



ANSAA Member Newsletter

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

August 1, 2022

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On behalf of the ANSAA Board of Directors, we welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year. We are pleased to have you as part of our association, and we look forward to supporting your school community in providing quality education to Arkansas students.

ANSAA Board Members

ANSAA Officers 2022-2023:

President / Justin Moseley; Life Way Christian Academy, Centerton

Vice President / Mary Alice Brooks; Harding Academy, Searcy

Secretary / Ileana Dobbins; Catholic Schools of Arkansas, Little Rock

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

ANSAA Board Members Re-elected for Three Year Terms

Board Position #4 Mary Alice Brooks; Harding Academy, Searcy

Board Position #5 Ileana Dobbins; Catholic Schools of AR, Little Rock

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

ANSAA Board Members Currently Serving

Position #1 Theresa Hall 2021-24 Position #6 Sharon Blentlinger 2022-24

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 2022-24 Position #9 Matt Dempsey 2020-23

Position #5 Ileana Dobbins 2022-24 Position #10 Michelle Ward 2020-23

New ANSAA Chief Administrators for 2022-2023

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 13, 2022 from 10:00-11:30 am.

Academy of Excellence, Eureka Springs

Avilla Christian Academy, Alexander

Columbia Christian School, Magnolia

First Academy, Rogers

Mount St. Mary Academy, Little Rock

Our Lady of Fatima School, Benton

Ridgefield Christian School, Jonesboro

Sacred Heart Catholic School, Morrilton

St. John Catholic School, Hot Springs

Trinity Catholic Junio High School, Fort Smith

West Memphis Christian School, West Memphis

Payton Hill, Principal

Bruce Schrader, Principal

Jimmy Walker, Superintendent

Matt Brewer, Administrator

Sara Jones, President

Nancy Handloser, Principal

Bryan Easley, Head of School

Jennifer Roscoe, Principal

Susanna Anderson, Principal

Zach Edwards, Principal

Darrow Anderson, Headmaster

“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 2021-2022

ANSAA Renewals:

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

Mary Kay Jones, Principal
 Jason Carson, President
 Kristy Dunn, Principal
 Alice Stautzenberger, Principal
 Dr. David Wright, Headmaster

Dual Accreditation Renewals:

Union Christian Academy (K-12), Fort Smith

Ricky Massengale, Superintendent

ANSAA Site Visit Dates 2022-2023

ANSAA Renewals:

Abundant Life Christian Academy (K-12), Sherwood
 Fayetteville Christian School (K-12), Fayetteville
 Immaculate Heart of March School, North Little Rock
 Ridgefield Christian School, Jonesboro

October 2-4, 2022
 Spring 2023
 Spring 2023
 March 5-7, 2023

Gloria Massey, Head of School
 Brad Jones, Superintendent
 Brenda Hiegel, Principal
 Bryan Easley, Head of School

Dual Accreditation Renewals:

Central AR Christian School, Inc., North Little Rock
 Columbia Christian School, Magnolia
 Harding Academy (K-12), Searcy
 Little Rock Christian Academy (K-12), Little Rock
 The New School (K-12), Fayetteville

February 6-10, 2023
 Spring 2023
 March 26-28, 2023
 Spring 2023
 October 9-12, 2022

Carter Lambert, President
 Jimmy Walker, Superintendent
 Jim Gurchiek, Superintendent
 Gary Arnold, President / Head of School
 Nancy Lang, Head of School

ANSAA Summer Workshops

August 2022 keynote speaker Jennifer Alvarado will present, “The Art and Science of Teaching” (full description at www.ansaa.com). Schools registered in spring 2022 to attend; the training will take place on the following days and times:

August 9, 2022 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School, Rogers / 8:00-11:00
 August 9, 2022 at Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Fort Smith / 1:00-4:00
 August 10, 2022 at Pulaski Academy, Little Rock / 9:00-12:00
 August 10, 2022 at Pulaski Academy, Little Rock / 1:00-4:00

ANSAA has also organized a workshop for educational leaders and educators training to become administrators on Friday, September 23, 2022 from 9:00-3:30 at St. John’s Center in Little Rock. Keynote speaker Tina Boogren will present, “Coaching for Educator Wellness”. 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 September 2, 2022.

ANSAA Self-Study

The 2022 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 2022. 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 (NFSSAA)

The annual meeting for NFSSAA was held on June 7-8, 2022, in Chicago, IL. The meeting focused on state membership reports, NFSSAA mission & vision, Federation strategies, and the topics for future conference calls. The following states were in attendance: Arkansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. More information can be found at www.nfnssaa.com.

Council for Private Education (CAPE)

The annual State CAPE Network (SCN) meeting was held on July 10-12, 2022, in Colorado Springs, CO. The meeting focused on School Choice, private school trends, public policy advocacy, and decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court affecting private school education. Arkansas nonpublic schools were represented in the meeting by Kristine Grelle, AR SCN representative, and Dr. Gary Arnold, CAPE Board member.

ANSAA 2022-2023 Policy Manual

The ANSAA Board of Directors made one change to the policy manual for the 2022-2023 school year. Schools will no longer need to be established for one full year before becoming eligible to join as a Non-Accredited Associate Member. All mandatory standards are in effect for this school year. All waivers have been lifted and requirements for Alternative Methods of Instruction are reinstated.

“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).” (ANSAA Policy Manual – Appendix, pg. 33)

**2022-2023 ANSAA
Events:**

Tuesday, Sept. 13
New Admin. Orientation

Thursday, Sept. 22
ANSAA Board Meeting

Monday, Nov. 14
ANSAA Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 15
ANSAA Annual Meeting

Monday, February 27
ANSAA Board Meeting

Monday, June 5
ANSAA Board Meeting

Summer 2023
NFSSAA Annual Meeting
State CAPE Meeting

Trauma Resource Initiative for Schools

The Trauma Resource Initiative for Schools (TRIS), funded by the Blue & You Foundation, provides training, resources, and other support to help better recognize and respond to the impact of trauma on students. Support is provided to all schools and families through these main avenues:

1. Professional Development Trainings (Trainings require 10 or more people and can be presented in-person or virtually)
 - “Supporting Students During Difficult Times” (2 hours)
 - “Supporting Students During Difficult Times” (3 hours)
 - “A Trauma-Informed Approach to Supporting Organizational Wellness” (1.5 hours) -- targeted to Administrators and School Leaders
 - “Caring for Yourself and Others: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Self-Care” (1.5 hours)
2. Mental health professionals available for consultation to administrators - Primarily serve as thinking partners to help administrators know how to best plan for possible crisis situations and/or address current crisis situations.
3. Mental health assessments - Can connect students/families with AR Connect (available to anyone ages 5 or older) to help connect them to long-term care mental health services. Designed to reduce barriers to mental health services.
4. Resource dissemination -Can provide fact sheets, brochures, etc. on how to talk to students/children about trauma-related events.

Additional information and details can be found at www.TRIS-AR.org.

Professional Development for ADE Licensure

Below are the training requirements for licensure renewal. There are some slight changes to the previous requirements.

- Child Maltreatment Mandated Reporter: In the 2021-2022 school year and every fourth year thereafter, all educators shall obtain two (2) hours of professional development in Child Maltreatment. The training can be done through Arkansas IDEAS.
- Parent Involvement: In the 2022-2023 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, each teacher and school administrator shall be required to have two (2) hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies.
- Teen Suicide Awareness and Prevention/Bullying: In the 2023-2024 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, all educators shall obtain two (2) hours of professional development in teen suicide awareness and prevention.
- Arkansas History: In the 2024-2025 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, each teacher who provides instruction in Arkansas history shall obtain two (2) hours of professional development in Arkansas history.

The Right to Read Act (1063) states: “By the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year: A) All teachers employed in a teaching position that requires an elementary education (K-6) license or special education (K-12) license shall demonstrate proficiency in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction; and B) All other teachers shall demonstrate awareness in knowledge and practices of scientific reading instruction.” [Here](#) is a link to options to meet this requirement. **Act 489 extends the deadline for the training to the 2023-2024 school year.**

Arkansas Activities Association / AAA

The AAA Governing Body Meeting was held on July 26, 2022. The focus of the meeting was to consider the following six proposals to amend the AAA Constitution and Bylaws which were voted on by the state membership.

Proposal No. 1 / NEW Competitive Equity Football

* Failed

To eliminate the competitive equity factor in all sports except for football. To allow schools to go back to traditional 8-team conferences and restore previous balance.

Proposal No. 2 / Volleyball, Soccer, & Basketball Regular Season Game Limit

* Passed

To allow for flexibility in scheduling for teams from all classifications.

Proposal No. 3 / Recruiting Rule

* Passed

To provide clarity concerning the recruiting rule.

Proposal No. 4 / Penalties

* Passed

To provide clarity on the penalties associated with failing to comply with the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association.

Proposal No. 5 / School Board Actions Recognized

* Passed

To maintain eligibility guidelines for magnet, specialty, and competitive entry schools that do not have specific attendance zones.

Proposal No. 6 / Transfers

* Passed

To clarify eligibility rules associated with transfers.

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 2020-2022 school years, 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 include ANSAA (ansaa.com), NFSSAA (nfssaa.com), and CAPE (capenet.org).

Federal Funds

ESSER I (state level)- The DESE consulted with the ANSAA office about equitable services at the state level totaling \$261,082.21. Diagnostic assessment tools for grades 3-8 (ISIP Istation; NWEA Map Growth; Renaissance STAR) were utilized by many schools during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, utilizing these funds. This has been extended to the 2022-2023 school year for previously participating schools.

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 has been distributed through grants to nonpublic schools in the state to reimburse for testing designed to identify learning loss.

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

EANS II (ARP) – Another \$22,872,412 was made available to eligible schools. Eligibility requirements included low poverty enrollment. Seven schools were approved.

ANSAA Mandatory Reporting Information

All forms for the 2022-23 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, 2022. 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 2022 will be used as a reference to identify all ANSAA Standards. Annual Report Forms (Elementary, Secondary, and Non-Accredited) are correlated to the 2022 Policy Manual Edition, which was e-mailed to all head administrators in August 2022.

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' who need to receive ANSAA information. The new ANSAA Directory for 2022-2023 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:

- 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 2022-2023 school year (due the fourth year of the seven-year cycle): The Anthony School, Little Rock; Arkansas Christian Academy, Bryant; Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock; Harvest Time Academy, Fort Smith; Pulaski Academy, Little Rock; Shiloh Christian School, Springdale; Southwest Christian Academy, Little Rock; and St. John Catholic School, Russellville. Schools must include with the renewal form a \$100 filing fee and a copy of the school's current Strategic Plan.