tournaments.  |               |
| <b>Proposal No. 3 / Bona Fide Student and Online Courses</b>   | <b>* Pass</b> |
| To align requirements for home school and virtual school students.   |               |
| <b>Proposal No. 4 / Sanctioning Out of State Events</b>  | <b>* Pass</b> |
| To keep the same intent as previous rule by limiting loss of class time but allowing for travel time to compete in events.     |               |
| <b>Proposal No. 5 / Administration of Interscholastic Events</b>   | <b>* Pass</b> |
| To clarify the role of superintendents and principals in administering AAA rules and regulations.                              |               |
| <b>Proposal No. 6 / School Participation</b>   | <b>* Pass</b> |
| To enhance sport participation.  |               |
| <b>Proposal No. 7 / Bowling Classifications</b>  | <b>* Pass</b> |
| To promote competitive balance amongst all classifications and assist with travel/scheduling.                                  |               |
| <b>Proposal No. 8 / Bowling Season</b>   | <b>* Pass</b> |
| Avoids conflict between basketball district tournaments and bowling state tournaments.   |               |
| <b>Proposal No. 9 / Classifications (FB, BB, BA, SB, Track, Golf)</b>  | <b>* Fail</b> |
| To make classifications strictly about the enrollment number to alleviate competitive inequities due to enrollment imbalances. |               |

## 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 NFSSAA 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 Changes in Policy Manual

The ANSAA Board of Directors have made a few changes to the ANSAA Policy Manual. Please note the following additions to the 2019 edition:

- \***3.11** Clarification that all **educational** administrators, as identified in ANSAA policy, must be employed full time.
- \***5.7 (g) and 5.8 (f)** Added Career and Technical Education for grades 5-8
- \***6.10** Added option to substitute one (1) required unit of mathematics or science for one (1) unit of ADE approved STEM or Computer Science
- \***7.0** Removed the number of volumes required within the school library
- \***8.0** Identified health screening requirements – scoliosis, vision, hearing
- \***8.1** Identified contents of permanent academic records – attendance, test scores, grades
- \***10.3** Identified the ANSAA Annual Financial Review as a requirement

*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](http://ansaa.net)), NFSSAA ([nfnssaa.com](http://nfnssaa.com)), and CAPE ([capenet.org](http://capenet.org)). Your school is a member of both of these national organizations through ANSAA.*

### ANSAA Mandatory Reporting Information

All forms for the 2019-20 ANSAA Annual Reports are listed on [ANSAA.com](http://ANSAA.com) with detailed instructions. Contact the ANSAA office (479-246-0032) or (501-803-3888) 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 electronic filing is required for accredited schools.

### ANSAA Forms, Reports, & Fees - Due September 16

All forms and information related to the ANSAA Annual Report must be submitted either electronically or by mail, according to the directives provided below, to the ANSAA office by the September 16, 2019. If the forms and/or payments are submitted after the September 16th deadline, include a late fee of \$100.

### ANSAA Policy Manual

The ANSAA Policy Manual Edition 2019 will be used as a reference to identify all ANSAA Standards. Annual Report Forms (Elementary, Secondary, and Non-Accredited) are correlated to the 2019 Policy Manual Edition which was e-mailed to all head administrators in August, 2019.

### 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 2019-2020 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 16

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

*Kristine Grelle, ANSAA Executive Director  
2209 South 18<sup>th</sup> 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 16

All Accredited School Forms will be completed in Microsoft Excel. The complete Excel Annual Report must be submitted electronically by September 16, to [kristine.grelle@cox.net](mailto: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 were sent a Word template at the completion of their most recent site visit for reporting major recommendations.
- ANSAA New Administrator Qualifications Form (if applicable)
- School's Current Strategic Plan – only for schools applying for accreditation renewal (see list of schools below).
- ANSAA Financial Review Form - Audit letters are no longer required to be filed annually, however, every school must complete the ANSAA Financial Review Form.

#### Mail to ANSAA Office by September 16

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 (\$2.50/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 2019-2020 school year (due the fourth year of the seven-year cycle): First Lutheran School, Fort Smith; Fayetteville Christian School, Fayetteville; Harding Academy, Searcy; Ridgefield Christian School, Jonesboro; and Union Christian Academy, Fort Smith. Schools must include with the renewal form, a \$100 filing fee and a copy of the school's current Strategic Plan.