



Executive Director's Update

Massachusetts School Administrators' Association

33 Forge Parkway | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997 | msaa.net

From Executive Director Robert Baldwin

Massachusetts School Administrators' Association

January 15, 2025

MSAA's FREE Winter Conference – January 30th

Dr. Christopher Jones, MSAA President and Principal of Whitman-Hanson Regional High School is excited to announce that we are still accepting registrations for the MSAA's FREE Winter Conference on Thursday, January 30th from 8:30-12:30 in our Franklin Office. This exciting event has many great professional development opportunities as well as a chance to network with MSAA members through committee meetings. Some of the topics are:

- **Unleashing Middle Level Belonging** - Presented by Dr. Robert N. Baldwin, MSAA/MIAA Executive Director and Mary K. DeCoursey, AP of Webster Middle School
- **Utilizing AI in Your School** - Presented by Dr. Mike Rubin, Principal at Uxbridge High School
- **Cell Phone-Free Schools** - Presented by Mr. Phillip R. Brangiforte, Headmaster of East Boston High School and Dr. Kevin McCaskill, Principal of Brockton High School
- **The Write Stuff Cafe** - Prioritizing Writing Instruction - Presented by Ms. Liz Garden, Principal of Henry P. Clough Elementary School
- **Exhausting All Options** - Implementing MTSS at the Middle School Level - Presented by Dr. Stacy L. Monette, Principal of Charlton Middle School
- **Interactive Discussion** - Motivating Students and Engaging Your School Community - Presented by Martin Geoghegan, Principal of Henri A. Yelle Elementary School

Also, Keynote addresses and conversations with

- Dr. Mary M. Bourque, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Executive Director
- Craig Aarons-Martin, CCM Education Group, Braving Leadership: Guiding Our Communities with Empathy and Belonging

Please [click here](#) for details and registration.

Call for Proposals – 2025 Assistant Principals Conference

We are excited to invite you to submit a proposal to present at our upcoming Assistant Principals' Conference, scheduled to take place on **Monday, April 7, 2025**, at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts. This conference aims to bring together educational leaders, foster collaboration, and provide a platform for sharing innovative practices and insights crucial to the role of Assistant Principals.

[Click here](#) to submit your proposal. Deadline February 14.

Call for SY 2025-2026 Presenters is Now Open!

Please consider facilitating a Professional Development Workshop for the upcoming school year. We believe attendees will greatly benefit from your expertise!

Workshops are scheduled on weekdays, and they can be held in-person at the MSAA Office (8:30 -11:30 am) or online via Zoom, lasting between 1.5 to 3 hours.

If you are interested, please fill out [this form](#) to submit your proposal. The deadline for submissions is May 5, 2025.

Confidential Hotline

The Confidential Support Hotline has been established this year and is a service for all members to get advice and support to challenging questions. [This link](#) allows you to see the specifics of this new and confidential service. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Call for Nominations: Massachusetts PreK-12 Principals of the Year

This year, MSAA will recognize Principals from High, Middle and Elementary Schools to represent our 2000+ MSAA school leaders from across the Commonwealth. We are asking you to please nominate your boss, one of your peers or even yourself. All it takes is one sentence email to Bonnie LeMote at blemote@msaa.net naming the person you would like to nominate as one of our three Principals of the Year. Nominees must fit the criteria listed below. However, do not worry; we will do all the necessary research.

NAESP – Elementary Criteria - NAESP Eligibility: *Must have been a member of NAESP for at least one year at the time of nomination and maintain membership through the conclusion of the NAESP Award Ceremony. Is a practicing principal with at least five years of experience in the principalship. Plans to continue as a practicing principal.*

- MSAA member for three (3) years
- Active Principal for five (5) years
- NAESP member for at least 1 year

NASSP – Middle & High Criteria - NASSP Eligibility: *Candidate must serve as a principal at one or more middle level or high schools for three or more consecutive years. Must complete the NASSP POY application and be a member of NASSP and state affiliate association at the time of selection.*

- MSAA member for three (3) years
- Active Principal, headmaster or leader of a public, private or virtual middle level or high school for three (3) years

Once your nomination is received, we will contact the nominee. So, give your nominee a chance to get an early start on their application now, by nominating them today. The nomination email address is blemote@msaa.net. Completed applications are due by noon, February 28, 2025.



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Membership

The energy and excitement around the Association continues to build as we increase the number of school leaders committed to our mission. If you are a member, THANK YOU. If you are not a member, please consider joining today for access to discounted Professional Development, a voice on state and national committees, access to a confidential support hotline, or simply collaboration and a network with other school leaders. Also, as a Principal, we strongly encourage you to register your Assistant Principals or other Principals in your district as we celebrate the profession. [Click here](#) for more information.

Coaching Program for New Administrators

Please share the [Request a Coach](#) link with your colleagues and encourage them to enroll new administrators in our coaching program for the school year 2025-2026. Check out the details of our Coaching Program through the following links: [Outline](#), [Coaching Directory](#) ; [Request a Coach](#). Whether you're a new administrator or know someone who could benefit, this program is designed to provide tailored guidance and practical solutions. Explore the program and take advantage of this valuable resource!

Call for Award Nominations: National Honor Society & National Junior Honor Society

Please take a moment to nominate a student from your school to receive one of these scholarships. Principals, consider nominating your NHS Adviser for recognition. The award is highly regarded and well received. All the Award application forms can be found on the NHS page of the [MSAA website](#):

- [Student of the Year Award](#)
- [Evrett Masters Adviser of the Year Award](#)
- [Gold Torch Award](#)
- [Commended Charter Award](#)

MASC Annual Conference – March 5-7, 2025

This three-day, two-night conference includes workshops, motivational speeches, special events, award presentations and state officer elections. Attendees will participate in a variety of leadership development activities and network with student leaders from across Massachusetts to learn best practices for their student councils. Active student council members in grades 9-12 are encouraged to attend. The registration deadline is February 3, 2025. Please see the links below for additional information:

[Registration and Pricing](#)
[Student-Led Workshop Application](#)
[Lip Sync Contest Entry](#)

Student Council Award Nominations

Each year, MSAA/MASC awards are presented to students, advisors, administrators and schools that have made significant contributions to student council activities. Nominations are currently being accepted online for each of these awards. Please utilize the links below to access the online nomination forms and additional award details. Awards will be presented at the MASC Annual Conference that is scheduled for March 5-7, 2025 at the Emerald Resort in Hyannis. *Please note - nominations must be submitted by schools that have registered Student Council as an MSAA Student Activity and are due by Friday, January 17, 2025.

Nomination Information:

[Administrator of the Year Award](#)

Presented to one school administrator in recognition of outstanding support for student council activities.

[Henry Sullivan Advisor of the Year Award](#)

Presented to one student council advisor in recognition of a commitment to excellence and service to young people in their school.

[Top Ten Project Awards](#)

Presented to ten student councils who have submitted one of the ten most outstanding projects during the school year.

[Unsung Hero Awards](#)

Presented to one student council member from each region of the state who goes above and beyond the call of duty on a regular basis with little or no recognition.

[Council of Excellence Awards](#)

These awards are designed to recognize and reward the achievements of outstanding student councils and provide standards of effective student leadership.*

**The due date for this nomination information is February 3, 2025.*

For additional information: Contact State Director Paul Branagan (pbranagan@middleboro.k12.ma.us) or Student Council Liaison Peter Smith (psmith@msaa.net) with questions regarding the nomination process.

Upcoming Professional Development Workshops:

[Please click](#) here for a full list of our PD offerings.

- January 16 - Empowering Educators for Trauma-Sensitive Success
- January 21 - Controlling Conflict for School Leaders
- January 22 - How to Make Lessons Student-Centered by Including Different Models of Teaching and Different Principles of Learning
- January 23 - Thriving in the Principalship
- January 27 - 4 Ps of the N-Word
- January 28 - Teach to Remember (8:30 -3:00)
- January 29 - LevelED-Up Learners: Using Executive Function Skills to Support All Learners
- January 31 - Creating Equity through Positive Relationships



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Esports - High School Interest Survey and Spring '25 Registration

MSAA has been partnering with PlayVS to offer an outstanding esports experience. Getting started is EASY and participation is completely FREE. Spring '25 enrollment OPEN NOW!

Interested? Fill out this short [survey](#)

Filling out the survey helps your school get more information and connect with a dedicated contact to help get ready to participate in esports. Even if you're unsure about whether your school will compete, we encourage you to complete this survey and we can help answer any questions you may have.

BONUS: Schools that complete the survey and participate in the Spring '25 season have a chance to win:

- A Nintendo Switch Bundle* (valued at \$650 USD)

We look forward to seeing new and returning teams, along with crowning our next state champions this upcoming season!

NEW! Middle School Esports - Spring Season Is HERE!

Following another successful high school Fall season with PlayVS, we're excited to announce that middle school esports is now OPEN for enrollment! Students can compete in popular games like *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate™*, *Rocket League*, *NBA2K* and more.

Best of all, participation is completely FREE, and there's **NO enrollment deadline** for the PlayVS middle school regional leagues—you can join anytime during the Spring '25 season.

Our partnership with PlayVS is focused on fostering participation and growth at the middle school level, offering students what could be their first experience in a scholastic activity. If your school is interested or simply want to learn more, please fill out the MSAA Middle School Esports [Survey](#).

It's a no-obligation way for us to provide more information and connect your school with the right person. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity for your middle school and students!

Upcoming Events:

- January 17 – DEI Summit
- January 30 – [MSAA FREE Winter Conference](#)
- February 7 – [K-12 Administrators and Counselors Working Together to Impact Student Achievement & Success](#)
- [MASC Annual Conference](#) – March 5-7, 2025
- Assistant Principals Conference – April 7-Holy Cross

Thanks for your continued support!

Robert Baldwin

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It's a new year and a good time to get your financial house in order!

Horace Mann, a long-time corporate supporter, is thrilled to launch HMScore™ — a free tool for credit monitoring and reporting that empowers you to take control of your financial health. As you shape future leaders, let us help you build your own financial future.

[Sign up](#) for your free HMScore™ account today and start your journey toward financial success.



Thank you for your dedication to education. We're proud to support you!

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