

# Heading Back to School!



## Accredit Memo from MNSAA

August 2020

The selfless leadership and heartfelt action demonstrated by Minnesota's nonpublic school leaders throughout these months of pandemic has been felt and is profoundly inspirational to many throughout our State. Keeping your focus on learners and their families through your own personal feelings of loss, longing, fear and sorrow have been heroic. MNSAA remains committed to support our Association schools. We are here to assist you in shining a light on continuous school improvement. We are grateful for all you do!

August is the time when our school leaders plan for their halls to once again ring with the joyous sound of engaged learners and happy teachers. It is our hope that all the work you have done during the summer months to prepare for this year, will yield happy learners in safe environments.

In this edition you will find the following information:

- **Check your mailbox** for your school's **accreditation certificate**.
- Announcing **Modified Onsite Visits** through 2020
- **New Principal?** We have a plan to get you up to speed with MNSAA requirements.
- **2020 Basic Information Report** template is ready for your use
- **POSTPONED: Annual Conference: Inspiring Effective Leaders** planned for November.
- Your **MNSAA Board of Directors** at work.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions about MNSAA accreditation.

**With hope for a successful return to school!**

Sarah

**Sarah W. Mueller**

Executive Director

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### Accreditation Certificates Back to School Mailing

Earlier in August, a large white envelope arrived at your school via USPS from MNSAA. This Back to School mailing contains essential information including the following:

- **Accreditation Certificate(s)** - MNSAA and your National Federation
- **2020-21 MNSAA Statement of Compliance** to be reviewed with your governing leader
- **Month-by-Month Guide** to guide you in keeping up with MNSAA requirements



Contact [smueller@mnsaa.org](mailto:smueller@mnsaa.org) if you do not receive yours by August 15

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### 2020 Modified Onsite Visits Limiting Exposure During 2020 Visits

School communities will have the opportunity to continue their scheduled onsite visit for accreditation renewal through 2020. These



modified visits will maintain the integrity of the accreditation process while being sensitive to the current situation that schools are functioning under. Schools will be required to host an onsite team limited to 1 to 3 members with at least one member being present in the building for a period of time. Schools are required to distribute completed a completed MNSAA Self-Study (School Profile, Self-study, and School Strategic Plan) in advance of scheduled visit. School

leaders may choose, in consultation with their assigned Team Chair, from the options presented to meet the requirements of accreditation renewal visit.

[Learn more here!](#)

## New Principal? Support is Coming Your Way

Annually, MNSAA strives to engage our new leaders with training in our required processes and protocols. We have a terrific team of Mentors who are eager and willing to help guide you. Watch for your assigned Mentor to contact you with a date for virtual or in-person training soon.



The MNSAA Director annually reaches out to new principals to solicit an opportunity to meet you. In doing so, MNSAA vows to follow all school safety protocols regarding visitors. We may need to visit off site. Please feel free to reach out to me for this opportunity via phone or email.



## 2020 Basic Information Reports Due by October 15, 2020

Consider posting your report today! [Use this link to download](#) the protected Word Doc to complete and file by uploading through your member portal or send as an email attachment to [smueller@mnsaa.org](mailto:smueller@mnsaa.org). If you anticipate significant adjustments to your enrollment before October 1st, you may want to wait - but, we can always adjust your enrollment later. **Rest assured that this requirement only takes a few brief minutes to complete.**

## 2020 MNSAA Conference POSTPONED

We are disappointed to announce that due to the conditions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, a necessary decision was made to postpone our conference scheduled for November 13, 2020. The board will revisit the current climate in December with the hope that we will be able to host our conference in the spring of 2021.



We intend to offer essential sessions to our school leaders at no cost throughout the year. Details will be shared at a later date.

We continue to be grateful to our sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, and those of you eager to attend. We are hopeful that we will be together later this academic year. **Stay tuned!**



## MNSAA's Board of Directors At Work in the Summer!

The dedication and work of the MNSAA Board of Directors is essential to support our schools by maintaining the quality of our accreditation standards, processes, and practices. They worked for two days this summer and accomplished much! The following is a brief summary of the work completed, discussed, and/or begun:

- Decided to strive to host a spring conference in 2021
- Defined process for New Principal training
- Articulated a plan for Modified Onsite Visits for the remainder of 2020
- Determined a new process for completing the Self-Study in one year
- Identified MNSAA's needs for transitioning to a new web-based application/interface

Your Board is comprised of highly skilled and experienced volunteers to give tirelessly of their time and experience to support high quality academic programs in nonpublic schools across Minnesota. **They are simply amazing!**

## MNSAA Month-by-Month

### **August is a good time to...**

Watch for your Back to School packet from MNSAA, pay your school's annual dues, review your strategic plan with your stakeholders, and review requirements for keeping learners safe in school.

### **Mid-cycle Preschool Accreditation!**

Contact us to learn how your school can add preschool to your accredited program now. MNSAA continues to look for ways to meet the unique needs of our schools. Contact us for more information at 952.758.5985 or email [Sarah Mueller](#).