



# MNSAA

MINNESOTA NONPUBLIC SCHOOL ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION

## 2016-17 Annual Report

*Leading Minnesota's schools into the future through a rigorous process of accreditation that enhances the quality of education for today's students*



205 Lexington Ave. S. • New Prague MN 56071

952-758-5985 • [www.MNSAA.org](http://www.MNSAA.org)

## From the Director's Desk

It's been another exciting year for the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association as we continue to adapt to the needs of our ever-changing educational landscape. Our Association's focus continues to be on guiding schools toward long-range improvement and sustainability.



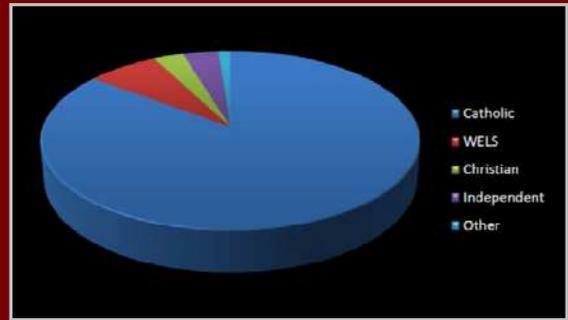
Guided by a strong and active leadership team, this year we focused on innovatively discerning new directions which improve and drive our accreditation processes while we continue to support parental choice in education. Our revised standards are in full play throughout our schools, new onsite team chairs have been trained and operating policies and practices have been updated. We continue to operate at an extraordinarily affordable cost to our schools while providing local and personalized upon demand support and assistance.

The 2016 MNSAA Annual Conference was phenomenal! **MNSAA: Nurturing Learner & Leaders** was a theme that spoke well of the work of our Association and efforts of our schools to improve. The **Our Lady of Grace Catholic School** community did a superior job of making the day a blessing for nearly 350 participants who came from all corners of our state to learn and network! **Sarah How** from **Open Door Consulting** team motivated school leaders to "become sowers of Seeds of Greatness" in our school communities. The 33 professional development sessions were exceptional and the exposition was excellent.

Please do not hesitate to call on me for support if I can be of service or lead you to someone who can.

*Sarah Winstow Mueller*

## 170 Schools Accredited in 2016-17



- ◆ 30,421 students supported by MNSAA
- ◆ 34 schools hosted MNSAA onsite visits
- ◆ 1 new school joined the Association
- ◆ 3 new schools entered Candidacy status

## New Directions in the Future

Just as MNSAA requires schools to strategically plan for improvement, we take seriously ongoing advancement of the Association. During the past year the following goals were met:

- ◆ **Ensured self-sufficiency into the future by securing financial resources to meet goals and future needs.**
- ◆ **Enhanced opportunities to interface with schools using electronic means and resources.**
- ◆ **Trained new Team Chairs and revisited the accreditation process and procedures with new and renewing schools.**
- ◆ **Built new and sought to enrich existing relationships with colleges and universities, jurisdictional leaders, sponsors and exhibitors.**

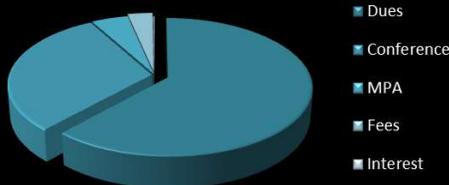
### Improvement Goals & Future Challenges:

- ◆ **Enrich professional development offerings for teachers at the Annual Conference.**
- ◆ **Provide mentorship support to new school principals.**
- ◆ **Increase awareness of MNSAA with non-member schools.**
- ◆ **Support schools in revising strategic plans to guide and drive improvement into the future.**

Visit us and learn more at [www.mnsaa.org](http://www.mnsaa.org)

Income

Total Income = \$129,710



Expense

Expense = \$128,834



FY 2016 Financial Report





# MNSAA at a Glance

*Working with K-12 nonpublic schools across Minnesota to enhance quality programs for the benefit of our children*

## The MNSAA Mission Statement:

The mission of the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association is to be a catalyst for enhancing the quality of K-12 nonpublic education in Minnesota through a comprehensive accreditation process.

## Who May Seek Accreditation?

MNSAA accredits 501(c)(3) nonprofit K-12 nonpublic schools in the State of Minnesota that have been in existence for at least two years. MNSAA defines a nonpublic school as a private organization wherein a Minnesota resident may legally fulfill compulsory instruction laws. It is an institution of learning that has one: unified mission, local governing authority, administration and consistent curriculum. The school may consist of one or more buildings. Home schools are excluded.

## Why Schools Seek Accreditation

- ✓ Provides a framework for the **best possible educational program** for learners.
- ✓ Delivers **recognized credibility** of the quality of a school program in the eyes of the public.
- ✓ Offers **objective outside validation** that a school has met high standards and is actively seeking a quality program.
- ✓ **Assures the public** that the school community will periodically undergo an intensive self-evaluation and a review by unaffiliated educators.
- ✓ Provides for **long-range strategic planning** focusing on student achievement and ongoing school improvement.
- ✓ Makes a **public statement** that the school to be measured against rigorous standards and engage in strategic plans.
- ✓ Offers a **network of educational relationships** for the exchange of ideas and methods to meet student needs.
- ✓ Facilitates a process whereby **staff communication** results in shared commitment to future directions.

## What are MNSAA Membership Costs?

Member schools of MNSAA pay annual dues on a sliding scale reflective of the number of students enrolled. Costs to a typical school range between \$290-\$1600. Services such as conferences and seminars are primarily supported by registration fees. There are additional expenses associated with renewal and onsite visits. Reasonable fees for services and benefits are possible because MNSAA utilizes the generosity and expertise of volunteers from our membership.

## Overview of the Accreditation Process

MNSAA enhances the quality of education through a process of self-evaluation and ongoing improvement. An essential and vital principle is that our schools are evaluated in terms of how well they are guided by their own mission. Respect is given to the differences that exist among accredited schools.

We subscribe to a traditional process of accreditation in which every seven years member schools are required to complete an extensive self-evaluation based on the seven standards of MNSAA. As a result of this reflection, a school develops a visionary and strategic plan for future improvement.



## The seven evaluation standards of MNSAA:

*Mission & Philosophy • Teaching & Learning •  
Climate for Learning • Communication & Community  
Personnel • Leadership, Administration & Governance*

Once the self-study and strategic plan are completed, a team of highly qualified, impartial educators visit the school for two to three days to ensure compliance and provide feedback. Schools then respond to the recommendations of the team and adjust their strategic plan for improvement accordingly.



## The MNSAA Annual Progress Report

To remain in good standing, schools are required to complete an annual progress report by June 15<sup>th</sup>. This report gives an account of steps taken to achieve goals, identifies new opportunities or obstacles, outlines communication with stakeholders, and monitors learner progress.