

Who is Brown Edwards?

Brown Edwards is a regional accounting firm formed in 1967. We have been committed to private education for over 40 years, and it is a core focus of our firm. For you, this means that we understand your issues, your challenges, and your unique accounting and reporting requirements. We have substantial private education industry expertise, including 20 colleges and universities and 8 K-12 Schools, which allow Brown Edwards to be a leader in this industry.

Brown Edwards has approximately \$59.5 million in gross fees and is in the top 100 largest accounting firms in the United States according to *INSIDE Public Accounting* (August 2020) as well as the largest CPA firm based in VA. With an average of 25 years of experience for partners and directors and ten years for senior associates, team members at Brown Edwards bring significant experience and knowledge to every client engagement. As a regional firm, we offer the best of both worlds. With a total staff of over 400 and growing, we are large enough to provide services to a broad range of clients in the functional areas of accounting, auditing, tax, and management advisory services while providing you with **direct, immediate access to our partners and directors.**

Brown Edwards is a proud partner and sponsor of The Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington, the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS), and The North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (NCAIS).

Representative Clients in K12

Richmond Montessori School

Ms. Tracy Wilburn, Director of Finance
Richmond, Virginia 23229



**Richmond
Montessori
School** a world of difference

Virginia Episcopal School

Ms. Debbie Leake, Director of Business Affairs
Lynchburg, Virginia



**Virginia
Episcopal
School**

North Cross School

Dr. Chris Proctor, Head of School
Roanoke, Virginia 24018



**North
Cross
School**

Blue Ridge School, Inc.

Mr. Robert McMurtry, Controller
St. George, Virginia



BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL™

Redeemer Classical School

Mr. Ron Hoch, Head of School
Harrisonburg, Virginia

REDEEMER
CLASSICAL SCHOOL

Chatham Hall

Ms. Jennifer Hiltwine, CFO
Chatham, Virginia



CHATHAM HALL

St. Anne's Belfield School

Mr. Murray Rodes, Controller
Charlottesville, Virginia



St. Anne's-Belfield School

Our Team



Melissa Stanley

Co-Founder of BE K-12 Niche

Melissa is an assurance partner in the Roanoke office and has over 25 years of accounting experience. Prior to joining Brown Edwards, Melissa was a partner in one of the top 20 firms in the nation where her practice concentrations were in not-for-profit organizations, employee benefit plan audits, and a variety of closely held businesses, including manufacturers, real estate holding companies, distributors and service organizations. Melissa's expertise includes assistance in applying accounting standards in a multitude of situations – from everyday transactions to complex, multi-faceted arrangements.



Jim Fries

Co-Founder of BE K-12 Niche

Jim is an assurance partner based in our Harrisonburg office. He specializes in working with employee benefit plans and not-for-profit organizations, including foundations, healthcare entities, community action agencies, and other social service organizations. Jim also has experience in a wide range of other industries, including manufacturers, utilities, cooperatives, construction contractors, and physician practices. He is a member of the firm's peer review services team, providing quality reviews to regional public accounting firms around the country.

What makes us unique in K12



Newsletters

- Informative newsletters periodically sent to clients with current accounting and tax issues of interest to not for profit organizations.



COVID – 19 Task Force

- Developed in March, 2020 to assist clients with questions specific to the CARES Act and subsequent laws created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Benchmark Report

- A value add to our audit deliverables, this report contains statistics that are important to K-12 schools with comparative information of approximately 150 other schools.



K12 Webinars and Conferences

- Brown Edwards provides two nonprofit conferences each year that are complimentary to clients as well as other K-12 webinars to keep you updated on various accounting, tax, and industry issues. See sample agenda on the next slide.

Past Conference Agenda

Emergency Funding Acts – Impact to Nonprofits

November 11, 2020 2:00pm – 3:30pm

We invite you to join us in November for a thorough and comprehensive program addressing several provisions of the CARES ACT that could be of benefit to NFPs. Patrick Pittman, CPA, will lead this explanatory session. Patrick is a Senior Manager in Brown Edwards' tax practice and has extensive experience in providing management and tax consultations, business and tax planning, and tax compliance services. We encourage those who work in the financial areas of the nonprofit sector and are interested to learn more about the effects of this coronavirus relief bill to join us for the most current information. Below are a few of the topics for discussion:

- FFRORA Paid Sick & Childcare Leave
- CARES Act
 - Employee Retention Credit
 - Payroll Tax Deferral
 - PPP Loans
- Current developments, legislative outlook for the NFP sector

Additional Info/Links

Past NFP Newsletter – Issue 3 of winter 2021 not-for-profit organization news

- <https://bit.ly/3vHYrLm>

Brown Edwards Website Blogs – Blogs posted weekly with material on tax updates, firm information, and other relevant material

- <https://bit.ly/3eWJbnC>

Brown Edwards COVID Information Page – Resources for small business and other important COVID updates

- <https://bit.ly/3tCXpOE>