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## Notes from the Executive Director

*"A ship in harbor is safe, but that's not what ships are built for."*

While this quote is generally attributed to John Shedd, I have seen it cited in a variety of contexts. It is especially popular in Naval communities since it embraces (almost enthusiastically) the risks that ships routinely face.

Now that the opening day of school seems like ancient history and we are well on our annual voyage, you have no doubt hit a wave or two along the way. Sometimes, the waves seem to come a bit faster than we might like. And now that you mention it, were the waves this big last year?!

Schools, like ships, are built to go into waters that are rough; sometimes, exceedingly so. We are called to carry our precious cargo from point A to point B regardless of the weather along the way. We sometimes get tossed around a bit despite our best efforts to stay on course. No one promised smooth waters and clear weather. Meteorology can be tricky that way.

Luckily, our communities weren't built to stay in port--thanks be to God! They are strong. Our communities were built to weather the storms thanks to the unique gifts bestowed upon each of us; enabling us to push toward our goal of serving the world as Episcopal schools. The seas we navigate are rough. Maintaining high expectations of students and adults alike can be rough. Standing up for what is right is rough. Speaking truth in difficult times is rough. Picking up the pieces after a stumble is rough. Being an instrument of peace is rough.

During times of "rough water," it's important to remember two things. First, don't forget the strength of the "ship" that God provided you. We aren't in this alone. I take comfort in the fact that God never calls without equipping. Second, don't forget why you signed up to serve on this ship in the first place. While the waters might be rough, your ability to impact the lives of students in a positive and transformative way is unlimited.

And friends, that's worth the waves.

Blessings,  
David+



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**Webinar: SAES Vital Signs**  
**Thursday, November 15, 2018**  
**12:00 NOON (Central Time)**

Today's schools have many challenges. To remain a healthy school in

today's educational marketplace and to provide a quality education for students, school leaders must wrestle with enrollment management, financial challenges, and questions concerning governance. This webinar will explore the "SAES Vital Signs" which indicate health and sustainability.



**REGISTER NOW FOR FREE!**



**Webinar**  
**Difficult Conversations: Eight Strategies That Actually Work**  
**Thursday, December 6, 2018**  
**4:00 PM (Central Time)**

No one enjoys difficult conversations. However, healthy leaders know how to prepare for and engage in challenging interactions. This webinar, led by Mary Katherine Duffy, Head of School, St. Alban's Episcopal Day School, Harlingen, TX., and The Rev. David Madison, focuses on eight proven strategies to help school leaders manage some of the challenging interactions they will face.



**REGISTER NOW FOR FREE!**



**Biennial Conference 2018**

**November 7–9, 2018**  
**Atlanta Marriott Marquis,**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

**SAES WILL BE AT THE NAES 2018  
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA!!**

**COME SEE US AT OUR TABLE TO  
VISIT FATHER DAVID MADISON AND  
YOUR SAES COLLEAGUES**





## Articles of Interest

### [Fix Contentious Parent-Teacher Conferences in Six Steps](#)

Lisa Westman, Education Week

“It’s a joy to discuss achievements with families. But often, teachers may need to have more difficult conversations.”

### [Kids Brainpower Tied To Exercise, Sleep, and Limited Screen Time](#)

Nicholas Bakalar, The New York Times

“At least 60 minutes of physical activity a day, nine to 11 hours of sleep a night, and no more than two hours a day of recreational screen time were tied to higher mental test scores.”

### [The Lost Art of Concentration: Being Distracted in a Digital World](#)

Harriet Griffey, The Guardian

“We check our phones every 12 minutes, often just after waking up. Always-on behavior is harmful to long-term mental health, and we need to learn to hit the pause button.”



## SAES Accreditation News & Updates

- For schools owing accreditation reports this year: Please be advised that there are two submission dates remaining: **February 1 and April 1**. Reports received on or before February 1 will be considered at the February 20-21 Standards Committee meeting. Reports received on or before April 1 will be considered at the June 6-8 Standards Committee meeting.
- SAES has expanded its accreditation to include programs for children younger than 3-years old. Beginning in 2018-2019, SAES will accredit all grades and programs in existence during on-site visits and those added throughout the 10-year accreditation cycle. This is a change from our practice of only accrediting programs for children PreK 3 and higher. This change will affect schools that hosted on-site visits from 2015-2016, and these schools will be notified.
- If your school is adding a grade or program (e.g., extended day, residential, homestay, international, outdoor education, IB, Montessori) in 2018-2019, complete the *Added/Grade Program Report* in order for that program to be accreditation. These reports are due by February 15th, and accreditation will be retroactive to the start of the school year. In some cases, a school visit will be required. Please see the *Accreditation Handbook* for details. [Click here!](#)
- If your school has experienced a significant change in operation or structure (program or leadership) since the prior school year or during the 2018-2019 school year, complete a *Substantive Change Report*. Please see the *Accreditation Handbook* for details. [Click here!](#)
- Please note that all accreditation documentation has been updated this summer. **Version 6.18 will be the relevant version for all schools beginning their self-study this year.** Also, please note that there is a specialized Document in Adherence to Standards (DAS) for stand alone pre-schools beginning their self study this year.

If you have questions, please contact Sue Kirkpatrick, Director of Accreditation Services at [skirkpatrick@swaes.org](mailto:skirkpatrick@swaes.org) for assistance.



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## SAES Corporate Sponsorships

Sponsorships are designed for professional consulting groups, corporate entities and other for-profit organizations, as well as schools who may not be certified by a bishop as "Episcopal" but who, nevertheless, have an interest in the materials and programs SAES presents.

For more information, please contact The Rev. David A Madison, D. Min. at [dmadison@swaes.org](mailto:dmadison@swaes.org).



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