



ANSAA Member Newsletter

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

August 2, 2021

INSIDE ISSUE

1 Welcome Back

ANSAA Board Members

New ANSAA Administrators

2 Congratulations Newly Accredited Schools

ANSAA Site Visits 2020- 2021

ANSAA Summer Workshops

ANSAA Self-Study

NFNSSAA

3 ANSAA Changes in Policy Manual

Arkansas New Laws and Regulations

AAA Staff

4 AAA Rulings

ANSAA's Mission and Advocacy Work

Federal Funds

5 ANSAA Annual Report

On behalf of the ANSAA Board of Directors, we welcome you to the 2021-2022 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 2021-2022:

President / Justin Moseley, High School Principal; 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 Members 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	2021-24	Position #6 Sharon Blentlinger	2019-22
Position #2 Greg Jones	2021-24	Position #7 Gary Arnold	2020-23
Position #3 Justin Moseley	2021-24	Position #8 Sharon Stewart	2020-23
Position #4 Mary Alice Brooks	2019-22	Position #9 Matt Dempsey	2020-23
Position #5 Ileana Dobbins	2019-22	Position #10 Michelle Ward	2020-23

New Chief ANSAA Administrators for 2021-2022

ANSAA welcomes all new chief administrators listed below and all other new administrators at various levels to the organization. All new administrators are invited to attend a *virtual* ANSAA Orientation on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 from 10:00-11:30 am.

Academy of Excellence, Eureka Springs
Avilla Christian Academy, Alexander
Baptist Preparatory School, Little Rock
Episcopal Collegiate School, Little Rock
Harding Academy, Searcy
Immaculate Heart of Mary, North Little Rock
Our Lady of the Holy Schools Catholic School, Little Rock
Pulaski Academy, Little Rock
Shiloh Christian School, Springdale
St. Paul Catholic School, Pocahontas
St. Joseph Catholic School, Paris
St. Joseph Catholic School, Conway
Trinity Christian School, Texarkana
West Side Christian School, El Dorado

Joan Smith, Principal
Tina Kassebaum, Principal
Dr. Greg Jones, Pres./Head of School
Jamie Griffin, Head of School
Jim Gurchiek, Superintendent
Brenda Hiegel, Principal
Amber Bagby, Principal
Brock Dunn, Head of School
Keith McDaniel, Pres./Superintendent
Rebecca Steimel, Principal
Michelle O'Neal, Principal
Matt Tucker, Principal
Marcus Bellamy, Head of School
John Spencer, Administrator

“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.”

Congratulations! Schools Completing ANSAA Accreditation in 2020-2021

Initial Accreditation:

Our Lady of Fatima, (K-8), Benton
Ozark Catholic Academy (9-12), Springdale

Jan Cash, Principal
John Rocha, Head of School

ANSAA Renewals:

The Baptist Preparatory School (K-12), Little Rock
Catholic High School (9-12), Little Rock
Christ the King Catholic School (K-6), Fort Smith
Sacred Heart Catholic School (K-12), Morrilton
St. John Catholic School (K-8), Hot Springs
St. Joseph Catholic School (K-8), Fayetteville

Dr. Greg Jones, President / Head of School
Steve Straessle, Principal
Myndi Keyton, Principal
Buddy Greeson, Principal
Janet Edgar, Principal
Jason Pohlmeier, Principal

Dual Accreditation Renewals:

First Lutheran School (K-6), Fort Smith
West Memphis Christian School, W. Memphis

Samuel Fishburn, Principal
Mark Laster, Headmaster

ANSAA Site Visit Dates 2021-2022

ANSAA Renewals:

Abundant Life Christian Academy (K-12), Sherwood
Blessed Sacrament Catholic School (K-6), Jonesboro
Conway Christian School (K-12), Conway
St. Theresa Catholic School (K-8), Little Rock
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School (K-8), Rogers
Subiaco Academy (7-12), Subiaco

May 1-3, 2022	Gloria Massey, Head of School
April 3-5, 2022	Mary Kay Jones, Principal
October 24-26, 2021	Jason Carson, President
January 9-11, 2022	Kristy Dunn, Principal
October 10-12, 2021	Alice Stautzenberger, Principal
Feb. 27-March 1, 2022	Dr. David Wright, Headmaster

Dual Accreditation Renewals:

Union Christian Academy (K-12), Fort Smith

April 24-26, 2022 Ricky Massengale, Superintendent

ANSAA Summer Workshops

August 2021 keynote speaker Katie Anderson will present, “The Engaged Brain: Lesson Design Done Better” (full description at www.ansaa.com). Schools registered in spring 2021 to attend; the training will take place on the following days and times:

August 4, 2021 (Wednesday) / 9:00-12:00 / Harding Academy, Searcy
August 6, 2021 (Friday) / 9:00-12:00 / Shiloh Christian School, Springdale
August 12, 2021 (Thursday) / 9:00-12:00 / Pulaski Academy, Little Rock

ANSAA has also organized a workshop for educational leaders and educators training to become administrators on Thursday, September 9, 2021 from 9:00-3:30 at St. John’s Center in Little Rock. Keynote speaker Phillip Warrick will present, “Improving Teacher Development and Evaluation”. The description for the presentation can be found on www.ansaa.com. Contact the ANSAA office (kristine.grelle@cox.net or 479-246-0032) to request a registration form, which is due August 19, 2021.

ANSAA Self-Study

The 2021 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 2021. 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

The NFSSAA Annual Meeting will be held on August 9-10, 2021 in Minneapolis, MN. The following states will be in attendance: Arkansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. More information can be found at www.nfssaa.com.

ANSAA Changes in Policy Manual

The ANSAA Board of Directors changed ANSAA Standard *3.10 in the ANSAA Policy Manual, Edition 2021. ANSAA Standard *3.10 now states: “*School units such as K-4, K-5, K-6, K-8, K-12, 7-9, 7-12, 9-12 must have an educational administrator with a master’s degree in school administration or a school administrator state issued certification and a minimum of three (3) years teaching experience. Accredited schools may apply for a Professional Deficiency Plan to meet this standard. A maximum of two years is granted for completion of an approved degree plan or certification requirements.*”

The following waivers will continue for the 2021-2022 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.

2021-2022 ANSAA Events:
Tuesday, Sept. 14
 New Admin. Orientation
Monday, Sept. 20
 ANSAA Board Meeting
Monday, Nov. 8
 ANSAA Board Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 9
 ANSAA Annual Meeting
Monday, March 7
 ANSAA Board Meeting
Monday, June 13
 ANSAA Board Meeting
Summer 2022
 NFNSSAA Annual Meeting
 State CAPE Meeting

Arkansas New Laws and Regulations

The Arkansas 93rd General Assembly - Regular Session 2021 convened on January 11, 2021. The following bills that may impact private schools in Arkansas were passed.

[Act 689 \(HB 1446\)](#) – Children of active-duty members of the uniformed services are eligible to receive a scholarship under the Succeed Scholarship Program.

[Act 966 \(HB 1509\)](#) – Amendment to state tax-deferred tuition savings program to reflect recent changes in the IRS related program.

[Act 513 \(HB 1594\)](#) – Allows teaching licenses to be issued to individuals who are not U.S. citizens.

[Act 1084 \(HB 1610\)](#) – Addresses the use of student restraints in a public school or educational setting.

[Act 985 \(HB 1837\)](#) – Prohibits the issuance or renewal of a teaching license to a person who has pled guilty or nolo contendere or has been found guilty of secularly grooming a child.

[Act 489 \(SB 62\)](#) – Changes the requirement for Science of Reading training for Arkansas teaching licensure to the 2023-2024 school year rather than 2021-2022.

[Act 741 \(SB 89\)](#) -- Updates to Succeed Scholarship Program including eligibility, allowable reimbursables, and awarding of scholarships. The Succeed Scholarship Program provides students in foster care or with a disability a scholarship to attend a private school of choice.

[Act 461 \(SB 354\)](#) – “Fairness in Women’s Sports Act” which states that interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural, or club athletic team or sport shall be expressly designated as male or female based on biological sex. The law applies to all public schools and any private schools that compete against them.

[Act 953 \(SB 450\)](#) – Creates the “Gender Integrity Reinforcement Legislation for Sports (Girls) Act” which states that participants in athletics, sports, or similar activities are designated as male, female, or coed/mixed. Members of the male sex cannot participate in athletics, sports, or other similar activity that is expressly designated for females. Applies to public schools and private schools that compete with them.

[Act 904 \(SB 680\)](#) – Tax credit scholarship program for low-income children to attend private schools.

ANSAA Staff

At the November 2020 Board meeting, it was decided that the ANSAA Associate Director position would be suspended temporarily while staff and board members assess the future needs of the organization. An administrative assistant has been hired for the 2021-2022 school year to perform clerical and bookkeeping duties. Mrs. Ann Morrison, a highly skilled educator, has been hired to fill this position. ANSAA is grateful for her willingness to serve in this capacity.

Arkansas Activity Association / AAA

The final vote by the AAA membership of the Competitive Equity proposal was certified at the June AAA Board meeting. The proposal passed and will take effect in the next reclassification cycle starting the fall of 2022.

The AAA Governing Body Meeting was held on July 27, 2021. The focus of the meeting was to consider the following five proposals to amend the AAA Constitution and Bylaws which were voted on by the state membership.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Proposal No. 1 / Junior High Conference Tournaments | * Passed |
| To allow junior high conferences to determine the method for declaring conference champions and junior high conference tournament champions. | |
| Proposal No. 2 / AOA Registered Officials | * Passed |
| To standardize the use of registered officials at the varsity level. | |
| Proposal No. 3 / Soccer – Non-School Team Participation | * Failed |
| To align high school soccer participation with the competitive club program season. | |
| Proposal No. 4 / Football Limitations | * Passed |
| To allow football schools to have the maximum amount of competitive opportunities during the regular season. | |
| Proposal No. 5 / Golf Individual Qualifiers | * Passed |
| To standardize qualifying methods across classifications. | |

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. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, a lot of effort was made to provide continuous information regarding legislation related to federal programs including ESSER, GEER, and EANS. 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.

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.

Federal Funds

CARES Act- Forty ANSAA member schools and 10 other private schools in Arkansas chose to participate in the CARES equitable services offered through the Local Educational Agencies (LEA).

ESSER I (state level)- The DESE consulted with the ANSAA office about equitable services at the state level totaling \$261,082.21. The schools that accepted local funds, were eligible for state services. To date, the list of services include: 3-8 Diagnostic Assessments (ISIP Istation; NWEA Map Growth; Renaissance STAR; and Curriculum Associates iReady); Career and Technical Education Simulation Program; and COVID-19 booklets for grades K-6. Nearly every eligible school chose to participate in the assessment option and the booklets were sent automatically.

GEER I (state level)- ANSAA was contacted by the Arkansas Department of Education Division of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding equitable services from state level GEER I (Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund) from the original coronavirus relief package (CARES Act). The equitable portion totaling about \$184,000 will be distributed through grants to nonpublic schools in the state.

EANS (CRSSA) - \$22,872,412 has been allocated for the private schools in Arkansas. Fifty schools submitted an application for participation and were approved.

EANS II (ARP) – Governors have until September 9, 2021 to apply. Guidelines for eligibility and use will be similar to EANS I except, reimbursables will not be allowed and schools must have a “significant percentage of low-income students and are most impacted by the qualifying emergency.” More details will be sent to schools when information is available.

ANSAA Mandatory Reporting Information

All forms for the 2021-22 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 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, 2021. 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 2021 will be used as a reference to identify all ANSAA Standards. Annual Report Forms (Elementary, Secondary, and Non-Accredited) are correlated to the 2021 Policy Manual Edition which was e-mailed to all head administrators in August 2021.

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 2021-2022 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
- Application for Initial Accreditation (candidate status schools only)
- ANSAA New Administrator Qualifications (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)
- ANSAA Renewal Filing Fee of \$100– *only applies to the list of schools below:

*The following schools must apply for ANSAA Renewal during the 2021-2022 school year (due the fourth year of the seven-year cycle): Avilla Christian Academy, Columbia Christian School, Crowley's Ridge Academy, Life Way Christian School, Mount St. Mary Academy, and Trinity Christian School. Schools must include with the renewal form a \$100 filing fee and a copy of the school's current Strategic Plan.