



## Conference Preview

### "Ready Set Go " STEM

*CONNIE EISENHART, Science/Stem/Robotics Teacher  
Guardian Angels Catholic School*

This session is "Hands On Coding Skills" During this session, we will work with Coding the Robots(Mouse. Botley, WeDo2, Edision). We will learn step-by-step about building mazes, collaborating, creating, and coding the robots with problem solving. We will build a Scrub Brush Robot, and take one home.NGSS Content Standard A, Content Standard B Content Standard E,Technology Standard 9, Engineering design 11 Apply the design process.

### A Framework of Fun

*Dr. Curtis Chandler, Professor of Teacher Education  
Brigham Young University - Idaho*

In this session, participants will examine what it is that motivates today's young people to learn. We will look specifically at the motivational and learning principles embedded in one of the most popular pastimes of students—video games. What is about playing video games that is so compelling and captivating? More importantly, we will examine ways that game-based principles and tools are being utilized by educators in classrooms around the nation to (1) improve learning and to (2) help students persist in difficult learning tasks.

### A Most Teachable Moment: Crisis Leadership After Tragedy

*Bob VandePol, Director of Employee, Church, and School Assistance  
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services*

When tragedy strikes a school -- a fatal accident, violence, death by suicide, or natural disaster -- all stakeholders immediately look to its leadership for direction. How those leaders respond when all eyes are upon them offers both tremendous opportunity and serious risk for the subsequent outcomes. Reactions to their leadership will echo throughout the organization as others take their cue from the charted direction. This focus is further intensified any time children are involved in the tragedy. Those internal to the organization and observers from the community scrutinize carefully to see what is being done for those who are most precious. Students, employees, and constituencies will go through the crisis with or without leadership. How do you address the human impacts and financial costs? How do you communicate in a way that demonstrates both competence and compassion? What should you do to mitigate tragedy's occurrence and keep a bad situation from getting worse? This presentation will address crisis leadership skills that support individual and organizational resilience.

### [A Taste of Coaching](#)

*Mary Moomaw, Senior Director of Fund Development and Communications  
Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore*

Imagine classrooms and schools where student engagement and collegial collaboration is the norm. This session will explore how coaching skills can enhance the way you communicate—impacting students, parents, and colleagues alike. We will introduce basic skills that you can add to your existing expertise to shift from focusing on problems to empowering others to achieve personal, school, and community goals. We'll explore what is possible when coaching skills are used intentionally in the classroom, in meetings, and throughout your daily life.

### [Adaptations: Accommodations and Modifications](#)

*Pamela Maat, Teacher Consultant  
CLC-Network*

"Accommodations? Modifications? Alternative Curriculum? This is confusing. What IS the difference?" This presentation will answer the question of what is an accommodation, a modification and alternative curriculum. We will address which students receive accommodations, which receive modifications and which have an alternative curriculum. Do you know that alternative curriculum should rarely be used? So, what does a teacher do? Modify. You will learn the 3 academic modifications, and be equipped to make modifications the next day.

### [Addressing the Needs of Gifted and Talented Students](#)

*Kara Bratton, Resource Center Director  
Lutheran Special Education Ministries*

This session will describe the specific needs of gifted and talented students and also students who may be twice exceptional (gifted and talented with a learning disability). Strategies for classroom teachers to implement in the general education setting will also be presented.

### [ADHD Hidden In Plain Sight](#)

*Doug Bouman, Psy.S., Nationally Certified School Psychologist  
CLC Network*

ADHD is the most frequent neurocognitive disorder and the second most inherited condition in the human genome. ADHD is marked by puzzling inconsistency of learning and behavior, disorganization, inability to self-manage and underutilization of ability. Left undiagnosed, misdiagnosed or misinterpreted, it is the source of considerable frustration and discouragement for the student, their family and school staff. The presentation has three goals: 1. What Do We See? Participants will be equipped with user friendly tools for recognizing the obvious and subtle symptoms of ADHD. 2. What Do We Think? Participants will enhance their understanding of the subtleties, complexities and co-occurring conditions surrounding ADHD. 3. What Do We Do? Participants will review non-medical strategies and effective use of medication to manage ADHD.

## [All Children Are Our Children: Best Practices and Ten Top Strategies for Implementing ESSA](#)

*Ronald Nuzzi, Reverend*

*Catapult Learning, LLC*

The implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) presents many challenges and opportunities for leaders of private, faith-based schools. This session explores effective approaches to working with local education agencies (LEAs) and state education agencies (SEAs), focusing on preparing and executing successful consultations, and ensuring the provision of services required in federal law.

## [Apps, Add-Ons & Extensions Oh My!](#)

*Carol Glanville, Tech Integration Consultant & Coach*

*Contemporary Education Solutions*

The goal of technology integration is to increase quality and efficiency. In a few clicks, Google drive and Chrome extras can do just that in ways you may not have realized. In this session, learn the difference between apps, add-ons, and extensions. Then experience how the addition of just a couple of each can increase functionality, empower students and unlock surprising uses for docs, sheets, and slides. Selected add-ons are relevant to any content area and grade level.

## [Assessment Literacy: What is it and Why does it matter?](#)

*Jessica Knierim, Account Manager - Catholic Education*

*NWEA*

Assessment literate educators are informed, reflective, and proactive practitioners of learning for students. Understanding assessments and data literacy are essential for all education stakeholders. This interactive session will help educators understand different assessment methods, how to appropriately match tests to their objectives, and how to integrate assessment data into classroom instruction. The attendees will leave this session with the knowledge to describe different types of assessments, their purpose, and develop local definitions and process for comprehensive assessment planning.

## [Be a PEACE COACH - help students PRACTICE solving problems more peacefully!](#)

*Sue Kendall, Founder, Peace Coach, LLC*

*Peace Coach, LLC and St. Matthew Lutheran and St. Fabian Catholic*

The mission of Peace Coach is to make a “peace” coach for children as common as a “sports” coach. The key ingredient to both is daily practice. Peace Coach provides everything necessary for a concept introduction each month and a 1-minute practice each day. Make your daily routine a prayer, a pledge, and "peace practice". Units include Conflict Resolution, Bullying, and Social Skills. Strategies are based on the advice of experts, including Jesus. Take skills immediately back to your students!

## [Behavior Management Playing Field](#)

*Barbara Newman, School and Church Consultant*

*CLC Network*

This session will help equip participants with a framework to think about setting up each child for success. Borrowing the concept of “offense and defense”, we will discover together very practical tools to use with all children, including those with challenging behaviors.

### [Beliefs and Practices of Inclusive Education](#)

*Elizabeth Dombrowski, Executive Director*

*CLC Network*

*Jill Annable*

*Catholic Schools, Diocese of Grand Rapids*

Join us for an exploration of the ways our faith is reflected in our educational supports for students in faith-based schools. Learn ways that schools have supported success for students at all levels of ability through systemic and cultural shifts. In addition, we will share the Christ-Centered Educational Support Standard, a tool that can sit alongside accreditation processes or be utilized for self-study.

### [Best Practice Strategies for Enrollment Growth](#)

*David Faber, Superintendent of Catholic Schools*

*Diocese of Grand Rapids*

*Luzia Tartari, Greg Ghering Tartari and Ghering*

*Diocese of Grand Rapids*

Come explore practical marketing, communications, admissions and enrollment management strategies that are sure to put your school back on a track or to keep your school thriving into the future. The mission of Christian education needs missionary disciples to share their best practices so that we can welcome larger numbers of God's children into our schools and classrooms. Board members, school leaders, and teachers will walk away from this session with new practical strategies to use within their schools.

### [Best Practices in School Security - 2018](#)

*Daniel DiBardino, Managing Director*

*Recon Management Group, LLC*

This presentation addresses a spectrum of topics relevant to school security & preparedness in the K-12 environment. Recommendations will be presented on protocols, procedures and best practices that will enable school administrators to make an immediate impact in increasing preparedness and the security posture of their facility or classroom using low or no cost options, procedures and training.

### [Boys and Girls Learn Differently](#)

*Karen Boyk,*

*Gurian Institute and The Einstein Method*

*Allen Einstein*

Learn about the latest brain research as it pertains to literacy for both genders - - do boys and girls really learn differently? This session will provide you with research information, as well as useful strategies to use to engage all students, even the most challenging ones. You will be given tools to help create a learning environment in which both genders experience success.

## [BREAKOUT EDU - It's Time for Something Different](#)

*Patti Harju, Director of Games*

*Breakout EDU*

Breakout EDU is the immersive learning games platform.

In Breakout EDU games, players use the 4 C's, communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity to solve a series of challenging puzzles in order to open the locked box. Breakout EDU games are for all ages, and all content areas. Experience a Breakout EDU game first hand and see why It's Time for Something Different. Learn more at [Breakoutedu.com](http://Breakoutedu.com).

## [Building Intercultural Competence: Effective Frameworks for Educators and Schools](#)

*Fr. Stephen Dudek,*

This workshop on intercultural competence will draw from our own experience, as well as from proven frameworks. Designed for educators and school settings we will:

- 1.) Gain a deeper understanding of culture
- 2.) Look at the changing demographics of our churches and schools
- 3.) Learn to identify predictable stages of intercultural sensitivity
- 4.) Understand the importance of attitudes, knowledge and skills in this critical area.

It will provide us with a comprehensive overview of this emerging field, highlighting it's importance for the future of education and the church.

## [Children's book about Christian worship](#)

*Kristen Verhulst, Program manager*

*Calvin Institute of Christian Worship*

There are a number of wonderful picture and children's books that help church school leaders, educators, and parents teach children about worship. These books focus on the sacraments, Christian year, the psalms, and prayer. Children's books provide another means to welcome and engage children (and adults!) in worship as full members of the body of Christ.

## [Church & State and Effective Legislative Advocacy](#)

*Paul Stankewitz, Policy Advocate*

*Michigan Catholic Conference*

This session will empower attendees with an understanding of the true nature of the separation of Church & State. It will provide effective, common sense approaches to building critical relationships with community and legislative leaders. This session will help you navigate the public policy waters in which you must sail.

## [Creating 21st Century Learners through Positive Habits of Mind](#)

*Amanda Makarewicz, Middle School Math and Science Teacher*

*St. Stephen Catholic School*

21st century skills are key to our students' success not just academically but in all aspects of life. In this session, we will explore and discuss some key habits of mind. Participants will walk away with ideas and some lesson plans for teaching these habits of mind. There might just be some giveaways too!

### Creating a Community of Readers

*Amy Snodgrass, Interventionist*

*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic School*

*Carrie Westman, 3rd Grade Teacher*

*Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic School*

You can build a community of independent readers with a reading incentive program at your school. I can show you how we made being a "Book Nerd" the coolest thing to be at our school.

### Creating a Culture of Camaraderie and Leadership

*Joseph Kalczynski, Mr. (Teacher/Coach/Band of Brothers Director)*

*Brother Rice High School*

*Bob Riker*

*Brother Rice High School*

In this session, administration and leaders of your school will learn techniques that Brother Rice High School (Bloomfield Hills, MI) has used in their "Band of Brothers" Program to help establish a culture of tangible camaraderie and leadership within the students of the school. The Band of Brothers system allows all students and faculty to take ownership of their roles in the legacy they leave for the next generation of Warriors. Founding members of Brother Rice's exciting Band system will explain activities that can be easily incorporated into your current school day to help foster togetherness for your students and staff.

### Creating a Neuroscience Based Culture of Learning

*George Tomey, Chief People Officer*

*GPS Solutions*

*Christopher Plum*

*Chief Knowledge Officer*

To maximize the learning experience for every student every day, the school and classroom environments must be safe, trusting, predictable, and allow learners to take risks and be vulnerable. To this end, buildings and classrooms must develop a "culture of learning." Building on the work of David Rock (2008) at the NeuroLeadership Institute and using strategies and practices reinforced by Dr. Rock's five social transactions, this workshop will give building leaders and teachers tools to ensure they cultivate their "culture of learning." Neuroscience literature converges around the idea that one of the brain's organizing survival principles is an approach (reward) and avoid (threat) model. In this model, the brain tags incoming stimulus with either a "good/engage" tag or a "bad/avoid" tag. Dr. Rock's research suggests that there are five domains of human social experience that activate this brain tagging. These domains are Status, Certainty, Autonomy, Fairness, Relatedness (SCARF). When teachers and leaders understand how threats are reduced and reward is increased in the social transactions in these five domains, they will see how to create a culture of learning where students are more inclined to engage. As students are more engaged, core content can be more readily mastered. Please join us to learn how to maximize the "culture of learning" in your classroom and school.

### [Creating an Exceptional Learner Handbook](#)

*Jenny LaPonsie, Coordinator of Instructional Interventions and Resources  
All Saints Academy*

Leaders at All Saints Academy created an Exceptional Learner Handbook to help identify students who need additional or intensive supports and/or interventions. Through a step-by-step process, the handbook helps guide classroom teachers and school leaders in providing interventions, targeted goal instruction, identification of any possible disability and creation of accommodation plans for exceptional learners. The process starts by empowering classroom teachers to use data and basic interventions to identify students who are struggling. It then offers opportunities for collaboration with other professionals to find the best strategies to meet the needs of the learner. The handbook itself and documentation resources will be shared including data and intervention logs. Other resources include a Student Learning Contract, where specific goals and objectives are identified. Through facilitated discussion, these resources will be shared and explained so that our schools can provide and promote inclusion and welcome any student whose family desires a faith based education.

### [Creating, Sharing, and Gaming: Level Up Learning!](#)

*Patti Harju, Director of Games  
Breakout EDU*

Gamification, VR, Coding, Social Media are all part of today's classroom, directly or indirectly. If we want to prepare our students for their future, we need to embrace the changes technology brings, and give our students real world, authentic experiences that provide problem solving and critical thinking opportunities and encourage creativity and collaboration. I will share my journey and what I learned navigating the world of tech and how creating and sharing games changed it all.

### [Creatively Critical Cognition](#)

*Stacy Slomski, Instructor  
Aquinas College*

Creativity is essential to brain development and cognitive growth. Learn how to implement small moments of creative activities into the classroom to promote critical thinking and learner development

### [Critical Conversations: The Empowering Strategies to Have Them](#)

*Melissa Usiak, Assistant Professor  
Michigan State University*

Having the skills and courage to take on important, but often challenging, conversations with others can be just that. Challenging. This session will explore a wealth of strategies leading to the tools participants can use to plan and have critical conversations with colleagues and friends. An understanding of the power of trust and relationships is essential for all leaders. Knowing how to provide effective feedback is a necessary step as well. Intentional planning of the critical conversation truly provides a meaningful beginning to resolution. This session will provide references and research to support this work as well as model several protocols, strategies, and tools that can be easily practiced.

### [Cross Training in Crisis Times](#)

*Glenn Grage, Teacher/DCE*

*Faith Lutheran Church and School*

Following Jesus' example, learn practical steps to assist children, youth, and adults going through times of crisis.

### [Cross-cutting Concepts: Your New Best Friend](#)

*Temple Ireland-Rosenberger, Associate Director of Business Development*

*Van Andel Education Institute*

What are the cross-cutting concepts, and what do they mean for me and my classroom? Unpack each of the cross-cutting concepts and discover how they can help you save time and help your students learn more deeply. If you're looking for a way to integrate learning and make it stick, the cross-cutting concepts might be your new best friend!

### [Cut the clutter: Let Google help you get ORGANIZED!](#)

*John Sowash, Educator*

*Sowash Ventures, LLC*

Are you struggling to stay on top of email, documents, grading, and lesson planning? Is the sheer volume of digital information that flows across your computer screen overwhelming? Google can help! Being organized and efficient is critical so that you can spend less time shuffling information around, and more time helping students or staff. You will learn the top tips for organizing email, documents, photos, web resources, and more. Plus, you will learn automation strategies to help you work smarter, not harder.

### [Cyberspace Minefields](#)

*Patrick Corbett, Assistant U.S. Attorney*

*United States Attorney's Office*

The Internet is part of our everyday lives and increasingly the preferred method of communication. Thanks to the wide variety of electronic devices available to us, the communications are often instantaneous and uncensored. Our words often leave unintended messages or meanings. And sometimes you say something that you wished you hadn't. When you post on the Internet, your words last forever. Will you LOL yourself all the way to court? This session will show you how online activity and the use of cell phones can get you into criminal trouble – and how to stay out of it.

### [Data Driven Instruction: Using NWEA to Drive Instruction in the Classroom](#)

*Meghan Loughlin-Krusky, Principal*

*St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School*

*Kerri Wilcox*

*St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School*

Are you currently using NWEA to assess your students each year? Are you using the NWEA reports and data provided to help enhance the instruction in the classroom or provide tier support? If not, this is the session for you! During the session we will review specific NWEA reports and how we use them to help drive instruction in the classroom. We will also review our Data Team system and schedule and how we support teachers and staff in working to support each of our students in the classroom. We will also cover instructional programs that we use to support our students both in and out of the classroom.



### Designing Dynamic Chapels

*Richard Schumacher, Director of Programs & Services  
Lutheran Special Education Ministries*

Learn a strategy that will add pizzazz to your chapel messages and children's talks. Participants will receive a template and work together to construct several chapel ideas they can take back to use at their schools.

### Developing Growth Mindsets: Being Good Stewards of the Gifts Given to Students

*Teresa Colucci, Math teacher  
Saginaw Area Catholic Schools*

If ALL students in your class looked forward to tackling challenges, persevered in the face of obstacles, treated mistakes as data on what they didn't yet understand and viewed effort as the key to becoming smarter, you would have a class full of Growth Mindset students! Participants will learn about attributes of Fixed and Growth Mindsets, based on Carol Dweck's book *Mindset*, and will discuss how teacher and parents can encourage development of a growth mindset in their students and children.

### Digital Storytelling and Technology in the Elementary Classroom

*Angie Dressander, First Grade Teacher  
St. Stephen School*

Early elementary students have a lot of stories to share. Technology engages the learner, sparks creativity, and fosters collaboration in ways paper & pencil never did. By using Chrome, Google Classroom, Seesaw, and other apps, students bring these stories to life and reach a world audience. Come and learn with the 2017 MACUL Technology Using Teacher of the year how to use Chrome, Google Classroom, Seesaw, and so much more with early elementary aged students.

### Diversity: A Real Discussion about our Strengths, Weaknesses and Positive Applications

*Angela Naylor, MSP, Admin. Assistant to the Superintendent / Tuition Assistance Coordinator  
Archdiocese of Detroit / Office of Catholic Schools  
Mary Johnson  
License Counselor - Christ the King Catholic Elementary School*

In an effort to address the many different types of diversity: race, economic status, physical and mental health it is important for educators to take an honest look at their approach to dealing with students and families. There must be a combined level of educational and social responsibility. This session will discuss the participant's knowledge and understanding of effective approaches to extracting the best from a student, tapping into their full potential academically, socially and spiritually. Alert: This session should only be attended by those who want to engage in a rich and honest dialogue that can change the way we view our students, families and each other. Mother and Daughter Facilitators

### Dyslexia 101

*Kara Bratton, Resource Center Director  
Lutheran Special Education Ministries*

This session will educate teachers about the struggles students with dyslexia face in the classroom and demonstrate helpful strategies to promote success for these students. Appropriate classroom accommodations will also be presented.

### Effective things you can do if you are asked to teach or sub P.E.

*Sue Kendall, St. Matthew PE Teacher*

*St. Matthew Lutheran School/Novi Community Schools*

Teaching P.E. can be a daunting task – the venue is large and the children are moving. Carefully planned tasks are the key to maintaining order and safety. In this workshop you will learn some tricks of the trade that work for Kindergarten to 5th grade students. From entering the gym in slow motion as a way to work on balance, to using soft recycled paper products to execute basic sports skills, you will benefit from this session as well as your students! It's a win-win!

### Effective vs. Marginal Teaching: What To Look for and How To Help

*Ronald Nuzzi, Reverend*

*Catapult Learning, LLC*

Supporting teachers in their professional career trajectories is a major responsibility of school leaders. With the desire for continuous improvement always present, understanding best practices and operationalizing them in the classroom is a challenge for all educators. By comparing the characteristics of effective and marginal teachers, this session offers concrete strategies for teachers to implement in the classroom while providing administrators with ideas to enrich their observation and supervision practices. Formative interventions for improvement will be discussed.

### Embracing Diversity

*Rick Muniz, Principal*

*San Juan Diego Academy*

In an environment of anti-immigrant sentiment, it becomes increasingly important to remind students and those that shape their minds of the lessons history has attempted to teach about our Catholic mission to welcome the stranger. The Church has historically been a leader in promoting social justice and we are called upon to do the same today, armed with statistics and facts which can not be disputed.

### Empathy in Action

*Carol Glanville, Tech Integration Consultant & Coach*

*Contemporary Education Solutions*

We often talk to students about empathy, but what does practicing empathy look like for a teacher? With society flying by at break-neck speed, it becomes necessary to continually reassess our assumptions of who our students are. We are called to emulate Christ and meet them where they're at in such a way that their passion and purpose is continually honored in the classroom. This session will explore ways to help the busy teacher keep their finger on the pulse of the students, without adding to the workload. (yes, really!)

### Engagement and the Charlotte Danielson Framework

*Selby Karen, Professor*

*University of Detroit Mercy*

*Richards Rockwell*

*University of Detroit Mercy*

Using components of the Charlotte Danielson Framework, presenters will engage participants in finding evidence of effective teaching. The adoption of this framework by administrators and teachers at one institution seeking to include Ignatius pedagogy provides a model for including what matters as you institute teacher evaluations in your own governance structure.

[Engaging the Heart and Imagination in prayer: How to help youth get to know Jesus better and interact personally with him by using their imagination in prayer to immerse themselves into the life of Jesus.](#)

*Mary Clark-Kaiser, Retired Director of Campus Ministry  
Aquinas College*

This session will be an introduction for educators to a kind of prayer taught by St. Ignatius of Loyola that uses one's heart and imagination to experience and interact with Jesus in imaginative prayer. It is a type of prayer that can engage our youths' hearts, memories, emotions, senses and opens them up to be present and experience Jesus. They learn how to experience Jesus in the context of Gospel scenes. Through this prayer they can see Jesus healing the leper or soothing the fears of the apostles in the fishing boat during a storm. The session will be both experiential and informational. Resource suggestions about imaginative prayer will be provided.

[Enrolling and Welcoming Latino Families in our Catholic Schools](#)

*Dave Faber, Superintendent  
Office of Catholic Schools - Diocese of Grand Rapids  
Luzia Tartari*

*Office of Catholic Schools - Diocese of Grand Rapids*

An open forum about enrollment strategies that are working for outreach to the Latino Community and how to welcome and retain students and families. We will share ideas about needs, strategies, successes, resources.

[Epic Project Based Learning 101](#)

*Trevor Muir, Senior Editor  
WeAreTeachers*

Storytelling is essential to the human experience. This medium of communication has not only proven to be the best way of sharing information, but also for learning and retaining that information. A class can be designed and taught in the format of a story. This workshop gives concrete methods, practices, and resources to create a story-centric classroom in an innovative project based learning model.

[Equitable Services for Private Schools through Federal Programs](#)

*Janet Callis, State and Federal Programs Consultant - Leadership and School Improvement Unit  
Oakland Schools  
Jolia Hill  
Wayne RESA*

During this interactive session, participants will gain an understanding of the legislative requirements for providing equitable services to private school students, parents, and staff. Alternative ways of holding meaningful consultations and administering equitable services will be reviewed and shared so that participants will be prepared to collaborate with their local districts.

### [Feeding the Whole Child, the Whole Year](#)

*Diane Golzynski, State Child Nutrition Director*

*Michigan Department of Education*

*Carolyn Thomas*

*Macomb Area ISD*

Assuring the basic needs of children are met will provide for better learning outcomes. Hear how presenters are working to meet the needs of the whole child, the whole year in schools all over the state.

### [Formation in Virtue: God's Plan for the Human Person](#)

*Zachary Good, Dean of Faculty and Curriculum*

*Sacred Heart Academy*

We remember saints, sages, and heroes from Socrates and Leonidas to Martin Luther King and Mother Teresa not for their wealth or success, but for their extraordinary virtue. Far from a list of "shalt nots," virtue is the power of being fully alive and fully ourselves – actively pursuing God's particular plan for us. Learn how to naturally and passionately impart the indispensable lesson of virtuous living in your classroom while avoiding the common pitfalls of character education.

### [Franciscan Life Process Center Land Experience Educational Excursion](#)

Learn how Land Experiences not only offer opportunities for volunteers to help in a "hands on" way, but also help to transform the interior "land" within each person.

### [Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park Tour](#)

Enjoy a docent guided tour of Meijer Gardens, followed by a tram tour of the grounds, ending with time spent in the Japanese Garden.

### [From Creation to Revelation](#)

*James Pagels, Dr.*

*Retired Lutheran Educator*

The goal of this presentation is to offer a perspective of not only the basic themes of Scripture, but also the historical context within which events have occurred thereby enabling educators to provide a more holistic, vibrant picture in witnessing regarding the Scriptural narrative.

### [Fun Formative Assessment with Technology](#)

*Jennifer Blake, Mrs.*

*Valley Lutheran High School*

Participants will see how Recap, Flipgrid, and Seesaw can fit into their classrooms as engaging forms of assessment. See how they work, then brainstorm with others to discover something you can take home and use in your classroom right away.

### [Fun With Flipgrid!](#)

*Gary Abud, Educational Consultant  
Saga Educators, Inc.*

Do you wonder how to best unleash all your students' potential? Consider the possibilities with Flipgrid. This session works for people new to the tool or who have experience with it. Join the conversation as we explore ways to empower students through individual and collaborative video expression across all content areas. Consider how teachers may offer constructive feedback to drive student learning. Bonus: discover ways to engage adult learners remotely and enhance dialogue with video.

### [Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum Educational Excursion](#)

Participate in a viewing and discussion of the documentary "Black and Blue: the Story of Gerald Ford, Willis Ward and the 1934 U of M v Georgia Tech Football Game." Following, enjoy a guided tour of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, and then participate in the Unlock the Character Code: Gerald R. Ford Breakout Game, and learn the benefits of breakout games in the classroom setting (critical thinking, problem solving skills).

### [Get More Grant Funding: A TEAM Approach to Grant Writing](#)

*Edward Wollmann, Managing Partner  
Michigan Grants Funding, Inc.*

That's because many grant proposals are written by school administrators who just don't have the time required, and who are working alone.

On the other hand, successful schools are working as a team--a grant writing team.

A team-based approach to grant writing can:

- Reduce in the amount of work on everyone's part,
- Result in more and also better proposals completed.
- And that means increased grants success for YOUR school.

### [Google with Elementary Students](#)

*John Sowash, Educator  
Sowash Ventures, LLC*

Think that Google Drive, Classroom, and Chromebooks are too advanced for K-3 students? Think again! This session will focus on practical, hands-on ways use Google with elementary students. We will discuss the practical issues of using technology with young students and provide you with cool lesson ideas and ready-to-use templates that you can take back to your classroom!

### [Gratitude Changes Attitude- Increasing Teacher Morale](#)

*Linda Irwin, Assistant Principal  
St. Mary Royal Oak Catholic School*

This is for administrators to give them some and inexpensive and easy ways to show appreciation to their staff and increase staff morale.

### [Growing Confident and Compassionate Student LEADERS... It Starts with US!](#)

*Robert ( Bob ) Siegel, Principal / Author / Leadership Consultant*

*Learn to Lead with Love, LLC*

READY...SET...LEAD! Learning and Leading with Love = Student Success In this inspirational presentation, you will be reminded of WHY we became educators. Bob will motivate the audience to lead from the heart and create a dynamic TEAM based upon research-based upon leadership principles and many other strategies from his book, Learn to Lead with Love...a Field Guide to Building a Team with Heart, will be used in this presentation. Grow as adult loving leaders so that we can pass the baton of compassionate and confident leadership to our students. Children need us to be loving leaders more than ever, and Bob will show the way to create a dynamic classroom and school. Student Leadership starts with US...our legacy depends on it!

### [I Love Teaching Memory Work!](#)

*Ruth Krieger, Educator*

*Trinity Lutheran School*

This presenter, with over 30 years experience, will share how she recently began teaching memory work to her students with music. She will share some of the Bible passages and original, simple tunes she has composed. Together, you will explore and create original melodies for remembering new Bible verses. This presentation is geared toward teachers of younger students. Only basic music knowledge is needed. The ability to play a melody line will be helpful.

### [Integrating technology into your math & Science classroom](#)

*John Sowash, Educator*

*Sowash Ventures, LLC*

Yes, you CAN integrate technology into your math and science classroom! The world around us is FULL of interesting and challenging mathematical questions. Help your students develop a mathematical mindset by introducing fun, engaging problems using free web based tools. We'll explore video story problems, collaborative study guides, math challenge problems, and data collection activities that can be used in any math or science classroom.

### [Integrating Theology Across the Curriculum: Everything Points to God the Creator](#)

*Sean Nolan, Theology & World Language Teacher*

*West Catholic High School*

Formal religious instruction happens, typically, in a religion/theology class or in time specifically devoted to religious instruction. However, the formation students receive in every class can help them on their journey of discipleship: if God really created the world to lead all things back into God's kingdom, then we will find evidence of God in every story across typical curricular divides. In this session, we will explore how to think about the various subject-matters and how they lead young people to God.

### [Intentional Chaos: Shared Responsibility and Decision Making in the Classroom](#)

*Elizabeth D'Aurora, Teacher*

*St. Patrick School*

*Jill Annable*

*Diocese of Grand Rapids*

Building classroom culture, allowing for student voice, and fostering active listening all add up to a positive learning experience for students. Flexible seating and student choice to build a classroom environment for learning will be explored. Hear how one third grade teacher has intentionally created a classroom of student ownership and independence, where all Children of God are valued and respected as learners.

### [Internet and Social Media Training - OK2SAY/Michigan CSI](#)

*Mary Gager Drew, Program Administrator*

*Department of the Attorney General*

Michigan's student safety program, OK2SAY, enables Michigan students to confidentially report harmful behavior that threatens their safety or the safety of professionals who can help prevent tragedies before they occur. Using a confidential and reliable communication system, OK2SAY facilitates information submission through text, mobile app, email, website, and telephone. Students confidentially report school safety threats to trained OK2SAY professionals 24/7. Learn more about how this program can be successfully implemented in your school.

### [Introduce Girls to Engineering](#)

*Gerallynn Phelps, Assistant Director, MSU Women in Engineering, Recruitment and K-12 Outreach*

*Michigan State University College of Engineering*

*Teresa Isela VanderSloot, Director*

*MSU Women in Engineering, Recruitment and K-12 Outreach - Michigan State University College of Engineering*

There is a high demand and need for more diversity in engineering. Many myths and misconceptions about engineering exist which detract girls from entering the field. We aim to address specific ways to engage and encourage girls to pursue engineering careers. Research shows that women influence roughly 80% of all consumer spending in the United States. However, women make up 20% of the engineering world, which touches our lives every day. Come learn what you can do increase the diversity pipeline in engineering.

### [Introduction to Classroom Learning Labs](#)

*Jill Annable, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Integration*

*Diocese of Grand Rapids*

Observing other teachers can be one of the most beneficial teaching practices. Classroom Learning Labs (CLLs) is an organized protocol that allows teachers to observe one another, whether they are observing a teacher down the hall or across the state! Teachers focus on the craft of teaching and the aspects of student learning during a CLL. In this session, participants will get a brief glimpse into this professional practice, with tools and strategies for implement within their own schools.

### Investigations: Then and Now

*Temple Ireland-Rosenberger, Associate Director of Business Development  
Van Andel Education Institute*

The science investigations we all did as children will not adequately prepare students for the rigorous NGSS expectations. Now students are expected to develop their own questions, create their own investigation plans, and collect adequate and sufficient data to answer their questions. Study before and after examples of investigation and discover how to transform any lesson into an IGSS-aligned inquiry experience.

### It Helps If You're a Little Crazy! (Improving Communication Style with Students)

*Jerry Jacoby, Kid Motivator  
Lifesong Entertainment, L.L.C.*

Did you have a favorite teacher? Me, too! They made school fun and we didn't want their class to end. What was it that made us love them? Jerry Jacoby has been taking notes for 40 years as a teacher and motivational speaker in over 7,000 schools and shares his findings with you. Tips and concepts that can be adapted to any teacher's style. Some you may already own but others may be just the trick to add new sparkle to your communication repertoire. Jerry is authentic and uplifting.

### Know Thy Impact

*Rachel Turner, Director, Educational Service Provider Unit  
GPS Solutions  
Tracie Swiecki  
GPS Solutions*

John Hattie's landmark meta-analysis research helps answer the question of "what works best in education" by ranking various interventions in terms of their effect size. Based on his findings, it is clear that developing teacher-student relationships, teacher clarity, and the effective use of feedback will positively impact student achievement. In this session, participants will develop their understanding of Hattie's research and build their instructional toolbox with proven strategies.

- Teachers will understand that building relationships with teachers requires agency, efficacy, and respect.
- Teachers will develop their use of empathy and listening to build stronger relationships with their students
- Teachers will understand the importance of learning intentions.
- Teachers will be able to develop success criteria to give students clarity about whether the desired learning has been achieved.
- Teachers will learn to use feedback (teacher to student and student to teacher) to reduce the gap between what is now and what should or could be.
- Teachers will use feedback guided by the questions
- Where am I going?
- How am I going?
- Where to next?
- Teachers will use feedback with a growth mindset.

Please join us to build your effective instruction toolbox!

### Lessons Learned from a First-Time Endeavor into Project Based Learning

*Amanda Makarewicz, Middle School Math and Science Teacher  
St. Stephen Catholic School*

Considering Project Based Learning? Looking for a middle school math project? Come hear the ups and downs of a PBL first attempt in a middle school math classroom. Join in the discussion of why do it, how to approach it and the time needed for a project versus the time it would take to "teach the normal way." Share and brainstorm ideas for your classroom!



### [Let's Get Shifty: 7 Shifts in NGSS](#)

*Temple Ireland Rosenberger, Associate Director of Business Development  
Van Andel Education Institute*

If you feel like a lot is being asked of science teachers, it's because it is! It's true that NGSS requires monumental shifts in instruction, but it doesn't need to be overwhelming. Learn the 7 essential shifts required by NGSS and discover practical strategies to not just meet the demands of these shifts, but to fully embrace an inquiry-based classroom.

### [Let's Play a Game!](#)

*Sharon Lampman, Kindergarten Teacher  
Guardian Angels Catholic School*

Learn how to make games for your classroom to make learning interactive and fun while teaching Math and Reading concepts and more. With today's high standards we need to remember to keep things fundamentally appropriate when possible.

### [Make Learning Epic: The Power of Story in the Classroom](#)

*Trevor Muir, Senior Editor  
Senior Editor*

Is there any point in learning something if you're just going to forget it? And this begs a bigger question: if learning is not memorable, should it even be considered learning? Trevor shares how educators can shape their classrooms using the power of storytelling and brain science to achieve real student engagement, and in return, learning that is permanent and memorable. Any teacher, in any subject area, and in any grade level can use these practical and proven practices to transform their classrooms into settings where students are engaged, challenged and transformed.

### [MARVELous Philanthropic Superpowers of Teachers: Impacting Your School's Future Good](#)

*Mike DeBrincat, Lead Counsel  
DeBrincat Consulting Group, LLC*

Did you know one important quality teachers have in common with the Avengers? When banded together, each group has unconquerable powers towards a greater good. Like new superheroes realizing their abilities, today's teachers are coming to understand their superpowers to affect next level education, beyond their classroom.

This interactive session offers teachers, administrators, parents and staff an opportunity to understand how banding certain simple philanthropic superpowers together can increase salaries, build buildings, expand curriculums, generate new programs, and much more.

Each session participant will take away the working understanding and skills of their individual secret superpower(s) in philanthropy to impact their school's sustainability and future. All with no additional demands on their daily activities.

### [Middle School Kids Make a Difference](#)

*Cathryne Goulet, Middle School Teacher*

Use the creative thinking of middle school students to solve social problems. In this session, participants will learn how the MANS Social Justice grant funds help students develop an action plan that will have immediate and positive impact on the local community while meeting academic and curriculum goals. Notably, a class of eleven 6th grades made a difference in their small, rural town! They were successful and your students will be, too! This project based learning not only hits on curriculum and instruction, but school and classroom culture, student leadership, diversity, and student engagement.

### [Multi-age - Dynamic Learning with a twist](#)

*Abby VanDyke, 4/5 teacher*

*St. Thomas the Apostle*

*Kelly Donohue, and Amy Zakrajsek*

*St. Thomas the Apostle*

Mixing students of different ages and abilities helps everyone learn to see the many gifts God has created in us. Creating thoughtful multi-age classrooms steps away from "split" classes and helps everyone learn and grow together academically, socially, and spiritually.

### [Not Your Average Phonics Lesson](#)

*Kathy Swain, Teacher*

*St. Paul the Apostle*

*Eric Remington*

How can discovery and developmental thinking skills lead to a student's decoding skills? This teaching demonstration focuses on a successful elementary classroom full of life and engagement. It's amazing what can happen when young minds are engaged! Participants will observe and discuss the aspects of VoWac phonics in this interactive session.

### [Place-Based Education Provides Authentic Learning](#)

*Maureen Markules, Teacher*

*St. Patrick School*

What's beyond the four walls of our classrooms? Authentic learning! Fifth grade teachers in the Diocese of Grand Rapids are partnering with the Franciscan Life Process Center to discover and explore. Appreciation of God's creation and stewardship of the earth create the foundation for this cross-curricular learning: cooking, animals, art, nature, outdoor activities. Letting go as a teacher and building student independence will be discussed in this session.

### [Prayer as a Sensual Experience](#)

*Molly Mousseau, Third Grade Teacher*

*Bishop Baraga School*

*Chase Closs*

*Bishop Baraga School*

Do you use all of your senses when you pray? Find out how! Participants will learn how to create rich prayer and meditation experiences based on the liturgical calendar. Build an atmosphere of prayer in the classroom by engaging students in song and response, meditation, and prayer. Suggestions for decorating your prayer space as well as resources for information.

### Reboot Your Mission and Catholic Identity

*Shannon Saxton-Murphy, Principal*

*St. Stanislaus School*

*Camile Delano*

*St. Basil- South Haven*

Does your mission statement need a review, or possibly even a reboot? Learn how one school rebooted their mission statement and how it has energized the Catholic Identity of their whole community! You will leave this session with templates for communication pieces and surveys, ideas to get teachers, students, parents and parishioners involved, as well as how it can affect school policies and procedures.

### Recruiting, Preparing, and Retaining International Students

*Ryan Corcoran, International Program Coordinator*

*West Catholic High School*

International students can be a valuable asset to a school's student body. Their presence in our schools provide ample opportunities for cultural awareness, responsivity, and empathy. They bring with them their own unique sets of challenges as well. How to we get these students into our schools and make sure they want to stay? In this talk we will learn about where these students come from, why they want to study in America, what tools they need to succeed, and how to offer a meaningful experience for them, native students, and staff.

### Revealing the Redeemer in Story

*Glenn Grage, Teacher/DCE*

*Faith Lutheran Church and School*

Storytelling via parable was a powerful tool for Jesus. Various means of sharing His story, are shared in this sectional.

### Rubrics in the Elementary Classroom

*Gabbie Marguery, Principal*

*St. Elizabeth Area Catholic School*

Let's explore how rubrics provide a framework for academic excellence to our Catholic Schools. They are not only an essential component of student self-assessment, but they provide clear expectations of quality work.

### School Safety Considerations: Options in an era of mass murders in schools

*Julian Petzold, Principal*

*Trinity Lutheran School*

Parents place a high priority on safety for their children while they are at school. Mass shootings in America have been happening in schools at an increased rate. School leaders and teachers should be aware of critical facts related to mass shootings, ways to become more situationally aware, and practical preparedness for any event. The session will enhance and supplement your existing emergency plans. It is important to remember that plans are indeed plans. They may or may not become reality once an event occurs. One goal of attending this sectional is for participants to feel empowered and prepared to provide safety, care, and comfort in any crisis situation. Preparedness is a mind-set, and this session will help develop more clear preparedness in our schools.

### [SeeSaw to Increase Engagement](#)

*Erin Weaver, Educational Technology Specialist*

*Diocese of Grand Rapids*

*Amy DeWitt*

*Saint John Vianney*

How can we best capture the learning process of students? Learn how to give students an authentic audience and how to encourage deeper learning and reflection. Teachers in lower elementary will share how they utilize SeeSaw to showcase student work through student-led conferences and regular posting to parents. Participants will leave with an understanding of how to increase student and parent engagement.

### [Sophia Institute: Strong Instructional Practices for Grades 3-5](#)

*Veronica Burchard, Vice President for Education Programs*

*Sophia Institute*

What does strong instructional practice look like in religion class? Sophia Institute will share resources and techniques for success through its Spirit of Truth k-8 textbook series.

### [Sophia Institute: Strong Instructional Practices for Grades 6-8](#)

*Veronica Burchard, Vice President for Education Programs*

*Sophia Institute*

What does strong instructional practice look like in religion class? Sophia Institute will share resources and techniques for success through its Spirit of Truth k-8 textbook series.

### [Sophia Institute: Strong Instructional Practices for K-2](#)

*Veronica Burchard, Vice President for Education Programs*

*Sophia Institute*

*Jose Gonzalez*

*Sophia Institute*

What does strong instructional practice look like in religion class? Sophia Institute will share resources and techniques for success through its Spirit of Truth k-8 textbook series.

### [Sports in Schools - MHSAA & Non Public Schools](#)

*Tom Rashid, Associate Director*

*Michigan High School Athletic Association*

Rationale and review of MHSAA - Member school regulations will be covered. Q and A. Includes a discussion on the relationship between public and non-public schools.

### [Standards Tell Us What - Research Tells Us How](#)

*Mary Myers, Manton Elementary School Title I Reading Teacher; Read Naturally Teacher Consultant*

*Manton Elementary School; Read Naturally*

Students must develop the foundational skills necessary to become proficient readers. Standards define what foundational reading skills students should be able to do (K-5), but standards do not tell teachers how to teach. Learn the predictors of reading success and how to implement effective, research-based strategies to accelerate reading development.

### Strategic Marketing

*Brandon Strong, Executive Director*

*LaunchVIRTUS*

*Justin Schultz*

*LaunchVIRTUS*

A comprehensive marketing plan is instrumental in getting brand recognition and prospective students. At no point in the history of marketing and sales has the process and MEM (most effective marketing) changed more than it has in the last fifteen years. Our process will educate school leaders and school stakeholders on the best practices for knowing and understanding how dollars can best be utilized within a strategic marketing plan.

### Strengthening New Principals Through Mentorship

*Kasey Cronin, Executive Director*

*Genesee County Catholic Schools*

*Sally Bartos*

*Principal, Powers Catholic High School*

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) developed a mentor certification program. The program was created to provide the necessary support needed for new principals to be successful. The presentation will include information on the importance of mentorship based on research on the retention of principals. New principals need to be supported! The NAESP Principal Standards will be highlighted as well as the NAESP Leadership Mentor Competencies. The presenters are seasoned administrators who went through the program and are Nationally Certified Principal Mentors. We will discuss the format of the program, the outcomes and share how the new principals felt throughout the process.

### Student Safety

*Mary Gager Drew, Administrator*

*Department of Attorney General*

All students, school staff, parents, and community members have a critical role to play in observing, recognizing and responding to signs of youth high-risk behavior. Timely, effective interventions and ongoing prevention - in addressing bullying, suicide, self-injury, drugs, depression and anxiety - are critical components to student safety, well-being- and success. Learn how your school can utilize OK2SAY, a FREE student safety program.

### Teaching First... Technology Second

*Dr. Curtis Chandler, Professor of Teacher Education*

*Brigham Young University - Idaho*

Description--What teaching approaches and technology tools help learners the most? How can these teaching strategies and tech-tools be integrated to help students acquire and integrate their learning? In this session we examine 10 pedagogical approaches—and dozens of tech tools—that truly make a difference in classroom.

### Teaching the Holocaust in a Christian School

*Jaymie Perry, Teacher*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary*

Lessons of the Holocaust must be learned with more than our heads, and imprinting these imperative lessons on the hearts of our students is complicated but an important struggle. Whether you teach English, history, science, or religion lessons from the Holocaust can factor into your classroom and they must be taught with great care. Please join me to look into how to teach to the hearts of students with lessons from the Holocaust.

### Teaching TO kids....not AT them

*John Pfeifer, President*

*VoWac*

Participants will identify their own learning modality using Barbe's Modality Checklist. Each learning style will be discussed to find out some of the 'dos' and 'don'ts' for the classroom. They will find out why certain learning modalities demonstrate various quirks that often drive others crazy. Growing UP Learning by Dr. Walter Barbe will be used as a source. This presentation has been used at various conferences across the country. This will be a great chance to laugh at yourself.

### Tech Tools: Find the Right Fit for Your Classroom

*Erin Luckhardt, Senior Professional Learning Specialist*

*Michigan Virtual*

Description: Get ready to find your perfect (tech) match! During this session, participants will explore digital resources/tools for assessment, collaboration and creation for students. Participants will have time to explore in-depth a few tools on their own, as well as share what already works well in their classroom. Your perfect fit may be waiting for you!

### Technology Instruction: Preparing our students for the world

*Pam Thomson, Technology Director*

*St Stephen School*

We all know that technology instruction is essential, but what exactly does that mean in our nonpublic schools? What curriculum do we teach and why? We will look at best practices from ISTE, the new MiTECS, and scope and sequence for K-12 instruction developed by Vicksburg Community Schools.

### The Digital Culture of Kids - Educator Edition

*Chris McKenna, Founder/Owner*

*Protect Young Eyes*

Technology is a great thing, if used responsibly. But, pornography, predators, sexting, social media, cyberbullying, anxiety, depression and a bevy of other digital issues plague many families. Chris McKenna and the Protect Young Eyes team take hundreds of hours of research on the latest tech trends and speak about six digital realities facing most educators today and then resolve those realities with six practical strategies that caring adults can implement in the classroom and also in their own homes, whether as parents, guardians, or grandparents. Regardless of technology aptitude, Chris and his team provide practical tools for every adult who interacts with kids in the digital age.

### [The Impact of Catholic Education and Immersion on Latino Families](#)

*Joanne Jones, Administrator - Principal  
Corpus Christi Catholic School*

Corpus Christi has been involved in the Latino Enrollment institute with the University of Notre Dame for the past six years. Our school has experienced the blessings of Diversity and opportunity for our Latino students and families. We would like to share our journey and inspire others.

### [The Marriage of Math and Mastery](#)

*Barbara Doyle, Math Department Chair  
Valley Lutheran High School*

A 20-year teaching veteran will share experiences with implementing mastery learning to varying degrees in math classes. This session includes honest discussion of everything from the “honeymoon stages” to the reality of the day-to-day grind.

### [The Un-Classroom - What Every Teacher Could Do if Lecture Became Illegal](#)

*Dr. Curtis Chandler, Professor of Teacher Education  
Brigham Young University - Idaho*

Lecture often proves to be one of the least successful ways to teach many of today’s students, yet it continues to permeate our classrooms. While education can’t be all fun and games, more of what we do with learners should be. In this session, participants will examine strategies that move classrooms BEYOND LECTURE and into LEARNING. Participants will explore tools designed to help teachers to provide feedback, foster questioning, and engage students in choice, critical thinking, and problem solving.

### [Think-Alouds in Math](#)

*Jill Annable, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Integration  
Diocese of Grand Rapids*

Think-aloud strategies are often used to increase reading comprehension, but they can also be a powerful tool in the math classroom. Using technology to capture student think-alouds increases student engagement and, more importantly, allows teachers to gain a clearer sense of each student’s level of understanding. This makes instruction time more effective. Various technologies will be shared for practical application for all participants.

### [Training Superman: How to Prepare Students with Disabilities for College](#)

*Paul Artale, Keynote Speaker  
[www.paulartale.com](http://www.paulartale.com)*

During this session, keynote speaker Paul Artale will share 3 key strategies you need to ensure the transition for students with disabilities transition smoothly to college. This session goes beyond ADA as it will discuss disability identity theory, social concepts around ability, and how it impacts students with disabilities.

### [Understanding Childhood Trauma: What We See, Think, & Do](#)

*Betsy Winkle, School Psychologist*

*CLC Network*

Trauma has become an increasingly prevalent topic in faith-based education today. With an increased understanding of the neurological changes observed as a result of childhood trauma, educators are better equipped to support learning and behavior of affected students. This in-service provides an overview of what trauma is and how it can impact student development, learning, and behavior in the classroom. Participants will leave with an overview understanding of trauma along with strategies for supporting students impacted by trauma in the school setting.

### [Understanding Exceptional Children: Characteristics and Instructional Strategies](#)

*Anthony Pendleton, CEO*

*Global Psychological Services*

*Jillian Gourwitz*

*Global Psychological Services*

Current and emerging education and disability policies promote the increased inclusion of students with exceptionalities into general education classrooms. General education teachers are faced with the daunting task of knowing their students' various abilities and implementing strategies that meet their unique learning needs. This session will provide conference participants with the opportunity to learn about characteristics of exceptional learners and strategies to meet their needs.

### [Using projects in the science classroom to reach all learners and the New Generation Science Standards](#)

*Maureen Wickenheiser, Teacher*

*St. Patrick Elementary-Carleton*

Science is an active endeavor of learning about the world around you. The NGSS can be used to help students learn how to think outside of the box and also give them a little bit of freedom in pursuing their own interests and ideas. By using science projects and hands-on activities in teaching NGSS, students not only learn about the scientific method they gain in-depth knowledge about the subject matter of their project, acquire useful skills about how to do and present research, and gain real-life skills that will be useful no matter what field they go into.

### [Using Statewide Campaigns to Create a College-Going Culture in Your High School](#)

*Connor McLaughlin, Program Assistant*

*Michigan College Access Network*

Many high school students across the state don't believe that postsecondary education is an option for them, despite studies showing that 70% of Michigan jobs will require formal postsecondary education by 2020. This session will highlight how using three free statewide campaigns hosted by the Michigan College Access Network can help create a college-going culture in your building while helping broaden the conversation around college in addition to increasing enrollment.



### Using Tech to Make Curriculum Authentic

*Trevor Muir, Senior Editor  
Senior Editor*

Tech for the sake of having tech is pointless and a waste of time and resources. However, when ed technology is used to make learning authentic, it has an essential purpose in the classroom. This session is about how certain technologies can be used to enhance authenticity in the classroom, assist students in meaningful work, and teach them skills they will need throughout life.

### Utilize Schoolyards to Develop a Nature-based Preschool Program

*Janet Staal, Director of Nature-based/ Outdoor Education  
West Side Christian School  
Katelyn Egnatuk  
West Side Christian School*

Transition a traditional school setting/ classroom into an early childhood educational bridge to the natural world of wonder right outside your school doors. This sectional will provide participants with the framework to integrate Early Childhood Standards of Quality through immersive nature-based outdoor/ indoor learning experiences. Tips for documentation of students' progression, how to utilize nearby natural areas for monthly excursion sites – to enrich urban students' exposure to diverse natural settings. Participants will leave equipped with research-based educational examples that engage students in powerful, lasting learning nature-based experiences.

### Visual Faith in the Classroom

*Valerie Matyas, Visual Faith Coach-Visual Faith Ministry  
Visual Faith Ministries  
Pat Maier  
Visual Faith Coach-Visual Faith Ministry*

Scripture memorization, bible reading and an active prayer life are crucial for faith formation. Students, however, sometimes struggle with memorizing passages, digging through scripture and staying focused during prayers. Learn how to incorporate Visual Faith, namely Praying in Color and Bible Journaling, into your classroom setting to breathe vibrancy into your students' spiritual lives.

### Walking With Jesus

*David Kubel, Assistant Principal/Instructional Coach  
Hackett Catholic Prep  
Deborah Chapin  
St. Mary's Assumption - Bronson*

Similar to a PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Program, our Walking With Jesus program was developed by staff members interested in creating a more positive atmosphere at St. Mary's Assumption School in Bronson, Michigan. Three parts were developed to enhance the school culture: classroom and school posters to assist students in being more respectful and safe in their decisions, a token (plastic feet) and prizes for collecting them, and a discipline form that asked students in part how they could make a better choice to Walk With Jesus in the future. Both staff and students love the positive affect the program has had on the school!

### [What to Expect from your Public District](#)

*Kathy Krause, Program and Services Consultant  
Lutheran Special Education Ministries*

Sectional will discuss what services non-public schools can expect from their local public district regarding students with educational needs. Questions regarding specific issues will also be welcomed.

### [Your Brain and Your Phone: How Our Technology Forms Us](#)

*Zachary Good, Dean of Faculty and Curriculum  
Sacred Heart Academy*

Are you finding it more difficult lately to stay out of your inbox? Silence your notifications? Leave the phone at home? While educators often wonder how to keep up with ever-changing technology, too few consider how their technology is changing them. Come discover the science and philosophy behind the dynamic relationship between your brain and your environment known as neuroplasticity and how it is changing the way you and your students think.





