GSACS
GOLDEN STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

The Chalkboard

Information ✔ Ideas ✔ Resources ✔

Upcoming Events
Competition Season Begins NOW!

- December 15 – Deadline to turn in Creative Writing Contest to State Office; see more information below
- January 8 – Southern Region Elementary Competition Registration Due (for schools by 8th; for individual categories by 11th)
- January 10 – Academic Competition Test Ordering Window opens
- January 20 – Academic Competition Test Order Window closes
- January 21 – Academic Competition Test Taking Window opens (including the writing portion that is not online)
- January 29 – Southern Region Elementary Competition, First Baptist Schools, Long Beach
- February 1 – Academic Writing Competition Window closes – all entries are due to be emailed; up to three entries per category per school; no late entries accepted.
- February 15 – Academic Competition Test Taking Window closes

A **BIG thank you** to all our member schools who attended our Educators' Convention! What a joy it was to spend time learning and playing together. A special shout out for those hearty educators who stayed up for late-night skits on Thursday...and yes, there was a GSACS Fine Arts alumnus on that stage. As a matter of fact, Pastor Bodie is the keynote speaker for **our youth rally** in March, so you won't want to miss that event. There is a flyer you can print and share with your students on our website.

Calling all teachers and principals to send shareable pictures and videos of the convention to

gsacsca@gmail.com

We'd love to compile some of these into a video to capture the event as best as possible.

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THE AACS CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST RULES/TOPICS ARE NOW POSTED! CLICK THIS LINK TO ACCESS.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CONTEST IS DIFFERENT FROM THE GSACS WRITING COMPETITION IN JANUARY. USE THE LINK FOR MORE DETAILED RULES, TOPICS, AND JUDGING FORMS. OUR STATE OFFICE HAS ASSIGNED THESE DATES AND RULES TO THE CONTEST:

1. **ONE ENTRY PER LEVEL PER CATEGORY, WHICH MEANS A SCHOOL WILL SUBMIT FOUR TOTAL DIGITAL ENTRIES.**
2. **DECEMBER 15 IS THE DEADLINE FOR THOSE ENTRIES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE OFFICE. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE AACS RULES AND USE THE AACS JUDGING FORMS WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.**

Education Freedom Tax Credit

Directing your tax dollars to better serve Christian education

Learn more by visiting our website. We now have a designated page to provide schools with valuable information related to EFTC, Accord Kids, and how to promote the program. If you want a Zoom call to understand this better, let us know! Whether CA opts in or not, this program is another way to direct your funds to Christian education and away from the government. New York and Colorado (both blue states) have opted in so it's just a matter of time until all 50 states are part of this program.

WHAT IS ACCORD KIDS?

ACCORD is the scholarship granting organization established by the American Association of Christian Schools to help parents and schools direct their tax dollars (now possible through EFTC) to Christian education.

NEWS ABOUT BENEFAQ
ANNUAL SCHOOL RENEWAL INVOICES

You will receive a renewal invoices from Benefaq if you have registered with them as a GSACS member school. Annual renewal for schools is $40 a year. To register your school, Benefaq waives the $25 onboarding fee for all GSACS member schools. They are increasing family applications from $35 to $36. Reach out if you want to participate in the NEXGEN scholarship program. Benefaq is our third-party income qualifier.

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RESOURCES WORTH SHARING

BJU HAS A NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO HIGHLIGHT WITH YOUR UPPERCLASSMEN. CHECK IT OUT!

LEARN MORE ABOUT ACCORD KIDS SGO AND EFTC
·ONE-HOUR INFORMATIVE WEBINAR EVERY MONDAY AT 1:00 P.M.
GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

REGISTER NOW:
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/WEBINAR/REGISTER/WN_PWR-_PVHTHQVSZNLL8MKOW

LOOKING FOR MORE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES? THINKIFIC IS DEVELOPED BY A SEASONED CHRISTIAN TEACHER FOR CHRISTIAN TEACHERS. DR. DOTSON HAS TAUGHT FOR AACS IN THE PAST AND HAS DEVELOPED NEW TRAINING COURSES FOR SCHOOLS/TEACHERS.



AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL PARK PASSES

- FREE FOR 4TH GRADERS
- FREE FOR THOSE WITH PERMANENT DISABILITIES (THESE DISABILITIES CAN BE RELATED TO ACADEMIC LEARNING DISABILITIES--STUDENTS WITH 504 OR IEP PLANS.)

Plan now!

- MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR NEXT YEAR: $20 PER STUDENT/FACULTY
- THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION PRICING: $7 PER STUDENT COMPETING IN THREE OR FEWER CATEGORIES; $10 PER STUDENT COMPETING IN MORE THAN THREE CATEGORIES (INCLUDES INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP ENTRIES)
- ACADEMIC WRITING COMPETITION: $9 PER ELEMENTARY STUDENT ENTRY AND $10 PER SECONDARY STUDENT ENTRY
- ALL ONLINE ACADEMIC TESTING CATEGORIES: $7 PER TEST
- BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR'S CONVENTION: $175-$195 PER PERSON!

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