

*belonging
becoming
believing*



Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools

SAES NOTES – MAY 2024

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice. Pray. Give Thanks.
Always. Continually. In all Circumstances.
This is God's will.

As the academic year winds down (or more likely thunders to a conclusion in an avalanche of events and activities), many of us are simultaneously rejoicing and praying, and hopefully, all of us are taking a moment to reflect and give thanks for the trials and triumphs of another school year.

In that spirit of rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks, I invite you to join me in celebrating and giving thanks to those in our communities who are directly responsible for making the magic that transforms lives - our teachers! On every campus that I visited this school year, my heart was filled with gratitude for the compassionate, creative, collaborative teachers who are loving and serving students with humility, passion, grace, with faith, for the greater glory of God.

Earlier this year, [SAES announced 18 finalists for the Connie Wootton Excellence in Teachings Awards](#), and the award selection committee had the unenviable task of selecting a diamond among diamonds. Despite this daunting task, ***SAES is pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 Connie Wootton Excellence in Teaching Awards:***



2024 Early Childhood Connie Wootton Award Recipient Charlotte Trafton from Good Shepherd Episcopal School in Austin Texas.



2024 Lower School Connie Wootton Award Recipient Nicole Tamer from All Saints Episcopal School in Phoenix Arizona

At SAES, we rejoice, pray, and give thanks for these, and for all the incredible teachers and staff who are at the very foundation of every great Episcopal school, leading the way for belonging, becoming, and believing. We look forward to a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow with you all this summer at the [SAES Teaching and Learning Institute!](#)

LGLO,



Selected Resources for Reflection, Learning, and Growth

[The One Big Thing You Can Do For Your Kids](#)

The research shows that you probably have less effect on your kids than you think—with one big exception.

[Learning To Have Difficult Conversations As A School Leader](#)

Every school leader needs to develop this skill, and pretty much everyone finds it challenging.

[Addressing Work Refusal in the Classroom](#)

As educators grapple with the silent protest of student work refusal, research illuminates the underlying causes—and possible solutions.

[How do you Counter Misinformation?](#)

Critical thinking is step one.

[The Art of Asking Smarter Questions](#)

These five techniques can drive great strategic decision-making.

[The Benefits of One-on-One Meetings Between Administrators and Teachers](#)

Regular informal conversations allow school leaders and teachers to connect on a personal level, building relationships that benefit the whole school.

[Reclaiming Joy at the End of the School Year](#)

What if we try to reclaim our joy and end the year in a learner-centered, thriving way, while still taking care of ourselves, and our students, as humans?

[Tips for Private and Independent Schools to Help Employees Maintain a Professional Online Presence](#)

What is the first thing most parents do when their child is assigned a new teacher? Many would say “Google them” — which highlights the importance for schools to recognize that your employees’ online and social media presence is ripe for scrutiny.

[Summer To-Do List: Crisis Communications Planning](#)

[New Overtime Rules Published](#)



"To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

**Teaching Learning Institute
June 14, 2024
Parish Episcopal School, Midway Campus,
4101 Sigma Rd.
Dallas, TX 75244**

Registration is happening NOW for the SAES Teaching Learning Institute for PK2-Grade 5 Faculty and Administrators at the Parish Episcopal School in Dallas, TX on June 14, 2024!

Learn More and Register Today!

Keynote Speakers:



**Dr. Matthew Housson
Housson Institute
Dallas, TX**



**Dr. Kenyetta Wynn
Associate Head of School
Holy Innocents' Episcopal
School, Atlanta, GA**

SAES Equip: New Chaplains!

**August 1-2, 2024
St. Francis Episcopal School
Houston, TX**

Are you a newly called School Chaplain? Or are you a Head of School or Rector who will have a new School Chaplain next year? SAES is excited to help you with our Equip New Chaplains program.

The role of the Chaplain is critical to the successful expression and practice of a school's Episcopal Identity. Because fully trained and ordained chaplains who are also skilled classroom practitioners are hard to find and challenging to afford, many Episcopal Schools turn to lay candidates or those ordained in another tradition to lead or supplement their chaplaincy programs. Alternatively, school leaders may have identified someone who is ordained by the Episcopal Church and interested in school chaplaincy but lacks experience in school settings or leading worship specifically for children.

This program is designed for both lay and ordained persons who may be called to serve as Chaplains in school settings. The program will provide participants with a "toolbox" of practical information about the work of the chaplaincy, a network of veteran chaplains and chapel leaders, and a cohort of fellow learners from similar school settings.

Learn More and Register Today!

Early Learning Mini Series Four Pre-Recorded 1.5 Hour Sessions Available for Viewing

Topics Include:

- Powerful Learning Through Student-Centered Project Work
- Working Science and Environmental Initiatives Into School Culture
- Bridge to Kindergarten: Give the Gift of Possibilities
- WonderLab

Register Now to Access Recordings

ACCREDITATION NOTES

Last month I discussed the importance of building in time to reflect on your school's organizational structure, curriculum, pedagogical practices, and facilities and to make the assessment of student data and progress a part of that reflection. This month I want to remind you of the importance of spending time to review and revise your Parent-Student, Faculty–Staff, and Administrative Handbooks. These documents are fundamental to the effective operation of your school and play a significant role in risk management by establishing clear policies and protocols.

Most of us are inclined to pull out the current year's handbooks, change any dates or calendars, maybe add something to the discipline policy to account for a situation that happened in the current year, and call it good. It's a better idea, however, to review the handbooks with a more critical eye and ask whether you have all the policies and procedures in place that you need to have, and to spend time making sure what you have still makes sense. Perhaps you started storing academic records in the cloud a few years ago—does your records retention policy account for that? Perhaps your medications administration protocol was written before you had a full-time school nurse and wasn't updated? Perhaps a lower school teacher started keeping a classroom pet this year—do you have a Classroom Animals policy?

As an aid to schools, SAES provides an Annual Safety Checklist which lists policies, protocols, and documentation that schools should have. This is a great resource for you and your team as you review your handbooks and make sure they include all that you might need. The Safety Checklist will be sent next week to all heads of school in the Association. We encourage you to look over the Checklist with your team and consider whether 1) you have all items listed and 2) whether you have been intending to revise some of the items that are listed. No actions are required on the part of your school with regard to this checklist; it is merely a resource to assist you in your work this summer as you prepare for the 2024-25 school year. As always, feel free to contact me, Rob, or Mary Katherine if you have any questions!

Chris Carter

SAES SOLUTION PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Clarity

Contact: [Linda Haitani](#)

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The mission of the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools is to lead, nurture, and unify Episcopal schools in order to advance academic excellence within the faith community of the Episcopal Church.