

**2025**

# *Farmington High School*

*Principal*  
*Russell Crist*

*Assistant Principal*  
*Dr. Felicia Poskus*

*Assistant Principal*  
*Jeffrey Russell*

*Dean of Students*  
*Mary Lundquist*

*Director of Athletics*  
*Matthew Martorelli*



**Dear Coach Gatley and the NIAAA Board of Directors,**

When I decided to begin the NIAAA QPA project, I viewed it as an opportunity to take a meaningful step back and assess where we were as an athletic department, not just in terms of wins and losses or daily operations, but through the lens of education-based athletics. I wanted to look critically at how we serve our student-athletes, how we engage our school community, and how we support our coaches. Just as importantly, I wanted to create a clear vision for where we're going.

So much of this job, especially as an Athletic Director, is reactive. You're constantly responding to emails, to last-minute scheduling issues, to injuries, to community concerns. The QPA gave me the rare chance to pause and take a proactive approach. It allowed me to evaluate the systems in place, identify the strengths we need to protect, and uncover the areas that need attention and improvement. In short, it gave me the structure and the time to think like a long-term builder of a program, not just the daily operator of one.

What I didn't anticipate, however, was how intense the process would be. At times, it felt like going through a full school accreditation. It demanded thoughtful reflection, data collection, honest self-assessment, and the courage to confront weaknesses. That's not easy to do when you're balancing a 60 to 70-hour work week, covering events day and night, and trying to be fully present at home with a young family (three kids under the age of nine). Like most ADs, I wear a lot of hats. And when the school year started, on top of opening a brand-new school building, I seriously questioned whether the timing was right. I even considered backing out.

That's where my mentor came in. I was incredibly fortunate to have a mentor who not only understood the demands of the role, but who also helped me stay focused and grounded when everything around me felt chaotic. He checked in, offered encouragement, held me accountable, and reminded me that growth only happens when you stick with something difficult. If it weren't for his steady guidance, I'm not sure I would have finished. He was an essential part of this journey, and I'm deeply grateful for the time and energy he gave to my development.

Through this process, I was able to build stronger systems that now support the way we operate at Farmington High School. I was able to create more clarity for our coaches, more purpose in our programming, and more alignment with the mission of education-based athletics. There are specific parts of our department (communication, evaluation, equity, community outreach) that are stronger because of the intentional work done through the QPA. We're not perfect, but we're better. And more importantly, we now have a blueprint to keep getting better.

I also made meaningful connections through this experience. The relationships I've built with other Athletic Directors and mentors across the country have made me feel like I'm not alone in this work. It's so easy in this position to feel isolated or overwhelmed, but the QPA community reminded me that we're part of something bigger, that there's a national network of leaders working toward the same goal: to build athletic programs that prioritize education, integrity, and student development.

10 Monteith Drive • Farmington, CT 06034-1128  
Main Office: (860) 673-2514 • FAX: (860) 673-7284  
School Counseling Office: (860) 673-4393

To any Athletic Director who is considering whether or not to take on the QPA, I would say this: do it. Yes, it takes time. Yes, it will challenge you. But in this position, we're constantly pushing our coaches, our athletes, and our staff to grow and improve. We owe it to ourselves and to our communities to do the same. You don't need to be at a "perfect" school to benefit from this process. In fact, if you feel like your department has room to grow, the QPA is the exact tool to help you build toward that future.

I'm incredibly proud to have completed the QPA project. It stretched me as a professional, made me a more thoughtful leader, and laid the foundation for long-term success at Farmington. I didn't just complete a self-evaluation, I built a vision for our future. And I truly believe our school, our students, and our community are better for it.

**Go River Hawks!**

**Matthew Martorelli  
Farmington High School  
Director of Athletics**



# **OWEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

***"Home of the Rebels"***

T.J. Wesselman, CMAA  
Athletic Director  
2340 Highway 22 E  
Owenton, KY 40359  
502. 484. 4168 (O)  
606. 627. 3211 (C)  
502. 484. 0444 (F)  
tj.wesselman@owen.kyschools.us

July 15, 2025

**PRINCIPAL**

Betsy Webster

**ASST. PRINCIPAL**

Zach Bolen

**ASST. AD**

Megan Hearn

**COUNSELOR**

Casey Duvall

**BOOKKEEPER**

Abigail Widener

**ATHLETIC TRAINER**

Casey Riley

**FOOTBALL**

T.J. Wesselman

**VOLLEYBALL**

Ann Carter

**BOYS SOCCER**

Chasity Davis

**GIRLS SOCCER**

Jacob Roberts

**BOYS GOLF**

Byron Mefford

**GIRLS GOLF**

David Wainscott

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Heidi Williams

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

Devin Duvall

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Amy Wesselman

**BASEBALL**

Shane Tirey

**SOFTBALL**

Jeremy Dempsey

**TRACK & FIELD**

Stuart Barnes

**CHEERLEADING**

Sarah Young

**ARCHERY**

Tommy Scott

**E-SPORTS**

Ed Crutchleo

**BASS FISHING**

Cameron McAnally

**BAND**

Cade Jenkins

Mr. Bales and NIAAA Board of Directors,

Pursuing the NIAAA Quality Program Award (QPA) has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional career. As an Athletic Administrator, I am constantly looking for ways to improve the programs we offer, strengthen our department's foundation, and ultimately enhance the experience of every student-athlete who walks through our doors. The QPA process gave me a framework to reflect, evaluate, and grow—not just our programs, but my leadership as well.

Engaging in the QPA is not just a checklist; it's a journey of improvement. It challenged me to look closely at our policies, procedures, communication practices, and leadership structures. It helped me identify both our strengths and areas that needed refinement. Most importantly, it provided resources and direction for meaningful change. This process truly made me a better Athletic Administrator. Owen County HS I honored to be the first school in Kentucky to receive this distinguished recognition.

The most valuable part of the QPA process, though, is its ultimate impact on our students. At the end of the day, everything we do is about giving our student-athletes the best possible experience—on the field, in the classroom, and in life. Our motto has always been—Better Athletes. More Importantly, Better Students. Most Importantly, Better People. The QPA helped ensure that our athletic department is built on quality, integrity, and a commitment to excellence.

I would highly recommend the QPA to any Athletic Administrator seeking to grow professionally and elevate their athletic programs. It's an amazing opportunity, one that will have a lasting impact on Owen County High School for years to come and on me personally for the rest of my career.

T.J. Wesselman, CMAA  
Athletic Director  
Owen County High School



July 9 2025

Athletic Department  
Trinity School of Durham & Chapel Hill  
4011 Pickett Road  
Durham  
North Carolina 27705

To whom it may concern,

The QPA journey for Trinity started several years ago after I had taken several LTI courses. Then a dive into the possibility and credentialing took a turn after combining completion of 799 (required prior to QPA) and attendance at the NIAAA National Conference in Nashville. There was an energy and enthusiasm for professional development there that was contagious. After learning more about the process and its immense value I took the opportunity to sign up and undertake the journey.

At the outset I have to acknowledge that this would not have been completed without incredible support, patience and forbearance from a group of NIAAA folks. Rich Bechard, Mike Ellison & Mike Gatley were an extraordinary group of mentors and motivators. Without their significant encouragement, wisdom and challenge I would not have completed the journey. I cannot overstate how valuable and significant their efforts were. They love education-based athletics, have had a myriad of high level leadership experience in different schools (and NIAA), and were genuinely guiding throughout to get the project done. No question or concern was too small. It restored a real heart for this work and I am incredibly grateful for their time and insights and joy. I cannot thank them enough.

For Trinity School - particularly the athletic department - it was a much needed audit of practices, procedures and a deep dive into all areas of athletic administration. It revealed quickly what we are doing well, what areas of athletic administration need improvement, what the gaps were, what needs shoring up or changing, and what needs immediate attention. It was striking that whilst accreditation for schools is normative, a process for athletics is not necessarily so. The QPA does this so well and fills a much needed void. I am confident that Trinity is now on a much stronger footing in athletics, a stronger foundation to build on, a better understanding of what our needs are - to take to the Board, HR, Business office and

Advancement. No doubt it has highlighted how athletics underpins the life of the school and how strengthening ties across departments and divisions is vital to the health of the school and community.

It is not the end of the journey for us at Trinity. It's simply the beginning, I hope for sustained growth of operations, enhancing the value, experience and excellence of education-based athletics here. I can't recommend the QPA highly enough - whatever your school size, community or school type.

Sophie Smith  
Athletic Director

# Shroder Paideia High School



5030 DUCK CREEK RD.  
CINCINNATI, OH 45227  
(513) 363-8200  
FAX (513) 363-6920

Ms. Shauna Murphy, Superintendent  
Mr. Joshua Hardin, District Athletic Manager  
Ms. Lavaugn Neal, Principal  
Mr. Steven Anticoli, Assistant Principal

Donald Newberry, Athletic Director

---

Dear Don Bales and NIAAA Board of Directors,

I want to thank the NIAAA for developing the Quality Program Assessment process, which enabled us to challenge our athletic program to evaluate itself against the rigorously established standards set by the NIAAA. This process has been a valuable and impactful experience for my professional growth and the overall development of our athletic program. We serendipitously discovered the process has had several built-in components that were tremendously beneficial.

The QPA process provided a structured framework for a "deep dive" into the inner workings of an athletic program, enabling an objective assessment of its strengths and weaknesses. The assessment process helps identify areas that require attention and improvement, enabling data-driven decision-making and continuous program enhancement. The QPA process also allowed our athletic department to acknowledge and highlight our strengths, reinforcing best practices and fostering confidence. The QPA Cohort model facilitates networking and collaboration with other athletic administrators, fostering a community of practice and shared learning experiences.

Most importantly, we gained valuable advice, expertise, and encouragement throughout the process, making this a well-supported journey. The QPA emphasizes that excellence in athletic administration is an ongoing and perpetual journey of growth and evaluation, motivating programs to continually raise their standards.

Professionally,

*Donald Newberry III*

Donald Newberry III, CMAA, CIC  
Director of Athletics  
Shroder High School



# ST. GEORGE'S

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

Dear Mr. Gatley and NIAAA Board of Directors,

As the Athletic Director at St. George's Independent School, I am honored to share our experience and endorsement of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NIAAA) Quality Program Assessment (QPA) accreditation process. This prestigious program, that recognizes excellence and drives continuous improvement, sets a high standard for athletic programs across the nation and has had a deep and transformative impact on our school.

We often talk with our coaches and student athletes about the "pursuit of excellence" and how the "edge of uncomfortable" is where great things happen and typically their overall experiences are evaluated on these beliefs. But rarely are there opportunities for an Athletic Department assessment to happen at such a comprehensive and deep level that push you to benchmark against best practices, uncover areas that need improvement and elicit excitement for future growth. The QPA, while at times seeming daunting and overwhelming, provides a structure for thorough analysis of all facets of our department. Deep work requires sacrifice and St. George's Athletics will be better equipped to lead moving forward because of our time invested in the QPA accreditation process.

One of the valuable parts of this experience was realizing the strong practices that many of our coaches already have in place— mentoring, sportsmanship efforts, and standards that have become second nature over time within their programs. However, we also recognized that much of this knowledge lived in their heads rather than in written documentation and stayed siloed within their programs. The QPA challenged us to capture and articulate these successes in ways that can be shared, sustained, and improved upon for all programs to benefit from.

The QPA process also exposed routines and systems that were not in place and helped guide decisions about next steps in strategic department improvements. This process also highlighted areas where we're excelling and gave us clarity on opportunities for future growth. It sparked meaningful conversations within our department and connected us with other athletic leaders across the country. Through monthly cohort meetings, access to peer submissions and insightful conversations with QPA leaders, we gained insight into how others are approaching areas like marketing, student engagement, and equity—insights that continue to shape our own practices.



# ST. GEORGE'S

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

While the QPA was certainly a huge undertaking, the benefits and insights gained far outweigh any challenges in time commitment. I can without hesitation say that St. George's will look back on this commitment as a pivotal moment that shaped and inspired its work for years to come. I'm incredibly proud of what our department has accomplished, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to reflect, refine, and celebrate the work we're doing to serve our student-athletes and school community and I'm excited about what lies ahead.

The attainment of the NIAAA Quality Program Assessment Award is a significant milestone for St. George's Independent School. A milestone we are honored to share with our community, coaches, student-athletes, athletic trainers, administrators and board members who support Gryphon Athletics and our mission dedicated to the pursuit of excellence and preparing students for a life of learning and meaningful contribution. I also would suggest that the QPA is more than an "award" to us, but a validation of a true and authentic testimony to the journey that our Gryphons are committed to everyday- a commitment to living out and passionately pursuing excellence in all that we do.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to lead St. George's in the QPA process and thankful for the efforts of my Assistant Athletic Director who was a key contributor in our organizational efforts and our Athletic Trainers and Coaches who helped provide pertinent information and feedback. I also felt extremely blessed to be led, mentored and encouraged for the entirety of the process by Michael Gatley, Mike Ellson and others involved with this QPA cohort. How can you not improve when you're led by the best of the best-much thanks to all of them! I highly recommend the Quality Program Assessment, it's a journey you won't regret.

Sincerely,

Michelle York, CMAA  
Athletic Director  
St. George's Independent School



**Dear Members of the NIAAA Board of Directors,**

On behalf of the entire Saints community—our student-athletes, coaches, families, faculty, staff, and administration—I am honored to share how impactful the NIAAA Quality Program Assessment (QPA) has been for me individually, as well as for our athletic program as a whole. Initially, when I first applied to participate, the timing didn't align due to internal staff turnover, but I was fortunate to be included in a second-chance cohort. As an athletic director at an independent school, I approached the QPA process with curiosity and a bit of caution. Many national frameworks and resources—though well-intentioned—are often designed with public schools in mind, and I wasn't sure how applicable this experience would be to my own school setting. What I discovered, however, was a comprehensive, mission-aligned, and deeply valuable opportunity for reflection, growth, and affirmation. This journey transcended school type and speaks to the universal power of education-based athletics.

To my knowledge, we are among the first independent schools in the state of Virginia to complete the QPA process, and I am proud of the intentionality and purpose it brought to our work. It affirmed what we believe so strongly at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School—that interscholastic athletics is a vital extension of the educational experience. Our mission is to help our students succeed in a complex and changing world, and to inspire a passion for learning and enthusiasm for athletic endeavor. The QPA helped validate our commitment to educating the whole child and the value of education-based athletics, while also offering a clear and structured framework for program evaluation and long-term strategic planning.

The process challenged us to think more deeply about who we are, what we value, and how we serve our student-athletes in a holistic way. It inspired thoughtful dialogue among our athletics team and other departments at our school, provided actionable insights, and encouraged a culture of continuous improvement and growth. Through the lens of the ten assessment categories, we were able to identify both areas of strength and opportunities to evolve and enhance the Saints Athletics experience for our student-athletes for years to come.

Beyond the internal impact, this journey allowed me to collaborate with athletic directors and professionals from across the country. I deeply value the partnership, mentorship, and camaraderie that emerged through this experience. Engaging in meaningful work alongside like-minded athletic professionals was both inspiring and affirming, and it reminded me that regardless of school type or geography, we are united in our commitment to building strong, education-based athletic programs that serve students well.

I am deeply grateful to the NIAAA for making this pathway available to schools like ours. The QPA is not just a recognition program—it is a roadmap that has helped us sharpen our vision, celebrate our mission, and strengthen our impact. I strongly encourage other independent

school athletic directors to consider this process. The benefits are profound, and the alignment with best practices in education-based athletics is undeniable.

Thank you again to Mr. Gatley, my wonderful mentor, as well as Don Bales, Mike Ellson, Randy Tevepaugh and the entire leadership team at the NIAAA for supporting this important work.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Koroma, CAA  
Director of Athletics  
St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School  
Alexandria, VA | [www.sssas.org](http://www.sssas.org)



# MAHOMET-SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL

302 West State Street Mahomet, Illinois 61853

Phone (217) 586-4962



Coach Gatley, Mr. Bales, Mr. Ellson, Ms. Keyser and the members of NIAAA QPA Team -

On behalf of the student-athletes, coaches, administration, staff and parents of Mahomet - Seymour High School please accept this letter as a sincere thank you for your efforts and support as Mahomet-Seymour High School worked towards completion of the NIAAA Quality Program Award. We were excited to be part of this process and are additionally proud to receive recognition from the NIAAA as a Quality Athletic Program.

During my tenure at Mahomet - Seymour High School, both our community, our school, and our school district has grown. That growth has presented both obstacles and opportunities and Mahomet-Seymour High School now boasts an enrollment of nearly 1100 students and now offers 24 varsity sport programs. Using the NIAAA benchmarks as a tool to evaluate our athletic program has been valuable to ensure that our growth has not gone unchecked and that we have proven ways to assess our programs to help ensure that we are providing our students athletes the best possible experience.

The NIAAA QPA process is a challenging journey. It is also one which brings together a group of individuals to work towards a common and valuable goal. This combined effort represents one of the best qualities of the program and allows for the creation of a shared mission and vision that benefits both our current group of Bulldogs as well as those that will follow in their footsteps. Equally important are the policies and their aligned best practices that we have put into place that enables our current group of coaches to focus on transformational leadership and establishes a foundation for the next generation of coaches to build on our tradition of excellence.

Mahomet - Seymour Schools has a mission for ALL Bulldogs to Achieve, Learn and Lead. Having completed the NIAAA Quality Program and its ten assessment categories allows our athletic program to support that mission through a program that provides students the opportunity to showcase their talents in an environment committed to the values of education based interscholastic athletics. We believe strongly that the completion of the NIAAA QPA process represents commitment as opposed to completion and are proud of our efforts towards earning the NIAAA Quality Program Award. We are also proud to be the first public school in Illinois to achieve this prestigious honor and look forward to joining the NIAAA in Tampa in December.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matt Hensley, CMAA  
Assistant Principal for Extra-Curricular Athletics and Activities  
Mahomet-Seymour High School

“Fight for All; Yield to None”

## New Albany QPA Testimonial

Participating in the NIAAA Quality Program Assessment (QPA) has been an invaluable experience for our athletic department. This process provided us with the unique opportunity to measure our operations and practices against nationally recognized standards and best practices. By taking a deep dive into our policies, procedures, and overall program structure, we gained clarity on what we are doing well and identified areas where we can improve.

Through the QPA, we learned that excellence in athletics administration is a continuous journey. In the spirit of ongoing growth and evolution, we understand that we will never truly be "finished" with this process. The lessons learned through the QPA have reinforced our commitment to constantly evaluating and raising our standards of operation. Our goal is to ensure that we provide the best possible experiences for our student-athletes, coaches, and community.

We are incredibly grateful to the NIAAA and the QPA evaluators and mentors for their leadership and guidance throughout this journey. Their expertise and encouragement were instrumental in helping us grow as a department and as professionals. This process has not only strengthened our foundation but has also inspired us to strive for even greater heights.

Thank you, NIAAA, for championing excellence in athletics and for empowering departments like ours to continuously improve and evolve."



### **Richie Wildenhaus, CAA**

**DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, NEW ALBANY-PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOLS**

**Address** 7600 Fodor Rd, New Albany, OH 43054

**Office** 614-413-8326

**Email** [wildenhaus.1@napls.us](mailto:wildenhaus.1@napls.us)

[www.naeagles.com](http://www.naeagles.com)

**2024**



# College Park High School

201 Viking Drive • Pleasant Hill, CA. 94523 • (925) 682-7670 • Fax (925) 676-7892

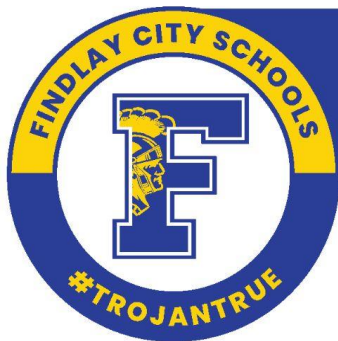
A California Distinguished School

## Testimonial:

Embarking on and completing the quality program assessment proved to be an invaluable experience. The journey provided an opportunity to take a critical look at our athletic department. Following the QPA rubric provided the structure and level of detail to take a deep dive into the what and the why of what we do, not just the how. It was empowering to have a point of reference to use as a resource when advocating for our student athletes. A most sincere thank you to the committee members and my mentor Ms. Keyser who was invaluable not just on the successful completion of this project but also as a much appreciated support system. Thank you also to all of the athletic administrators working tirelessly to support our student athletes. We are among the very few that know the enormous volume of work that is produced by our offices. In an often thankless job, sending you all the most sincere thank you for advocating for our student athletes day in and day out.

Theresa Buhlman, CMAA

Athletic Director



# FINDLAY CITY SCHOOLS

*Excellence • Opportunity • Belonging*

**Administrative Offices**

1100 Broad Avenue  
Findlay, OH 45840

**Phone:** 419.425.8364

**Fax:** 419.425.3628

**[www.fcs.org](http://www.fcs.org)**

November 8, 2024

Dear Mr. Bales and the NIAAA Board of Directors,

I am deeply honored and humbled to receive the prestigious NIAAA QPA Award. It is an honor to share with our department, school district, and community who work tirelessly to support our student-athletes and support the mission of Findlay City Schools of Excellence, Opportunity, and Belonging. We take great pride in carrying out this mission both in the field of play and the classroom by developing lifelong learners and productive citizens.

As we began this process, we quickly realized it was more than an evaluation. It was a journey of reflection and growth that challenged us to evaluate and innovate our current practices. For me, it wasn't just about meeting a benchmark or grade but about elevating our department and program standards that will leave a legacy in Trojan Country. The process was not easy and often felt overwhelming, but perseverance provided an opportunity to "look in the mirror" and truly evaluate the excellence we were striving for. It was a time to take a deeper look at how we could enhance the support and strengthen our foundation and approach among all stakeholders.

Being only the fourth school in Ohio to have earned this recognition was a significant reminder of the countless hours, sleepless nights, and unwavering dedication of every coach, staff member, and student that I am blessed to walk on this journey with each and every day. I had no doubt our department was doing great things but taking a comprehensive look at how we were putting these practices into play was a great tool for our department to use for years to come.

I am honored to share this award with the many phenomenal coaches, staff, teachers, parents, and administrators of Findlay City Schools and the Findlay community who support our work to make a positive difference for our student-athletes. I am blessed to be surrounded by an amazing team that puts kids at the forefront of decision-making while exemplifying the best practices, expectations, and standards. It was also a great reminder that we can't stop here, we must continue to be better and strive to be the best for our students and community.

Thank you, NIAAA for awarding the Findlay High School Athletic Department Exemplary Status in the Quality Program Assessment achievement. I wholeheartedly recommend other school districts and athletic departments consider this process as we work together to elevate our game in the world of education-based athletics. The benefits we have derived from this process are immeasurable and I appreciate the NIAAA for believing in our department to represent the standards of this award.

Sincerely,

*Nate Weihrauch*

Nate Weihrauch, CAA, CIC  
Director of Athletics  
Findlay High School

## New Albany QPA Testimonial

Participating in the NIAAA Quality Program Assessment (QPA) has been an invaluable experience for our athletic department. This process provided us with the unique opportunity to measure our operations and practices against nationally recognized standards and best practices. By taking a deep dive into our policies, procedures, and overall program structure, we gained clarity on what we are doing well and identified areas where we can improve.

Through the QPA, we learned that excellence in athletics administration is a continuous journey. In the spirit of ongoing growth and evolution, we understand that we will never truly be "finished" with this process. The lessons learned through the QPA have reinforced our commitment to constantly evaluating and raising our standards of operation. Our goal is to ensure that we provide the best possible experiences for our student-athletes, coaches, and community.

We are incredibly grateful to the NIAAA and the QPA evaluators and mentors for their leadership and guidance throughout this journey. Their expertise and encouragement were instrumental in helping us grow as a department and as professionals. This process has not only strengthened our foundation but has also inspired us to strive for even greater heights.

Thank you, NIAAA, for championing excellence in athletics and for empowering departments like ours to continuously improve and evolve."



### **Richie Wildenhaus, CAA**

**DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS, NEW ALBANY-PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOLS**

**Address** 7600 Fodor Rd, New Albany, OH 43054

**Office** 614-413-8326

**Email** [wildenhaus.1@napls.us](mailto:wildenhaus.1@napls.us)

[www.naeagles.com](http://www.naeagles.com)

November 15, 2024

Mr. Don Bales & NIAAA Board of Directors

On behalf of our program I want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to go thru the Quality Program Assessment and earn the QPA Award. This recognition does not go unnoticed by our coaches, staff and administration, and most importantly our student-athletes.

The mission of Princeton City Schools is to "Empower each student for College, Career, and Life Success." I believe the QPA embodies this mission as it prepared our programs for educational based athletics success.

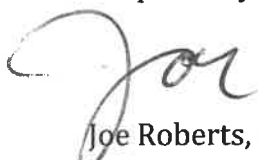
Princeton is definitely aligned ourselves with high achieving schools. We take great pride knowing that we have positioned our future leaders with the necessary tools to go beyond the expectations we set. Personally I take great pride knowing that our team supported this project completely.

I am honored that I am able to share my journey with my colleagues and encourage each of them as the QPA will help grow your department.

I want to personally thank Assistant Athletics Director for Princeton Mr. Chris Cunningham who is now in his second year of athletic administration, but is growing quickly to lead. He kept us on track, focused and goal set the project from day one and would not allow us to divert from that goal. He is going to make a fantastic leader of athletics in the very near future.

Thank you to those within the NIAAA that have developed this program. Thank you to our mentors for being with us along the way and a very special thank you to Mr. Bales and Mr. Mike Ellison for constantly reminding me the importance of organization!

Respectfully Submitted



Joe Roberts, CMAA  
Athletics Director  
Princeton City Schools





**American International School Vienna**  
Salmansdorfer Strasse 47  
1190 Vienna, Austria

**www.ais.at**  
info@ais.at  
+43 1 40132

Dear Mr. Bales and NIAAA Board of Directors,

The community of AIS Vienna is very excited to be one of the first two international schools around the world, and the first in Europe, to receive the prestigious Quality Program Assessment (QPA) award. We would like to thank you and everyone at the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) for the support and encouragement before, during and after the assessment process.

The QPA process is not just a 'check box' exercise but a demanding deep dive into your athletic program that has no parallel anywhere else in the world. International schools need to be continually accredited by various external agencies; however, nowhere in those school wide assessments is athletics covered to the extent that it is in the QPA. During standard accreditation processes athletics and activities programs are a subsection of a school wide top to bottom assessment. For this reason we feel strongly that all international schools with a robust athletic program should go through the QPA process.

It is likely that not all schools are able to complete the QPA and earn the award; however, all schools that attempt the QPA will benefit from it and have a better program for their student athletes as a consequence. Whether you are adding missing things to your program or just receiving confirmation that what you are doing is the gold standard, the QPA process will enhance and benefit all schools.

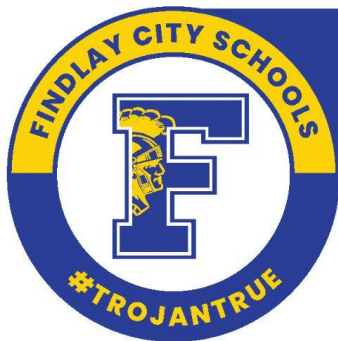
Thank you again for your support and recognition and if any schools around the world have questions about the process and the benefit we would be happy to help.

All the best from Vienna, Austria

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'Ah' and the second is 'ND'.

Andy Harrison & Nick DeForest

*Director and Assistant Director of the Events Office*



# FINDLAY CITY SCHOOLS

*Excellence • Opportunity • Belonging*

**Administrative Offices**

1100 Broad Avenue  
Findlay, OH 45840

**Phone:** 419.425.8364

**Fax:** 419.425.3628

**[www.fcs.org](http://www.fcs.org)**

November 8, 2024

Dear Mr. Bales and the NIAAA Board of Directors,

I am deeply honored and humbled to receive the prestigious NIAAA QPA Award. It is an honor to share with our department, school district, and community who work tirelessly to support our student-athletes and support the mission of Findlay City Schools of Excellence, Opportunity, and Belonging. We take great pride in carrying out this mission both in the field of play and the classroom by developing lifelong learners and productive citizens.

As we began this process, we quickly realized it was more than an evaluation. It was a journey of reflection and growth that challenged us to evaluate and innovate our current practices. For me, it wasn't just about meeting a benchmark or grade but about elevating our department and program standards that will leave a legacy in Trojan Country. The process was not easy and often felt overwhelming, but perseverance provided an opportunity to "look in the mirror" and truly evaluate the excellence we were striving for. It was a time to take a deeper look at how we could enhance the support and strengthen our foundation and approach among all stakeholders.

Being only the fourth school in Ohio to have earned this recognition was a significant reminder of the countless hours, sleepless nights, and unwavering dedication of every coach, staff member, and student that I am blessed to walk on this journey with each and every day. I had no doubt our department was doing great things but taking a comprehensive look at how we were putting these practices into play was a great tool for our department to use for years to come.

I am honored to share this award with the many phenomenal coaches, staff, teachers, parents, and administrators of Findlay City Schools and the Findlay community who support our work to make a positive difference for our student-athletes. I am blessed to be surrounded by an amazing team that puts kids at the forefront of decision-making while exemplifying the best practices, expectations, and standards. It was also a great reminder that we can't stop here, we must continue to be better and strive to be the best for our students and community.

Thank you, NIAAA for awarding the Findlay High School Athletic Department Exemplary Status in the Quality Program Assessment achievement. I wholeheartedly recommend other school districts and athletic departments consider this process as we work together to elevate our game in the world of education-based athletics. The benefits we have derived from this process are immeasurable and I appreciate the NIAAA for believing in our department to represent the standards of this award.

Sincerely,

*Nate Weihrauch*

Nate Weihrauch, CAA, CIC  
Director of Athletics  
Findlay High School



**Athens Academy • 1281 Spartan Lane • Athens, Georgia 30606**

---

Dear Mr. Bales and NIAAA Board of Directors,

The decision for Athens Academy and its athletic department to participate in the Quality Program Assessment (QPA) process was initially a step into the unknown. However, we quickly found ourselves engaged in each category with the goal of embracing and validating what we do well while also identifying areas of improvement. The work of an athletic administrator does not allow for much time to slow down and reflect on the areas of excellence within our program or even make necessary improvements quickly, so we learned a great deal from this exercise.

The QPA process provided a school-wide look into how we best serve our student-athletes, families, coaches and school community with regard to athletics. Completing each assessment and receiving the validated scores created plenty of energy among the staff, generating excitement similar to that of a team earning a big victory! Receiving the QPA Award is a rewarding and satisfying experience for the school and athletic department staff, and it ultimately confirms the efforts of all of the athletic directors during the school's 57-year history.

Having a mentor, Mike Ellson, assigned to me and our project was also a valuable experience. He is a tremendous leader who was great to work with, and he provided guidance when we had questions or challenges with completing a section. Not only was Mike helpful during the process, he continues to stay in touch, which has helped broaden my professional network.

I encourage qualified athletic directors to move forward with the QPA process. I'm confident you will find the experience to be of great value to you and your school.

Thank you to the NIAAA Board of Directors for recognizing Athens Academy with the Quality Program Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Petroski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kevin Petroski, CMAA  
Athletic Director



7009 FRANKLIN ROAD BOISE, IDAHO 83709-0922 208-375-6010 [www.bk.org](http://www.bk.org)

Dear Mr. Bales and NIAAA Board of Directors

On behalf of the student-athletes, coaches, faculty, staff, administration, parents and greater community of Bishop Kelly High School, we are deeply honored to receive the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NIAAA) 2024 Quality Program Award at the Exemplary Level. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the NIAAA for providing a platform that recognizes, celebrates, and encourages excellence in athletic programs.

As the head of the Bishop Kelly High School Activities Department, receiving this esteemed award has been a significant milestone for our team and institution. The NIAAA Quality Athletic Department Program Award not only acknowledges excellence but also underscores our dedication to creating an elite student-athlete experience in a positive and inclusive environment. This accolade has spurred us to continuously improve, motivating us to establish higher standards and adopt best practices for our programs and initiatives.

By examining the ten assessment categories, we gained valuable insights into the current status of our athletic program. This comprehensive evaluation process allowed us to pinpoint areas for growth and innovation. The structured methodology provided by the QPA enabled us to systematically review our programs and implement strategic changes that will enhance our department. As a result, we have been motivated to improve our coaching practices, advance athlete development programs, and reinforce our commitment to sportsmanship and citizenship.

Furthermore, this award has enhanced the reputation of our athletic department within the larger educational community. It stands as a testament to our commitment to developing exceptional student-athletes, highlighting not just their athletic skills but also their academic accomplishments, spiritual growth, and character development. At Bishop Kelly High School, we are dedicated to educating and nurturing the whole student in the Catholic tradition – Spirit, Mind, and Body.

Receiving the NIAAA Quality Athletic Department Program Award has been a source of immense pride for our entire school community. This honor has brought together coaches, athletes, parents, faculty, staff, and administrators under a unified vision of developing an athletic department that transcends mere victories and defeats. Our focus will remain on instilling values, character, sportsmanship, teamwork, accountability, humility, leadership, empathy, problem-solving, and preparing students for lifelong success.

This initiative has aligned our athletic program with national best practices and standards, paving the way for a brighter future. Consequently, we are better equipped to facilitate an educational-based athletics program in a safe, positive, and enjoyable environment.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the NIAAA for providing a platform that highlights our athletic programs. Bishop Kelly High School is incredibly proud and honored to be recognized as a 2024 recipient of the NIAAA Quality Program Assessment at the Exemplary Level. The NIAAA's dedication to supporting athletic administrators through initiatives like the QPA is truly commendable. We deeply appreciate the recognition and the prestigious honor bestowed upon our dedicated team and school.

Sincerely,

Tom Shanahan, CMAA  
Bishop Kelly High School Activities Director

---

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE MORAL LEADERSHIP SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

---

## **Testimonial - Why The QPA?**

### **By Steve Blumenthal**

Throughout the experience of completing the QPA, I often asked, "Why am I doing this to myself?" I was fortunate enough to be included in a QPA cohort that partnered me with a mentor that was supportive, disciplined and motivating. This cohort only added to the benefits that the QPA would provide me. Going into the entire experience, I knew that it would be worthwhile. What I did not realize was how worthwhile it would really be to the school's athletic program, and to me professionally, as well as personally.

The North Haven High School Athletic Program is in a different place because of the QPA. We have added or advanced so many aspects to our program from quality control of monitoring coach certifications to the safety and risk management of coordinating athletic events for all involved, athletes, coaches, officials, staff and spectators. I can truly say that the athletic program is better than it was because of the QPA.

From a professional perspective, I feel that I am a better athletic director and colleague because of the QPA. My ability to support my fellow athletic directors and be a voice in my league and the state has grown. Furthermore, I have the confidence and expertise to be someone who people can reach out to to get information and advice, not only because of my years in the job, but also because of my experience and thoroughness which I feel is represented through the QPA.

Personally, my experience working on the QPA was so demanding that I realized that I can balance the complexities of being an athletic director with the intensity and time it took to successfully complete the QPA. Without exaggeration, nothing will ever be as challenging as the QPA. I am grateful for the amount of work the QPA required because that is part of why it was so satisfying to fulfill the requirements at the highest level of achievement.

Through the QPA Cohort and having a mentor, the QPA was one of the most rewarding professional experiences of my educational career. First of all, I have established professional relationships and friendships through my involvement in the cohort that will last a lifetime. In fact, my mentor, Dave Marlow, was the kind of mentor I could have only dreamed about. He was supportive and reassuring. He challenged me to be better and inspired me to rise up to the challenge. I thank Dave for his time and guidance throughout the QPA experience.

Honestly, it is difficult to summarize my experience completing the QPA in a few paragraphs. Essentially, my athletic program is better because of the QPA. I took a long, hard look at every aspect of the North Haven Public Schools Athletic Program. I found that some things we were doing well, some things needed to be enhanced and some things needed to be either improved upon or even added to the athletic program. Furthermore, I became a more effective athletic administrator because of the QPA. None of this would not have happened without my participation in the QPA, my involvement in Cohort II and without the outstanding support and encouragement of my QPA mentor, Dave Marlow.



# BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

---

*Now and Forever*

Dear Mr. Bales and the NIAAA Board of Directors,

It is truly an honor for Blessed Trinity Catholic High School to receive the NIAAA QPA Award. This recognition highlights the integral components of our program's philosophy and daily operations, and we are proud to be awarded for our successes.

As we began this process, we examined each aspect of our athletic department and we realized how far we have come and how much we have to be grateful for. This award belongs to each and every one of our athletic staff for their tireless efforts and passion for advancing our athletic program. It reflects our efforts to provide an environment in which our student-athletes can thrive, and it honors our dedication to centering our program around our Catholic faith. We know our successes wouldn't be possible without the high caliber coaching and athletic training staff we have at Blessed Trinity.

Through the QPA analysis, we have been able to delve deeper into our athletic program. This process gave us a chance to recognize the positive qualities of our program, and it also enabled us to examine areas in which we can grow. These insights will help us to not only maintain the high standard of success we have built, but also to prepare for generations to come.

Thank you for this incredible honor. The Blessed Trinity Catholic High School Athletics Department will strive to maintain the QPA standard now and forever.

With gratitude,

Ricky Turner  
Athletic Director

**Mr. Juan R. Santamaría Maldonado, CMAA-CIAA**  
Cocurricular Athletics and Activities Director

Escuela Internacional Sampedrana

Achieving the Quality Program Award (QPA) from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) is not just a milestone; it's the culmination of over 34 years of dedication, passion, and relentless pursuit of excellence in athletic administration. Throughout my career as an Athletic Director, my driving force has always been to create a program that empowers our student-athletes to thrive, not just in sports, but in life.

The QPA process was more than an evaluation—it was a journey of reflection and growth. It challenged us to dig deep, to question, and to innovate. For me, this wasn't just about meeting a standard; it was about leaving a legacy that my Bulldogs at Escuela Internacional Sampedrana (EIS) could be proud of. This award is a symbol of our commitment to building a program that stands the test of time, one that continues to inspire, nurture, and elevate our students long after they've left the field.

This recognition is incredibly personal. It validates the countless hours, the sleepless nights, and the unwavering dedication of every coach, staff member, and student who has walked this path with me. The QPA is more than just an award; it's a testament to the heart and soul of our Bulldogs. It's about the legacy we leave behind—a legacy of excellence, integrity, and passion for the game and for life.

To my fellow Athletic Directors: I urge you to embrace the QPA journey. The challenges are real, but so are the rewards. The insights gained, the growth achieved, and the pride in knowing you've set the highest standards for your program are invaluable. The NIAAA's support throughout this process was exceptional, and I am profoundly grateful for this honor.

As I look back on my career, I can confidently say that this award is one of the most meaningful achievements of my life. It is a legacy I leave for my Bulldogs, one that I hope will continue to inspire future generations.

**SPANISH VERSION**

Obtener el Premio de Programa de Calidad (QPA) de la Asociación Nacional de Administradores de Atletismo Interescolar (NIAAA) no es solo un hito; es la culminación de más de 34 años de dedicación, pasión y una búsqueda incansable de la excelencia en la administración atlética. A lo largo de mi carrera como Director Atlético, mi fuerza motriz siempre ha sido crear un programa que empodere a nuestros estudiantes-atletas para que prosperen, no solo en el deporte, sino en la vida.

El proceso de obtención del QPA fue más que una evaluación: fue un viaje de reflexión y crecimiento. Nos desafió a profundizar, a cuestionarnos y a innovar. Para mí, esto no se trató solo de cumplir un estándar; se trató de dejar un legado del que mis Bulldogs en la Escuela Internacional Sampedrana (EIS) pudieran estar orgullosos. Este premio es un símbolo de nuestro compromiso para construir un programa que resista el paso del tiempo, uno que continúe inspirando, nutriendo y elevando a nuestros estudiantes mucho después de haber dejado el campo.

Este reconocimiento es profundamente personal. Valida las innumerables horas, las noches sin dormir y la dedicación inquebrantable de cada entrenador, miembro del personal y estudiante que ha caminado este camino conmigo. El QPA es más que un premio; es un testimonio del corazón y alma de nuestros Bulldogs. Se trata del legado que dejamos, un legado de excelencia, integridad y pasión por el deporte y por la vida.

A mis compañeros Directores Atléticos: les insto a que abracen el viaje del QPA. Los desafíos son reales, pero también lo son las recompensas. Los conocimientos adquiridos, el crecimiento logrado y el orgullo de saber que han establecido los más altos estándares para su programa no tienen precio. El apoyo de la NIAAA a lo largo de este proceso fue excepcional, y estoy profundamente agradecido por este honor.

Al mirar hacia atrás en mi carrera, puedo decir con confianza que este premio es uno de los logros más significativos de mi vida. Es un legado que dejo para mis Bulldogs, uno que espero siga inspirando a las futuras generaciones.

Mr. Bales,

I am truly honored that West Brunswick High School has been awarded the prestigious NIAAA Quality Program Assessment Award at the Exemplary Level. This program has been a game-changer for our athletic department.

At West, we strive for continuous improvement and are committed to excellence. Throughout this process, we were able to showcase the excellent work of our student athletes, coaches and staff. It highlighted numerous phenomenal things that our educational-based interscholastic athletic programs have been accomplishing such as community service and professional development and helped us evaluate and enhance areas as well as improve and grow. The insights gained have also been instrumental in developing and improving our long-term strategic planning and evaluations while ensuring continuous program improvement and fostering a culture of excellence.

One of the standout features of the QPA program was its ability to build support among all stakeholders. The program has showcased and garnered meaningful engagement with students, parents, coaches, and the community, creating a strong, united front dedicated to the success of our athletes both on and off the field. The QPA has not only helped us achieve our immediate goals but has also laid a solid foundation for us to continue to build future success.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to lead my school through this process, and I thank everyone who helped in the journey. It was truly a team effort. We highly recommend the QPA program to any program seeking to evaluate and elevate their athletic programs to an exemplary level and ensure they are providing the best possible experience for all.

Leslie Reeves, CMAA, NBCT, CIC  
Assistant Athletic Director  
West Brunswick High School, Shallotte, NC

# Creswell High School

*"We at Creswell High School empower students to achieve success in college, career, and life"*

33390 Nieblock Lane  
Creswell, OR 97426  
(541) 895-6020  
[fax] (541) 895-6089  
[www.creswell.k12.or.us/wp/chs](http://www.creswell.k12.or.us/wp/chs)

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Mr. Bales and the NIAAA Board of Directors:

In making the decision to start the Quality Program Assessment (QPA) process, I knew that our school and community were already doing some great things that I was eager to showcase. It was also an opportunity for us to take a real inventory of what we needed to improve on. Going through the process this last year gave our athletic department a holistic and collaborative way to make our school community better for years to come.

When I was able to share our accomplishment with our school district, coaches, student-athletes and the community of Creswell everyone was really proud to earn this award. It was both a fun process and one that was also really hard work and took input from many stakeholders. While providing the needed documentation for the QPA, it also forced me to be present in the moment and really take in the outstanding work that our student-athletes complete on a daily basis.

As only the second school in our state to earn this award, I would also like to help promote other athletic directors in my state to take up this opportunity for their schools and get more schools in Oregon designated as a quality program. I think it is an extremely valuable process to go through and can be extremely beneficial in the long run. I know many other schools in our state would have no issue earning this same award if they would take the time to go through the QPA.

On a personal level, going through the process also made me take a look internally to see the ways I could improve as an athletic director and creating the culture I want to see in our district. Being able to see samples of what other athletic directors are doing throughout the country that are best practices and aligning myself with those samples was extremely helpful and I am excited to take that learning as we start the next school year. I am also fortunate to be able to use the QPA as my final project as I work towards my CMAA.

All in all, the whole Creswell community is grateful and extremely proud to be receiving this honor from the NIAAA. It is a testament to the amazing coaches, student-athletes and community support that we receive on a daily basis and look forward to this being a starting point for our department as we keep striving to get better each day.

Sincerely,

Brandon Standridge  
District Athletic Director

---

Jenny Collins  
Principal  
[jcollins@creswell.k12.or.us](mailto:jcollins@creswell.k12.or.us)  
(541) 895-6020

Brandon Standridge  
Asst. Principal/Athletic Director  
[bstandridge@creswell.k12.or.us](mailto:bstandridge@creswell.k12.or.us)  
(541) 895-6025



## **Testimonial for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Quality Program Assessment (QPA) Accreditation**

As a dedicated advocate for K-12 school athletics, as well as academic co-curricular enrichment opportunities, I am thrilled to share my endorsement of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NIAAA) Quality Program Assessment (QPA) accreditation. This prestigious program sets the gold standard for athletic programs nationwide, and now internationally. Consequently, its impact on our school and school community has been nothing short of transformative.

The NIAAA Quality Program Assessment offers an unparalleled framework for evaluating and enhancing athletic programs. Through its comprehensive 10 assessment categories, it provides a thorough and insightful analysis of every facet of our program. This meticulous evaluation process not only highlights areas of excellence but also identifies opportunities for growth and improvement, ensuring that we are consistently striving for the highest standards of athletic and educational success.

Being recognized through the NIAAA QPA accreditation is a profound honor that validates our commitment to excellence in athletics. This accolade has allowed us to better articulate our roles within the school community and has fostered a deeper understanding of our mission among school leaders, staff, and families. The clarity and recognition that come with the QPA accreditation have significantly strengthened community support and pride, rallying everyone around our shared vision of promoting the best possible athletic experience for our students.

Our journey through the QPA assessment has not only brought invaluable insights but has also galvanized our entire school community. It has united us in our pursuit of excellence, inspiring confidence and enthusiasm for our athletic programs. We are now more equipped than ever to build on our successes and continue setting a high bar for student-athlete development.

### **MIEMBRO DE**

La Asociación de Escuelas  
Bilingües de Honduras

La Asociación de Escuelas  
Americanas de Centro América

La Asociación de Escuelas Internacionales  
Americanas en las Américas

La Asociación para el Avance  
de la Educación Internacional

### **ACREDITADOS POR**

COGNIA

Ministerio de Educación de Honduras

STEM | Investigación Educativa y Acreditación



I wholeheartedly recommend the NIAAA Quality Program Assessment to any K-12 school athletic administrator seeking to elevate their program. It is a powerful tool that not only recognizes excellence but also drives continuous improvement, making it an essential component of any outstanding athletic program. Apply for the [NIAAA QPA](#) today and experience firsthand the remarkable benefits of this esteemed accreditation!

—

Blessed Regards,

*Dr. Raymond J. Schmidt*

**Dr. Raymond J. Schmidt**

*Superintendent*

--

**Dr. Raymond J. Schmidt**  
Superintendent

[rschmidt@seishn.com](mailto:rschmidt@seishn.com)

Escuela Internacional Sampedrana

PBX +504 2540-2722 ext. 1701

Col. Gracias a Dios, 500 m al oeste del

Hosp. Catarino Rivas, San Pedro Sula, Honduras

[www.seis.edu.hn](http://www.seis.edu.hn) | [Síguenos en Redes Sociales](#)

Accredited by [COGNIA](#)

---

**MIEMBRO DE**

La Asociación de Escuelas  
Bilingües de Honduras

La Asociación de Escuelas  
Americanas de Centro América

La Asociación de Escuelas Internacionales  
Americanas en las Américas

La Asociación para el Avance  
de la Educación Internacional

**ACREDITADOS POR**

COGNIA

Ministerio de Educación de Honduras

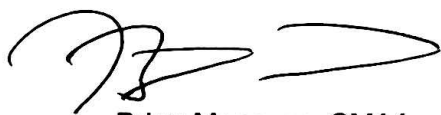
STEM | Investigación Educativa y Acreditación

Earning the Quality Program Assessment (QPA) award from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) means a great deal to our athletic department, student-athletes and community. At Regina Dominican, we have always prided ourselves in doing things the right way and doing what is best for our student-athletes.

The best part about the QPA process is the fact that we were able to tie in aspects that fall outside of the court or playing field. Earning this award was truly a team effort. Outstanding work was done by our entire student population through service projects and hosting future Panthers through our ambassadors club. Our coaches worked tirelessly to attend clinics and earn first aid and CPR certifications. We also had contributions from faculty members, our school nurse and the student services department.

I would encourage anyone who is thinking about going for the QPA to do it. Throughout the process, our school was able to fully evaluate our athletic department. We also found ways to make our athletic department better.

Regina Dominican is appreciative of the NIAAA for offering this opportunity for this program to allow for schools to showcase the great things that they are doing for student-athletes each and every day.



Brian Mancuso, CMAA  
Director of Athletics  
Regina Dominican High School  
Wilmette, ILL

## Testimonial Tom Shanahan – Bishop Kelly High School

On behalf of the student-athletes, coaches, faculty, staff, administration, parents and greater community of Bishop Kelly High School, we are deeply honored to receive the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NIAAA) 2024 Quality Program Award at the Exemplary Level. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the NIAAA for providing a platform that recognizes, celebrates, and encourages excellence in athletic programs.

Earning the Quality Program Assessment (QPA) award from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) means a great deal to our athletic department, student-athletes and community. At Regina Dominican, we have always prided ourselves in doing things the right way and doing what is best for our student-athletes.

The best part about the QPA process is the fact that we were able to tie in aspects that fall outside of the court or playing field. Earning this award was truly a team effort. Outstanding work was done by our entire student population through service projects and hosting future Panthers through our ambassadors club. Our coaches worked tirelessly to attend clinics and earn first aid and CPR certifications. We also had contributions from faculty members, our school nurse and the student services department.

I would encourage anyone who is thinking about going for the QPA to do it. Throughout the process, our school was able to fully evaluate our athletic department. We also found ways to make our athletic department better.

Regina Dominican is appreciative of the NIAAA for offering this opportunity for this program to allow for schools to showcase the great things that they are doing for student-athletes each and every day.



Brian Mancuso, CMAA  
Director of Athletics  
Regina Dominican High School  
Wilmette, ILL



**BEAUMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Beaumont High School**



**Drew Sherrer, Jr.**  
Principal

**Tonna Stifle**  
Assistant Principal

**Darrin Lantz**  
Assistant Principal

**Dawn Brandon**  
Assistant Principal

**Megan Cotton**  
Assistant Principal

**Jacob Van Hofwegen**  
Athletic Director

**Jessica Colvin**  
Assist. Athletic Dir.

**Kellie Boatman**  
Head Counselor

Mr. Bales,

Going through the QPA process was incredibly beneficial for me and my team. We were pushed to create new systems that we would have never even thought of on our own. I'm confident that we are a better department and are better prepared to support our student-athletes and coaches because we went through this process. That knowledge is worth even more than the recognition and the banner that comes with completing it.

I am grateful for the opportunity provided by the NIAAA to analyze and evaluate our program and to come up with ways to make it better.

Respectfully,

Jacob Van Hofwegen CAA  
Athletic Director  
Beaumont High School



**BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA

Mr. Bales,

I am deeply honored and proud that Broken Arrow Athletics has been awarded the prestigious Quality Program Award. This recognition is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment of our entire team to excellence in athletics and the complete development of our student-athletes.

Receiving this award is a significant milestone for our department. It reflects our ongoing efforts to foster an environment where student-athletes can thrive both on and off the field. From state-of-the-art facilities and innovative training programs to comprehensive wellness initiatives and academic support, we have strived to provide a world-class experience for our athletes.

This achievement would not have been possible without the collective efforts of our coaches, trainers, athletic department staff, Board of Education, superintendent, leadership cabinet and community supporters. Each member of our district and community has played a vital role in reaching this level of excellence long before my arrival to BA.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this journey. I hope we will continue to build a legacy of excellence at Broken Arrow High School.

Sincerely,

Amanda Snider

**Amanda Snider, CAA**

**Deputy Director of Athletics**

**Broken Arrow Public Schools**

Don Bales, CMAA  
National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)  
9100 Keystone Crossing, Suite 650  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Dear Mr. Bales and NIAAA Board of Directors

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude and support for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) and its Quality Program Assessment (QPA). As a leader of the Nixa Public Schools Athletic and Activities Department, I have had the privilege of participating in the QPA, and I am grateful for the significant positive impact it has had on my department and my personal and professional growth.

The QPA process has been an instrumental tool in the growth and development of the Nixa Athletic and Activities Department. By engaging in this comprehensive assessment, we have been able to identify our strengths, areas for improvement and opportunities for growth. The structured approach provided by the QPA has allowed us to systematically evaluate our programs and implement strategic changes that will elevate our department.

The QPA has fostered a culture of continuous improvement within our department. The assessment has encouraged open dialogue and collaboration among our staff, leading to innovative solutions and shared best practices. This culture of ongoing evaluation and improvement has become ingrained in our daily operations, ensuring that we remain adaptable and responsive to the evolving needs of our student-athletes and the school community.

On a personal level, my involvement in the QPA has been transformative. The process has provided me with valuable professional development opportunities, enhancing my skills in leadership, strategic planning, and program evaluation. The knowledge and experience I have gained through the QPA have empowered me to make more informed decisions, effectively manage our programs, and lead with greater confidence and vision.

The benefits we have derived from the QPA process are immeasurable, and I wholeheartedly recommend the QPA to any athletic administrator seeking to elevate their programs and foster a culture of excellence. The NIAAA's commitment to supporting athletic administrators through initiatives like the QPA is commendable, and I am grateful for the positive impact it has had on our department and my professional journey.

Sincerely,



Brandon Clark, Ed.D, CAA  
District Athletic and Activities Director  
Nixa Public Schools

# Sheridan Blackhawks

Go Hawks Go!



As the Athletic Director of Sheridan High School, "I am truly honored to share my experience with the NIAAA Quality Athletic Department Program Award. As a dedicated member of our school's athletic department, receiving this prestigious award has been a defining moment for our team and institution.

The NIAAA Quality Athletic Department Program Award not only recognizes excellence but also serves as a testament to our commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive athletic environment. This award has been a catalyst for continuous improvement, encouraging us to set higher standards for our programs and initiatives.

The rigorous evaluation process of the NIAAA Quality Athletic Department Program Award has helped us identify areas for growth and innovation. It has motivated us to enhance our coaching practices, improve athlete development programs, and strengthen our commitment to sportsmanship and fair play.

Moreover, the award has elevated our athletic department's standing within the broader educational community. It has become a symbol of our dedication to the development of student-athletes, emphasizing not only their athletic abilities but also their academic achievement and character development.

Receiving the NIAAA Quality Athletic Department Program Award has been a source of pride for our entire school community. It has united coaches, athletes, parents, and administrators in a shared vision of creating an athletic department that goes beyond victories on the field – one that instills values, builds character, and prepares our students for success in life.

I would like to express my gratitude to the NIAAA for providing a platform that celebrates and encourages excellence in athletic programs. This award has been a driving force behind our quest for continuous improvement, and we look forward to building on this foundation for years to come. Thank you for recognizing and honoring the efforts of our dedicated team with the 2023 NIAAA Exemplary Athletic Program Award."

Beth DeVinney,  
Athletic Director  
Sheridan High School  
2023-24



24185 Hinesley Road  
Sheridan, In 46069

**317-758-4431 Ext. 4125**

[bdevinney@sheridan.k12.in.us](mailto:bdevinney@sheridan.k12.in.us)

[sheridanathletics.net](http://sheridanathletics.net)

**2023**



Don E. Bales, CMAA  
National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association  
Professional Development Academy Committee  
Coordinator NIAAA Academy Summit  
Coordinator Quality Program Assessment

12/5/23

Dear Mr. Bales and the NIAAA Board of Directors,

Working through the NIAAA Quality Program Assessment has helped Ankeny High school become a better athletic program. Walking through the QPA caused me to reflect deeply on what we have done in athletics, how we have done it, and why we are doing what we do here at Ankeny. The assessment involved many people. Each of which has a critical role in the development of the total success of the educational based athletics program.

We identified some growth areas in which we can make for a more well rounded program to benefit not only our students, but our coaches as well. The QPA is a great tool for growth and development. Being a growth mindset focused leader, I found it critical to go through this process.

This process will drive us to be even better in the future as we set our sights on culture development and overall success beyond just the athletic venue. By going through the NIAAA Quality Assessment Program and achieving this award, our Athletic Department demonstrates another step of growth toward excellence.

Adam McDonnell  
Activities and Athletics Director  
Ankeny High School  
[adam.mcdonnell@ankenyschools.org](mailto:adam.mcdonnell@ankenyschools.org)  
563-212-5180



## **Mooresville Athletic Department**

550 N. Indiana Street Mooresville, IN 46158

Phone: (317)831-9207 Website: mhspioneers.com

Mike Mossbrucker, Athletic Director

Matthew Bosworth, Assistant Athletic Director

Marsha Green, Athletics Administrative Assistant

Jacob Wallman, Facility Manager

As the Athletic Director of Mooresville High School, I am delighted to share the incredible journey we undertook to achieve the prestigious NIAAA QPA (National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Quality Program Assessment). This remarkable accomplishment signifies our commitment to excellence in athletic administration, and I couldn't be prouder of our dedicated team.

Our pursuit of the NIAAA QPA began with a collective vision to elevate our athletic program to new heights. We understood that achieving this esteemed recognition would not only reflect our dedication to our student-athletes but also demonstrate our commitment to upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and ethics.

The process itself was rigorous, demanding an unwavering commitment from our entire staff. We embarked on a comprehensive self-assessment, meticulously examining every aspect of our athletic program. From reviewing policies and procedures to scrutinizing our financial management and community engagement, no stone was left unturned.

We realized that collaboration is one of the driving forces behind our success. Our coaching staff, administrators, teachers, and support personnel work tirelessly to provide best practices, ensuring the holistic development of our student-athletes. The emphasis is not only on their athletic performance but also on their academic success, character development, and community involvement.

The transformative impact of our program is evident in the success of our student-athletes. It is inspiring to see our students embrace the values instilled within our program, fostering a culture of respect, inclusivity, and sportsmanship.

Receiving the NIAAA QPA will be an incredible milestone for Mooresville High School. It validates our hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our student-athletes and the Mooresville community. This recognition has cemented our position as a leading athletic department, driving us to continue pushing the boundaries of excellence in athletic administration.

I am immensely grateful to our entire staff for their relentless efforts throughout this journey. Their passion, expertise, and collaborative spirit propelled us forward, enabling us to achieve this prestigious achievement.

**#BeMOORE**

The journey of achieving the NIAAA QPA has left an indelible mark on our school and community. It is a testament to our commitment to the holistic development of our student-athletes and our unwavering pursuit of excellence. We will continue to build upon this achievement, ensuring that Mooresville High School remains a beacon of inspiration and a pillar of athletic excellence for years to come.

Mike Mossbrucker, CMAA  
Athletic Director  
Mooresville High School

**#BeMOORE**



## **David Marlow – Director of Student Activities**

Mt. Mansfield Union High School  
211 Browns Trace Road  
Jericho, VT 05465

O: (802) 858-1774 – F: (802) 899-2904 – Email: [david.marlow@cesuvt.org](mailto:david.marlow@cesuvt.org)

---

The MMU Athletic Department strives to provide an athletic program of excellence for all its students. We believe that there are certain values that are important in any educational program and that these values can be taught in an athletic program, helping to create effective, engaged citizens. These values include Belief, Excellence, Service, and Toughness creating the BEST standard and experience possible.

I was fortunate enough to be part of the NIAAA's first QPA Cohort under the leadership of Don Bales, Mike Ellson, Darryl Nance and Quinn Chafee/Randy Stanford of Final Forms. Mt Mansfield is also the first school in VT to receive the recognition of "Exemplary Award" by the NIAAA. The QPA journey can be one that looks daunting and overwhelming at times. Through the QPA Cohort; and more importantly, my mentor Michael Gatley; the QPA provided guidance to our athletic department as we compared, assessed, and evaluated our policies and procedures to the best practices and standards of care identified by the NIAAA in the QPA Application, Application Guidelines, and Assessment. The benefits of pursuing the NIAAA's QPA has been immeasurable for Mt Mansfield's athletic department as we continue to recognize the value of our athletic department. The QPA process also ensures the most effective use of our athletic department resources by focusing on best practices in the industry. These professional benchmarks are comprehensive and give a high school a pathway to assessing and improving their interscholastic athletic program.

Educational Based athletics provides student-athletes with an opportunity to be successful on and off the playing surfaces while learning valuable life skills that can help allow them to succeed and fail in a safe, competitive environment. The QPA has been, and will continue to be, a standard of excellence that we will continue to learn about and improve upon for our department.

I am beyond excited and honored to continue improving and assessing the QPA process by being a mentor, reviewer and part of the newly formed NIAAA Committee. The QPA is something that is extremely important and valuable to all athletic administrators throughout the country. I look forward to making this process more accessible for those who are looking to take their department to the next level! Thank you to all of those involved in the Cohort and for making this professional goal of mine possible at Mt Mansfield!

To: Don E. Bales, CMAA  
National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association  
Professional Development Academy Committee  
Coordinator NIAAA Academy Summit  
Coordinator Quality Program Assessment

From: Michael Senisi, CMAA  
Athletics & Activities Manager at Atholton HS

RE: National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Quality Program Award testimonial

On behalf of the Atholton High School students, community, staff, and administration, we are extremely honored to be receiving the prestigious National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NIAAA) Quality Program Award (QPA). Our athletic program is aligned with national best practices and the process allowed me the opportunity to make changes that best meet the needs of our students, community, staff, administrators, and school system. As a result, we are more prepared to meet the many facets of facilitating an educational, student based, athletic program in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Thank you to the QPA committee for all your valuable feedback, comments, and review of our athletic program. A special thank you to Mike McGurk for your mentorship and guidance while going through the process of obtaining this distinguished award. I highly recommend all schools to pursue the NIAAA QPA award as it allows you the opportunity to see the strength and needs of your athletic program with the hope of enhancing a positive, safe, and enjoyable experience for your high school student athletes.

Sincerely,

*Mike Senisi, CMAA*  
*Atholton High School*



## Auburn City Schools Athletics

July 18, 2023

The Auburn City Schools Athletic Department, Auburn High School administration, and the Auburn City Schools Board of Education would like to thank the NIAAA for opportunity to participate in the QPA program. Throughout this process we were able to evaluate our program policies and strengthen those that we felt did not meet national standards. As the ACS community looks toward opening a second high school, the QPA process has allowed to validate our policies and procedures against nation best practices. We have been able to consolidate these current examples into the 10 categories that we will be able to pass along to the new school as it opens in 2027 for their use as examples. Thank you for this invaluable opportunity and the honor of receiving 2023 Quality Program Assessment Exemplary Award.

*Daniel Norton, CAA  
Auburn City Schools  
Athletic Director*

*Danie Norton, Athletic Director*

*1701 East Samford Avenue / Auburn, Alabama 36830  
(334) 887-0050 / [www.auburnschools.org](http://www.auburnschools.org)*



**METROLINA**  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
ESTABLISHED 1992

Don E. Bales, CMAA  
National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association  
Professional Development Academy Committee  
Coordinator NIAAA Academy Summit  
Coordinator Quality Program Assessment

July 12, 2023

Dear Mr. Bales and the NIAAA Board of Directors,

The NIAAA certainly made Metrolina Christian Academy a better athletic program...Thank you! Walking through the Quality Program Assessment caused me to reflect deeply on what we have done in athletics, how we have done it, and why we are doing athletics the way we do at Metrolina. This assessment involved not only myself, but my assistants and a few coaches helping us grow and bond along the way.

The process compared to a thorough trip to the doctor...several times, as I was encouraged by the current health of our program and challenged where it lacked.

Although this took a great amount of time and effort, it was certainly well worth it. We created a "Coach Longevity Recognition" piece, an Assistant Coach Evaluation form, and several other policies and procedures were updated with more care and precision. The QPA didn't require us to do so, we simply chose to make these additions after reflecting on the process.

Using the input of several coaches, this exercise also gave coaches opportunities to share their knowledge and information as we sought evidence to support the Quality Program standards.

Better programs may not demonstrate evidence of State Champions, however better programs lay a foundation to build championship coaches and players. This process will drive us to be even better in the future.

Metrolina Christian Academy seeks to honor the Lord developing excellence in all aspects of education. By going through the NIAAA Quality Assessment Program and achieving the "Exemplary Award", our Athletic Department demonstrates another step of growth toward excellence.

Thank you again!

**Ronnie Plyler** | Athletic Director, CMAA  
Metrolina Christian Academy  
PO Box 1460 | 732 Indian Trail-Fairview Road | Indian Trail, NC 28079

Hey Don,

Thank you for the good news!

This testimonial or reflection was easy to write as it was one of the best in-depth exercises we've pursued regarding our program.

If you need anything else, let me know.

When registration opens for the National Conference, I'll be quick to register.

Have an awesome week!

I am honored to write a testimonial on behalf of the School City of Mishawaka, the QPA team and the Mishawaka High School Athletic Department. The goal of Mishawaka Athletics is always to improve our athletic department to better serve our student-athletes, coaches and community. The Quality Program Assessment was the perfect avenue for us to assess what we were currently doing and look for ways to improve. Working with a cohort group and tackling one comprehensive category per month made a daunting task workable. We have been able to enhance our programs through the collaboration of stakeholders with the guidance of the QPA mentor and evaluators by evaluating our policies and procedures and aligning them with best practices and NIAAA QPA standards of care. Taking on this challenge was well worth the time and effort!

Mishawaka High School would like to thank the NIAAA for giving us the opportunity to participate in the Quality Program Assessment and for the honor of being awarded a 2023 NIAAA Quality Program Assessment Award at the Exemplary Level.

Sherry Keyser  
School City of Mishawaka  
Mishawaka High School  
Assistant Athletic Director  
574-254-7338

Troy Urdahl – St. Anthony's H.S.

The Quality Program Assessment (QPA) program has given our department a prime opportunity to conduct a comprehensive assessment of current and past practices as we chart paths for a brighter future. The QPA provided a platform to affirm what our department does well and where we need to prioritize future developmental opportunities. In addition, it was a valuable collaborative, team building, and professional learning experience for our staff. From the beginning to the end our efforts were supported with the insights of a guiding mentor. We are proud of the NIAAA's Quality Program Award exemplar distinction; a wonderful, public recognition of the transformational efforts of a caring community and staff - making a positive difference for generations of youth!

My best - and sincere thanks,

-Troy

## Testimonial Union Public Schools

When we decided to pursue the QPA, we wanted to make sure we were in line with best practices comparatively to some of the leading education based athletic departments across the United States. What we found throughout the process is how to add value to what we are already doing while acknowledging the importance of involving more stakeholders every step of the way. The QPA process not only validated the great work of the coaches and staff in our department but also provided a pathway of resources to help us grow in the future.

Emily Barkley, CMAA  
Director of Athletics  
Union Public Schools  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Mr. Don Bales, CMAA & Mike Ellson, CMAA, QPA Coordinators

August 6, 2023

National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association  
9100 Keystone Crossing, Suite 650  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Dear Mr. Bales & Mr. Ellson and QPA Cohort Mentors/Readers:

On behalf of Westlake High School, the communities of Saratoga Springs, Eagle Mountain and the Alpine School District, we extend our gratitude to the NIAAA for the opportunity and the experience of being a part of the first NIAAA QPA Cohort. I want to thank Darryl Nance for inviting me and believing in me and our staff that we could make this happen. Our journey began two months later than the rest of the Cohort. I thank Mike Ellson and Don Bales for the regular encouragement as we worked to catch up. The QPA Cohort process was the perfect process to do a Quality Assessment of our school, our athletic programs, and our athletic administration. I want to thank Scott Garvis, our QPA mentor, who provided inspiration and answers along the way. On this journey we visited 10 destinations that allowed us to evaluate where we are and where we need to go. The ride wasn't always a smooth one but, in the end, a rewarding one.

The QPA Cohort experience gave guidance to our Athletic Department, Staff and Administration as we assessed and evaluated our policies/procedures, best practices and who we are and areas where we need improve. The Cohort provided support and a setting where each of us were able to share best practices, experiences and standards which provided us the chance to learn and grow. The regular feedback and encouragement within the Cohort were helpful and so beneficial.

I also want to thank my Athletic Department, Administration, Office staff and all those who assisted in providing input, information, and data as we journeyed thru this process. I want to thank our Principal, Dr. Christian Smith, for his support throughout this past year and encouragement moving forward as we continue to strive to be the best version of ourselves. It is an honor to have participated in the QPA Cohort. The Westlake Thunder is proud and thrilled to be recognized as a 2023 recipient of the Quality Program Assessment at the Exemplary Level.

I again thank everyone involved for providing a worthwhile Professional Development opportunity. I highly recommend the QPA Cohort and the Journey it provides.

Sincerely,

Michael P. O'Connor, CMAA  
Athletic Director  
Westlake High School  
Saratoga Springs, UT