



ANSAA Member Newsletter

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

August 1, 2020

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On behalf of the ANSAA Board of Directors, we welcome you to the 2020-2021 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 2020-2021:

President / Justin Moseley, Interim Head of School; Life Way Christian Academy, Centerton

Vice President / Mary Alice Brooks, Dir. of Accreditation & Student Accommodations;

Harding Academy, Searcy

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

Treasurer / Theresa Hall, Superintendent; Catholic Schools of Arkansas, Little Rock

ANSAA Board Member Re-elected for Three Year Terms

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 Matt Dempsey, Assistant Principal; Catholic High School, LR

ANSAA Board Members Currently Serving

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

Position #2 Greg Jones 2018-21 Position #7 Gary Arnold 2017-23

Position #3 Justin Moseley 2018-21 Position #8 Sharon Stewart 2017-23

Position #4 Mary Alice Brooks 2019-22 Position #9 Matt Dempsey 2017-23

Position #5 Ileana Dobbins 2019-22 Position #10 Michelle Ward 2017-23

New ANSAA Board Members, Greg Jones & Michelle Ward

Greg Jones (Position #2), Trinity Christian School, Texarkana and Michelle Ward, Pulaski Academy, Little Rock (Position #10) will begin serving on the ANSAA Board of Directors this year. Their expertise, guidance, and wisdom will be a tremendous asset to the organization.

Greg Jones fills the position vacated by Leesa Renshaw and Michelle Ward fills the position vacated by Sharon Morgan. We thank Greg, Michelle, Leesa, and Sharon for their dedication to ANSAA.

New Chief ANSAA Administrators for 2020-2021

New Administrators are invited to attend ANSAA Orientation on Friday, September 11, 2020 from 9:00-2:30 at St. John's Center, LR; lunch provided. The meeting includes the presentation, "Maximizing the Effectiveness of the Educational Leader" / Jen Schwanke, Presenter. Any ANSAA administrator or potential administrator may also attend Ms. Schwanke's presentation.

Avilla Christian Academy, Alexander
Crowley's Ridge Academy, Paragould
First Baptist Church Christian School, Rogers
Harvest Time Academy, Fort Smith
Life Way Christian School, Centerton
Ridgefield Christian School, Jonesboro
St. Mary Catholic School, Paragould

Mike Schleider, Interim Head of School
Terry Austin, Principal
TBA
Taylor Smith, Principal
Justin Moseley, Interim Head of School
Matt Brewer, Administrator
Lee Ann Owen, Principal

As you noticed at the top of this page, ANSAA has a new, improved logo.

Special thanks to Little Rock Christian Academy for donating their services and expertise to create the updated design.

Congratulations Schools Completing ANSAA Accreditation in 2019-2020

Initial Accreditation:

Academy of Excellence (K-8), Eureka Springs	March 1-3, 2020	Patty Sanders, Principal
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ANSAA Renewals:

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
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ANSAA Site Visit Dates 2020-2021

ANSAA Renewals:

The Baptist Preparatory School (K-12), Little Rock	April 11-13, 2021	Dr. Rex Horne, President
Catholic High School (9-12), Little Rock	September 27-29, 2020	Steve Straessle, Principal
Christ the King Catholic School (K-6), Fort Smith	October 4-6, 2020	Myndi Keyton, Principal
Sacred Heart Catholic School (K-12), Morrilton	April 18-20, 2021	Buddy Greeson, Principal
St. John Catholic School (K-8), Hot Springs	April 25-27, 2021	Janet Edgar, Principal
St. Joseph Catholic School (K-8), Fayetteville	October 25-27, 2020	Jason Pohlmeier, Principal

Dual Accreditation Renewals:

First Lutheran School (K-6), Fort Smith	March 7-9, 2021	Samuel Fishburn, Principal
West Memphis Christian School, W. Memphis	TBA	Shane Edwards, Headmaster

Initial Accreditation Candidate Status:

Our Lady of Fatima, (K-8), Benton	September 13-15, 2020	Jan Cash, Principal
Ozark Catholic Academy (9-12), Springdale	February 29-March 2, 2021	John Rocha, Head of School

ANSAA Summer Workshops

In August 2020 we will have Wendy Turner present, "Fostering Resilient Learners" (full description at www.ansaa.com). Schools registered in spring 2020 to attend.

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

August 5, 2020 (Wednesday) / 10:00-12:00 / Virtual

August 6, 2020 (Thursday) / 10:00-12:00 / Virtual

August 10, 2020 (Monday) / 10:00-12:00 / Virtual

ANSAA has also organized a workshop for new and veteran educational leaders and educators training to become administrators on Friday, September 11, 2020 from 9:00-12:00 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. The workshop is, "Maximizing the Effectiveness of the Educational Leader" presented by Jen Schwanke. The description for the presentation can be found on www.ansaa.com.

ANSAA Self-Study

The 2020 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 2020. 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.

Arkansas New Laws and Regulations

Specific information regarding state laws can be found on ANNSA.com under the “Laws and Legislation” tab. This includes the following change made in the last legislative session (Regular Session of the 92nd General Assembly) which was not reported in last year’s newsletter.

- Act 676 of 2019 requires public and private schools to create and post an annual report by December 1 of each year outlining the number and percentage of students who have an exemption to one or more vaccinations and the number and percentage of students who have neither proof of vaccination nor obtained an exemption as required by state law.

Arkansas Department of Education

Athletics may now count towards a physical education credit in grades 9-12. The course may be taught by any licensed educator who has a coaching endorsement and has completed the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) required training/endorsement. The Athletics course must be scheduled during the school day, with a teacher of record, and a grade that counts towards a student’s GPA. Students enrolled in this course may earn a physical education credit towards graduation. However, students are not allowed to earn more than one academic credit toward the state minimum of 22 units from a physical education class.

ANSAA Changes in Policy Manual

The ANSAA Board of Directors have made a few changes to the ANSAA Policy Manual, Edition 2020. Please note the following additions:

- **Accreditation with Warning Status**-A school may be accredited with a Warning for not satisfactorily meeting all the procedures, policies, and standards monitored through the annual report. A second consecutive offense for the same standard could result in loss of accreditation. *This removes the Second Warning Status opportunity.*
- **ANSAA Standard *6.2** Added: “Up to forty minutes of recess may count towards the planned instructional time for elementary students (grades K-6).”
- **Alternative Methods of Instruction**-Schools may develop a plan for alternative methods of instruction (formerly referred to as Inclement Weather Make-Up Days) to be used on days when administration closes school due to exceptional or emergency circumstances. Schools may designate up to an equivalent of ten (10) student attendance days for the use of alternative methods of instruction, including virtual learning, on days when the school is closed due to exceptional or emergency circumstances such as: a contagious disease outbreak, inclement weather, physical disasters, or a utility outage. The instruction plan shall demonstrate how teaching and learning will not be negatively impacted by the use of alternative methods of instruction (i.e. lessons must be current, tied to grade level curriculum standards, and approved by the Head of School).

The following are changes for the **2020-2021 school year ONLY**:

- ANSAA Standard *6.1 ANSAA will allow an *unlimited* number of off campus (AMI) instructional days to meet the minimum length of the school year outlined in this standard.
- ANSAA Standard *6.2 ANSAA will not require 6 hours of instruction *during offsite instruction* (AMI).
- ANSAA Standard *6.9 ANSAA will not require 120 hours for a unit of credit *when offsite instruction is required*. During onsite instruction, the standard remains in effect.

CARES Act Summary

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Division of Elementary and Secondary Education announced on May 18, 2020 that they will be allocating Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds established under the CARES Act to nonpublic schools based on total enrollment as noted in the guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Education. ADE will continue to ask participating nonpublic schools to submit Title I eligibility numbers (families at or below poverty level). It is uncertain as to whether or not the guidance for the CARES Act will change or new opportunities for funding will emerge under new legislation in the U.S. Senate (i.e. HEROES Act) which currently states an allocation of funds according to the low-income family formula. ADE is taking a proactive approach to this possibility by collecting the data now.

2020-2021 ANSAA Events:

Friday, Sept. 11
New Admin. Orientation
Monday, Sept. 21
ANSAA Board Meeting
Monday, Nov. 9
ANSAA Board Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 10
ANSAA Annual Meeting
Friday, March 5
ANSAA Board Meeting
Monday, June 7
ANSAA Board Meeting
June 9-10, Minneapolis, MN
NFSSAA Annual Meeting
Summer 2019
CAPE Meeting

Arkansas Activity Association / AAA

The AAA Annual Meeting of the Governing Body was held on August 3, 2020 in NLR. 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/2020_Proposals.pdf

Proposal No. 1 / Baseball & Softball Regular Season Game Limit	* Fail
To allow for flexibility in scheduling for teams from all classifications. Also allows for scheduling of a game in place of a rained out or cancelled tournament.	
Proposal No. 2 / Baseball & Softball Regular Season Game Limit	* Pass
To allow for flexibility in scheduling for teams from all classifications. Also allows for scheduling of a game in place of a rained out or cancelled tournament.	
Proposal No. 3 / Soccer Scoring Rules	* Pass
To align with traditional soccer and college scoring rules.	
Proposal No. 4 / Sportsmanship Manual	* Pass
To clarify sportsmanship standards.	
Proposal No. 5 / Football Classifications and Conferences	* Pass
To align the number of conferences with participation in football. (2022-2024 classification cycle)	
Proposal No. 6 / Basketball – Shot Clock	* Pass
To align with national high school basketball playing standards.	
Proposal No. 7 / Golf Individual Qualifiers	* Pass
To coordinate identifying state championship qualifiers.	

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.” 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. Additionally, ANSAA works with national organizations such as NFSSAA and CAPE to provide schools with national networking acknowledgement. In 2019-2020 a lot of effort was made to provide continuous information regarding COVID-19 and related legislation such as CARES Act. 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.

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

The NFSSAA Annual Meeting was held virtually on June 9-10, 2020. The following states were present: Arkansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. The agenda items included:

- Continue using certificates and letters of recognition from NFSSAA.
- Maintain our NFSSAA website.
- Encourage the use of the NFSSAA logo among accredited schools.
- Report on NFSSAA 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.

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.com), NFSSAA (nfssaa.com), and CAPE (capenet.org). Your school is a member of both of these national organizations through ANSAA.

ANSAA Mandatory Reporting Information

All forms for the 2020-21 ANSAA Annual Reports are listed on 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 15

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 15, 2020. 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 2020 will be used as a reference to identify all ANSAA Standards. Annual Report Forms (Elementary, Secondary, and Non-Accredited) are correlated to the 2020 Policy Manual Edition which was e-mailed to all head administrators in August 2020.

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 2020-2021 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 -- payment will be deferred until confirmation of an onsite event is determined
- 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 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 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 (\$3.00/student in K5-12)
- Registration fee of \$50 for first participant/\$25 for each additional person for the November Annual Meeting-payment will be deferred until confirmation of an onsite event is determined
- ANSAA Renewal Filing Fee of \$100– *only applies to the list of schools below:

*The following schools must apply for ANSAA Renewal during the 2020-2021 school year (due the fourth year of the seven-year cycle): Central Arkansas Christian Schools, Immaculate Conception School (NLR), Little Rock Christian Academy, North Little Rock Catholic Academy, & Trinity Catholic Jr. High School. Schools must include with the renewal form, a \$100 filing fee and a copy of the school's current Strategic Plan.