

# WRISA

## ACCREDITATION NEWS

### Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation

*The Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation serves school communities through standards of excellence that promote continuous improvement.*

Volume XXI, 2015  
Beatrice Weiland, Editor

#### Board Accredits 251 Schools

At the September 10th and November 10, 2015 meetings, the Board of Directors accredited 251 schools. One school voluntarily withdrew its membership.

To view the complete list of schools, visit the WRISA website: [www.wrisa.net](http://www.wrisa.net) after December 15, 2015 and click on the "WRISA Schools" link.

#### Schools Accredited for a Subsequent Cycle of Accreditation

Brookfield Christian School	Brookfield
Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School	Milwaukee
Divine Mercy School	South Milwaukee
Faith Lutheran	Fond du Lac
Holy Ghost-Immaculate Conception School	Kieler
Holy Rosary School	Medford
Immaculate Heart of Mary School	Monona
St. Alphonsus School	Greendale
St. Andrew School	Delavan
St. Ann School	Stoughton
St. Bruno School	Dousman
St. Dennis School	Madison
St. Dominic Catholic School	Brookfield
St. Frances Cabrini School	West Bend
St. Francis de Sales School	Lake Geneva
St. Francis Xavier School	Merrill
St. John's Ev. Lutheran School	Wauwatosa
St. John the Evangelist School	Greenfield
St. John the Evangelist School	Spring Green
St. John Vianney School	Brookfield
St. Joseph School	Big Bend
St. Joseph School	Grafton
St. Joseph School	Hazel Green
St. Mary Catholic Schools	Neenah
St. Matthew School	Oak Creek
St. Patrick School	Janesville
St. Patrick School	Sparta
St. Paul School	Genesee Depot
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School	Brillion
Trinity-St. Luke's Lutheran School	Watertown
Wauwatosa Catholic School	Wauwatosa

#### Seven Schools Accredited for the First Time

WRISA welcomes the following schools as members. They successfully completed the Self Study and Site Visit processes qualifying them for accreditation and membership in WRISA. Congratulations!

Believers in Christ Christian Academy	Milwaukee
Grace Christian Academy	Milwaukee
St. Clare Catholic School	Wrightstown
St. Edward School	Appleton
St. Mary's of the Assumption School	Richland Center
Wells Street Academy	Milwaukee
Winnebago Lutheran Academy	Fond du Lac

#### Schools Accepted into Candidacy

The following schools applied for Candidacy, met the WRISA pre-accreditation criteria, and have been accepted as Candidates:

CERT School	Racine
Community Christian School of Baraboo	Baraboo
Holy Family School	Waterloo
HOPE Christian School: Via	Racine
Port Washington Catholic School	Port Washington
Saint Joseph Catholic School	Boyd
Thorp Catholic School	Thorp

#### National Recognitions and Partnerships

The **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** recognizes WRISA accredited schools seeking to enroll non-immigrant foreign students under the '**Student and Exchange Visitor Program**' (SEVP) and '**Student/Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)**' certification process, as such, WRISA accredited schools are considered to be recognized by the U. S. Department of Education.

The **National Honor Society (NHS)** and the **National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Council** recognize WRISA accreditation.

WRISA is a member of the **National Federation of Non-Public School State Accrediting Associations (NFSSAA)**. This federation is composed of state accrediting associations that have a common purpose of promoting high quality non-public education for the families they serve. Together, they serve more than 200,000 children. The federation meets annually to share information relevant to their own state chapters and collaborate on common issues. ([www.nfssaa.com](http://www.nfssaa.com))

### WCRIS Leadership Conference Invitation

The Wisconsin Council for Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS) will host its ninth Annual Leadership Conference on "Effective Supervision" on February 12, 2016 at the Country Springs Hotel, 2810 Gulf Rd. in Pewaukee, WI.

This conference is a Title IIA-eligible event.  
Register at: <http://www.wcris.org/register2016.cfm>

**Keynote Speaker, Dr. Robert Marzano**, founder and CEO of Marzano Research will kick off the conference. Dr. Marzano has defined a framework of progressive levels of performance that schools must master to help all students to learn including effective supervision for success in college, careers, and beyond. This framework for success is based on Dr. Marzano's 40 years of research in education. He has developed strategies to help educators get great results for children and make positive changes in students' lives.

Register by December 4, 2015 for an 'early bird' discount. There is also a group discount. Registration includes: keynote and luncheon speaker, four workshops and materials, breakfast, lunch, snack, and drawings. Description of workshops will be forthcoming on the WCRIS website.

WRISA encourages its members to take advantage of this conference offered by WCRIS.

### End of the Year Report

Currently, WRISA accredits 251 non-public schools serving more than 54,000 students throughout the great State of Wisconsin. WRISA accredits elementary, middle, high schools, and elementary through high school combinations. The diverse school communities include faith-based, independent, and specialty schools serving the needs unique to their student populations. In addition, there are 19 candidate schools with approximately 1,600 children enrolled. The smallest school has 10 children enrolled. The largest enrollment exceeds 1,900 students.

WRISA's financial position remains stable. Fee increases are not expected at this time. For the 2015-16 fiscal year, WRISA has a projected income of \$54,163.00. Annual membership fees account for 94% of the income. The remainder comes from candidate application and progress report fees, pre-accreditation application fees, and dividends. Income is used to cover expenses for maintaining the WRISA office and website, purchasing supplies, reimbursing work-related expenses; conducting business; and paying wages for one part time employee, the executive director.

WRISA is approved by the State of Wisconsin to pre-accredit and accredit schools for the parental choice program. Currently, WRISA accredits over 85 parental choice schools and has seven in candidacy.

The Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority (WHEFA) recognizes WRISA accredited schools that are looking for low cost capital financing for building and equipment improvement, and expansion needs. This includes old loans as well as new funding. To learn more about financing options go to [www.whefa.com](http://www.whefa.com).

### Change to Board of Directors

The Board of Directors thanks John Reetz, representative for the Diocese of Green Bay for his years of service on the Board. WRISA extends its welcome to Sr. Kay Klackner who is now the WRISA representative for the Diocese of Green Bay. The Board thanks Helen Gilles who has completed her second term as Board president. Helen will continue as a member-at-large representing independent schools. John Soper, representative for the schools of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has stepped into the president's position. Welcome, John.

### Board of Directors

John Soper, Ed.S.	President/Archdiocese of Milwaukee
David Schroeder	Vice-President/WELS
Peggy Schoenfuss	Treasurer/Diocese of Superior
Michael Lancaster, Ed.S.	Secretary/Diocese of Madison
Helen Gilles, Ph.D.	Independent Schools
Kyle Heuver	Christian Schools International
Thomas Reichenbacher	Diocese of La Crosse
Dorothy Travis-Moore Ph.D.	At-Large
Sr. Kay Klackner	Diocese of Green Bay
Beatrice Weiland	Executive Director

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*Discriminatory practices based on race, ethnicity, or national origin are not used in admissions or other services. Church affiliated schools may give preference to members of their faith as allowed by law.*