

# 46 students get support from Florida family foundation

written by Aprille Hanson Spivey |



Kremer Foundation grants aid schools across U.S., four in Arkansas

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# Schools seek tools to boost Hispanic enrollment

written by Aprille Hanson Spivey |



Latino Enrollment Institute teaches principals how to boost diversity

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## **Plan to expand facilities at St. Joseph Church in Conway**

written by Aprille Hanson Spivey |



\$10 million capital campaign to benefit parish, school youth with more meeting space

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## **New leaders chosen for Paris, Conway schools**

written by Special to Arkansas Catholic |

- Educational philosophy: A cornerstone of my philosophy of education is to always make decisions by considering what is best for children. Further, I am firmly committed to the Benedictine Catholic philosophy of prayer, work and service.
- Benefits of Catholic education: A Catholic school education is an investment in that child's future. Because most children spend their days in school and then activities, family time is harder to find for most families. It is difficult to give children a firm Catholic foundation of faith, tradition and service when they spend so much time immersed in the secular world. Being in a Catholic school means that children are taught the values, morality, respect and love they will need to be successful in life. Even when times are hard as the child grows old, they can draw from the foundation that they received from their Catholic school. A child can learn to read almost anywhere, but a Catholic school is where a child comes to grow in character and live in community.
- Favorite saint or Scripture: My favorite saints are St. Monica and St. Therese of Lisieux ("Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing. ")

- Hobbies: I have nine kids. Kids are my hobby! Seriously though, I like to read (and try to find quiet places to do so!) and do arts and crafts stuff. We also love to “glamp” (camping with style) as a family.

Diane Wolfe

St. Joseph High School, Conway

- Hometown: Little Rock

- Education: doctoral candidate, Interdisciplinary Leadership, 2016, University of Central Arkansas, Conway; master’s degree in school leadership, management and administration, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, 2008; bachelor’s degree in secondary education, Louisiana State University-Shreveport, 1983

- Educational experience: math teacher, Colorado Springs Colo. , two years; Shreveport, La. , one year; Central High School, Little Rock, nine years; Immaculate Conception North Little Rock, four years; Mount St. Mary Academy, Little Rock, three years; principal, Immaculate Conception, North Little Rock, three years; and Mount St. Mary Academy, Little Rock, five years.

- Educational philosophy: Beyond striving to ensure that students learn the fundamental content of the curriculum, my objective as an administrator is to cultivate an environment steeped in academic excellence and service in a community of faith.

- Benefits of Catholic education: I believe we are all called to serve as examples and walk in the steps of Jesus Christ. There is no better way to prepare our children for this path than to provide an environment steeped in values, morality and spirituality. The ability to pray with our students and share our spirituality is very powerful. Catholic education understands this.

- Favorite saint or Scripture: My favorite Scripture is actually quite simple but again, very powerful: “Do everything in love. ” (1 Corinthians 16:14)

- Hobbies: Currently, my hobbies revolve around the research I am doing in order to finish my dissertation.

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## **School choice: What does future hold for Arkansas?**

written by Special to Arkansas Catholic |

Friedman believed that all children have a right to high-quality education, no matter their ZIP code, and that in many cases, the government monopoly in K-12 education was failing to

provide the education opportunities for many children. Twenty years ago he and his wife Rose established the Freidman Foundation and charged it with advancing educational freedom for all children. Over the years this foundation has provided research, information and guidance to policymakers on school choice.

In the 2016 publication of "The ABCs of School Choice," published by the Freidman Foundation there is comprehensive information and guidance on school choice and what is happening state by state to provide private school choice.

Currently there are 29 states that have some form of private school choice programs with some states having multiple programs. The school choice programs are impacting 399,280 students.

To find out more information on school choice, visit [edchoice.com](http://edchoice.com) where the publication can be downloaded.

Arkansas has enacted its first voucher program beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. In 2015 the legislators approved the Succeed Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities. This is the first step for vouchers for private school choice but is also restrictive. Not all students are eligible and not all private schools can meet the requirements for approved schools.

## STUDENTS

A parent or legal guardian of a public school student with a disability may apply for a Succeed Scholarship to enroll his or her child in a private school if the student is currently enrolled in a public school district and has attended public school for at least the one full school year immediately prior to the school year for which the scholarship payments would be disbursed.

## SCHOOLS

The private school must meet the accreditation requirements set by the State Board of Education; the Arkansas Non-Public Accrediting Association or its successor; or another accrediting association recognized by the State Board of Education.

To view the complete policy and guidelines, go to <http://ark.sped.k12.ar.us>.

As of Aug. 12, four Catholic schools, St. John School in Hot Springs, St. Edward School in Little Rock and Trinity Junior High School and Immaculate Conception School in Fort Smith, have been approved by Arkansas Department of Education to accept students on the Succeed Scholarship.

Hopefully this is just the beginning for providing affordable education for parents who wish to send their children to private schools. The success of this program will depend how well informed parents are about the program, on the numbers of schools that can be approved and the number of students who actually enroll.

Private school choice does not happen overnight. According to an article in the summer 2016 edition of the NCEA Momentum, Indiana's successful choice program has depended on coalitions, champions and community support.

If you are one of these stakeholders and are interested in pursuing private school choice, you

might begin by reading research on the school choice movement at state levels, talking with your local business and civic leaders and forming coalition groups to be at the table while legislation is being drafted.

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# Catholic Schools Calendar: Little Rock/North Little Rock

written by Special to Arkansas Catholic |

23: Professional Day for teachers, schools closed

Nov. 23-25: Thanksgiving break, schools closed

Dec. 19-30: Christmas break, schools closed

Jan. 2: Schools reopen after break

Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, schools closed

Feb. 20: Presidents Day, schools closed

March 20-24: Spring break, schools closed

April 3-13: Window to administer standardized tests

April 14: Good Friday, schools closed

May 26: Last day of school

This calendar includes 180 days of school with two snow days built in. If snow days are unused, each school can decide what additional days to cancel classes. If more than two snow days are needed, schools can add additional days to their calendar or schedule cyber days.

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