

**Keystone Christian Education Association**

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**DECEMBER ’23 NEWS NOTES**

**P.R. IDEA OF THE MONTH. SCHOOL BUDGETS, FACULTY SALARIES, SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME.** We are all rapidly approaching the time when we will finalize our schools’ financial plans for 2024-25. While schools typically have both a typical procedure and mindset, there is a time to internally challenge one’s “usual” way to proceed.

School Budgets. The typical Christian school approaches the budgeting process following a philosophy that is quite different from Christian colleges. Day schools first ask the question, “How much can we increase our fees without losing any students?” Colleges first ask the question, “How much do we need to charge to accomplish our mission?” A few years ago, KCEA provided a copy of a 27-page book to all affiliating ministries to aid in decision making. See *Building Relationships while Collecting Tuition – A practical Business Approach to a Difficult Task* by John D. Walsh. Walsh gives five main points: (1) People who owe unpaid tuition will, in time, hurt the school. (2) People judge quality by price. (3) Discounts and scholarships provide for those in need and also promote the school. (4) A financial committee should bear the blame for difficult financial decisions. (5) Parents should never owe tuition: it should always be paid in advance. Walsh’s experience is that many/most Christian school decisions are badly flawed in the area of philosophy.

Faculty Salaries.

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Supplemental Income.

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**SEPTEMBER 17, 1974.** Christian schools were opening across Pennsylvania, joining those that existed previously. The State was moving to control religious schools parallel to their control of public schools. A half-dozen pastors and principals met at Carlisle at the Dutch Pantry restaurant and started a ball rolling. In the following weeks and months, a movement was ongoing, and it was named the Keystone Christian Education Association.

September 26 & 27, 2024 – our 50th Anniversary. We are busy planning. We seek your attention to the following details:

* 1. Plan for you and yours to be in attendance. Write the dates on your calendar. Get the budget set to cover the costs for your involvement, whether on a shoestring or with higher expectations.
  2. …
  3. …
  4. …

**MAY I HELP YOU?** That is a question posed by a store clerk. It is asked as one observes an elderly person in need. It is part of the repertoire of a teacher with students in problem solving. It is also a foundational part of KCEA’s history. KCEA was not founded solely for the opportunity for schools to gain benefits (although they have and do) that they would not otherwise receive. One of the marks of KCEA is that the affiliating ministries are in a cooperative relationship that includes providing help for each other. *At this time of year, and for the next eight months, that includes watching for staff for others as you observe a quality person whom you do not need.*

**STANDARDIZED TESTING FOR APRIL 2024.** Two reminders:

Ordering Materials. We sincerely hope that all schools that are planning to test students in April have already ordered their materials. As we have noted in the past, the prices for materials typically increase on January 1 of each year. That includes KCEA’s special testing group pricing. …

Ordering Barcode Stickers. The use of barcode stickers is not just a time-saving perk for teachers, it also improves accuracy in the short and long term.

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**PLANNING AHEAD.** At the level of an individual school, church, or family, planning ahead is important; but it is easier to adjust as necessary. Three factors influence the ease with which one can adjust: (1) ministry size (smaller adjust easier), and (2) a singular dominant leader (a person decides “everything”), and (3) a flexible norm (an absence of written policies, procedures, patterns).

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**ADOPTION.** I attach two news articles that include this topic. The one includes tragedy and the other includes blessedness. Both merit our thought.

The “formal curriculum” of our schools and churches likely has no inclusion of this topic. Should there be inclusion? If not in the “formal curriculum,” should there be some inclusion at the “hidden curriculum” level? Should there be a shaping of attitudes? Should situations impact our enrollment policies?

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**LEARN FROM THE CRITICS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, TEACH OTHERS**. You likely observed the summary in the [December Sentinel](file:///C:\Users\KCEA\Keystone%20Christian%20Education%20Association\Keystone%20Christian%20Education%20Association%20Team%20Site%20-%20Documents\A_A_WORD.D\Sentinel\Sentinel%202023-12.pdf) of legislative action that impacts the EITC program. Previous to that we provided several updates.

Early days in December saw a news conference by an organization that perpetually criticizes private education and extols public education. At Harrisburg their work is well known and expected. They act similar to a propaganda arm of the public school establishment and unions. The information from this news conference was picked up by *multiple* media sources, but many tracked the Associated Press article. To better learn from the remainder of this article, it is wise to read the media’s version.

<https://apnews.com/article/pennsylvania-school-choice-report-discrimination-legislature-2e199599fc5200bc1cf12b895fa37aff>.

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