

Final Program

NCEA[®]
2024
APRIL 2-4
PITTSBURGH



**National Catholic
Educational Association**

**2024
CONVENTION**

April 2-4 | Pittsburgh, PA
David L. Lawrence Convention Center

www.ncea.org/NCEA2024 • [#NCEA2024](https://twitter.com/NCEA2024)

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National Catholic Educational Association
2024 Convention

April 2 - 4, 2024
David L. Lawrence Convention Center
Pittsburgh, PA

www.ncea.org/NCEA2024

[#NCEA2024](https://twitter.com/NCEA2024)

Discover It All at NCEA Central

Located inside the Exhibit Hall on the second level in Hall B, NCEA Central is the place to purchase new publications, connect with NCEA staff or recharge. Learn about member benefits, professional development opportunities and the latest Catholic school education news and network with Catholic school educators.

Explore products and services to enhance your educational institution and career. Find the latest in enrollment management, technology and instructional strategies at the NCEA Bookstore.

Do All This and More at NCEA Central!

- Refresh your professional library, stock up on resources and learn what's new from NCEA publications
- Connect with NCEA staff
- Learn how to become a contributor for NCEA member publications

Exhibit Hall and NCEA Central Hours

Tuesday, April 2	11:30 AM – 6 PM
Wednesday, April 3	9 AM – 6 PM
Thursday, April 4	9 AM – 1:30 PM



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Office of the Bishop Emeritus
Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas
Diocese of Tucson

P. O. Box 31 ♦ Tucson, AZ, 85702 ♦ (520) 838-2510

April, 2024

Dear Participants of NCEA 2024 Convention in Pittsburgh,

May the Risen Christ bring you hope and profound joy as we gather together in Pittsburgh, still rejoicing in the good news that Christ is Risen!

Here at NCEA 2024 we come together to deepen **CONNECTIONS** and relationships with those involved in our Catholic schools. We can learn so much from one another. At Convention you will hear presentations, participate in workshops and meet vendors to enhance your knowledge and develop your skills as educators. The Convention provides so many opportunities to meet other teachers, principals and superintendents and to experience the giftedness of our peers in Catholic education.

Here at NCEA 2024 we will encounter lay women and lay men as well as religious sisters, brothers, priests and deacons whose **COMMITMENT** to Catholic education is amazing. For those in their first year of being part of a Catholic school, you will meet some who have served our schools for ten, twenty, fifty or more years. You will experience the joy, enthusiasm and fulfillment those in Catholic education know in the ministry in which they are involved. I marvel at the dedication and passion those in Catholic education witness to the mission of the Church.

Here at NCEA 2024 you will experience **COMMUNITY** when we gather to pray together, when we gather to learn together, when we enjoy good times together. I pray this experience of community in the Diocese of Pittsburgh will send you home even more energized and eager to provide the best possible formation and education for the students we are privileged to serve.

Mr. Lincoln Snyder and all the staff of NCEA have worked hard to make this gathering of Catholic school educators a valuable experience, building connections, deepening commitments and experiencing community.

Gratitude to Bishop David Zubik and all the school staff and educators of the Diocese of Pittsburgh for their gracious welcome and support.

Enjoy these days of Convention!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas
Bishop Emeritus of Tucson
Chair of the Board of NCEA





April 2024

Welcome to Pittsburgh, PA, home of NCEA 2024! Since the founding of a girls' academy and St. Paul's Orphan Asylum as a chapel inclusive of African Americans in 1844, the Diocese of Pittsburgh has shown a profound commitment to Catholic education. Today, it is home to some 17,000 Catholic school students, and we are honored to come together in the company of the communities that serve them.

I am delighted to join you at the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) 2024 Convention, the largest private education association gathering of Catholic school educators in the world. Thanks to the efforts and dedication of Catholic school educators and communities, Catholic schools continue to grow. We come together in Pittsburgh to support each other in this shared mission, make new friends and learn about new ways to support our students as we seek to form them as servant-leaders in Christ. We have dynamic keynotes, world-class professional development sessions, holy Mass and other events affirming your vocation as witnesses to Jesus' love.

The Exhibit Hall is full of partners and affiliates ready to demonstrate innovative products and resources, exchange ideas and introduce new technologies. We also have specially planned events, including the President's Dinner and Awards, the Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Awards and recognition of the Youth Virtues, Valor and Vision Awards.

On behalf of NCEA Board Chairman Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas, the NCEA Board of Directors and staff, Bishop of Pittsburgh David Zubik and Diocese of Pittsburgh Secretary of Education and Superintendent of Catholic Schools Michelle Peduto, we thank you for joining us at NCEA 2024 Convention and we look forward to celebrating together the great ministry of Catholic school education.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'LINCOLN SNYDER' in all capital letters.

Lincoln Snyder
NCEA President/CEO





Diocese of Pittsburgh

2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205-4227
Phone: 412-456-3010 • Fax: 412-456-3185
E-mail: dzubik@diopitt.org • Website: www.diopitt.org

Office of the Bishop

April 2, 2024

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Welcome to our beautiful city of Pittsburgh, where Catholic schools have been lighting the way throughout our 180-year history.

When the Diocese of Pittsburgh was founded in August 1843, Bishop Michael O'Connor recruited Sisters of Mercy from Ireland to make the perilous voyage across the sea to this industrial outpost on the edge of the frontier. They immediately founded a school for immigrant children, and Catholic schools have thrived ever since.

Our city and region have changed many times since then. Our schools have reinvented themselves and their structure to meet new needs, while continuing to teach the timeless truths of the Gospel alongside reading, writing, arithmetic, religion and robotics. As our 46 elementary schools and 10 high schools have made complex changes, our superintendents and principals benefitted from the guidance of the NCEA. In my former life as a high school administrator, I too looked to NCEA for guidance. It is my prayer that all of you gathered here this week will return home with new ways to look at old challenges.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminds us that Catholic education is about far more than filling young heads with facts. It is about forming souls and characters so that young people can use their knowledge to serve God and care for the world that He created.

"As educators, you are called to nurture the desire for truth, goodness and beauty that lies in the heart of each individual, so that all may learn how to love life and be open to the fullness of life," Pope Francis wrote to a group of English-speaking Catholic educators last year. "Catholic education is also evangelization: bearing witness to the joy of the Gospel and its power to renew our communities and provide hope and strength in facing wisely the challenges of the present time."

May his words continually guide us.

Many thanks are due to people who have worked hard to organize this convention. Michelle Peduto and her staff in our Secretariat of Catholic Schools, along with the staff of the National Catholic Education Association, have labored together for months to create an inspirational event. Special thanks are owed to my diocesan director of liturgy and worship, Erica Gamberro. She has planned and coordinated liturgies for this event that I pray will draw you closer to Christ and to each other.

My prayer is that the light of Christ will illumine your minds, hearts and spirits throughout your days together. May the Holy Spirit guide you in passing on what you have learned to your colleagues back home, and especially to your students.

Grateful for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am



Your brother in Christ,

+ *David A. Zubik*

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh



Michelle A. Peduto, M.S.Ed., M.A.Ed.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
mpeduto@diopitt.org
412-456-3090

Dear Catholic School Educators and Friends,

I am delighted to extend a warm Pittsburgh welcome to you. Not only is it a beautiful environment in which to teach, but I am so proud of all our schools have accomplished here in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Our Pittsburgh community is known for our sports teams, great food, beautiful bridges, and good neighbors. Capturing the full beauty of this city and our diocese would require a comprehensive book.

Our students in our 45 elementary schools and 10 high schools came through some of the most challenging years that American education has ever faced, and they have not skipped a beat. I know this story is not unique to the Diocese of Pittsburgh and that these accomplishments are echoed in every diocese nationwide. What a testament to Catholic education! Truly, nothing is impossible with the guidance of God!

We are continuously grateful to the National Catholic Education Association community, who has guided us to find innovative approaches to age-old challenges. In unity, we commit our schools to a successful tomorrow. Although the methods and administration of Catholic schools have evolved, our unwavering commitment to Jesus Christ endures. Catholic schools shine because the light of Christ shines through us. Our students succeed because they know they are beloved children of God who have been created and called for a purpose – to build the kingdom of God on earth.

In our Catholic tradition, where the value of continuity is so significant, it is easy to believe that adhering to established practices is the sole path forward. Yet, Catholic schools are being reinvented all over this country with new models, goals, and relationships with their communities. We are currently finalizing a multi-year regionalization of all our schools so that each is supported by every parish in a region rather than by a single parish. While this transformation may seem subtle and appreciated mainly by our school administrators, it has worked miracles in strengthening our schools.

Our schools stand united in faith and community. Students join in prayer, supporting each other in various ways, from shielding peers from bullies to fundraising for classmates facing tragedies or contributing to charitable organizations like the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Our Catholic schools embody communities that reflect the love of Christ. They are communities that reflect the love of Christ. Our schools genuinely light the way!

I hope you will leave this NCEA conference inspired by fresh ideas and new visions for Catholic schools. May every lecture and workshop you attend be an answer to your prayers, and may you share good times and great ideas with everyone you meet.

I am frequently asked why our Diocese of Pittsburgh schools are so unique and the answer is simple but profound. We love God, and we love one another. Every single person here is a gift from God to our families, students, and our Church.

God bless you,

Michelle A. Peduto

Convention Information & Assistance

April 2-4, 2024 • David L. Lawrence Convention Center • Pittsburgh, PA

Cancellations

NCEA will do its best to alert attendees of last-minute session cancellations. Please check the Convention mobile app for the latest information.

CEU's

NCEA does not offer CEUs for the Convention.

City Information

There is so much to see and do in Pittsburgh. Visit Guest Services for information about the area and attractions.

Courtesy Request

Attendees are asked to remain seated until sessions conclude. If you must leave early, please sit at the back of the session room. Early departures disturb the speaker and other attendees. Please silence all mobile devices during all programs.

Emergency

In an emergency, please see the nearest security officer or NCEA staff member. Facility representatives can assist more quickly and efficiently while working with emergency services. Security will be onsite during the entire duration of the Convention. NCEA strives to provide a welcoming, safe and secure environment. If you see something, say something!

Endorsements

An appearance by a speaker and/or an exhibitor at NCEA Conventions does not imply an NCEA endorsement. Official endorsements are granted only by NCEA management.

Evaluate Sessions

Help us improve our service to you by evaluating individual sessions in the Convention mobile app or website. There are two main ways to rate each session you attend.

Go to Agenda>Sessions, find the session and select *Rate Session*

Go to Resources>Surveys>Session Feedback ->Take Survey, click on the session.

Full Convention Evaluation

An online survey will be available by email after Convention or accessed in the mobile app or website by going to Resources>Surveys>NCEA 2024. After completing this survey, you will receive a certificate of attendance. Your feedback is essential to our work.

Facilities

NCEA 2024 takes place at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, with special events hosted at Westin Pittsburgh.

Food and Beverage

On-site dining is available at the back of the Exhibit Hall.

Downtown Pittsburgh is filled with great restaurants of every cuisine. Find a listing on the Whova app, or stop by Guest Services for a list of top spots.

Guest Services

If you require special assistance while attending the Convention, please notify an NCEA staff member or visit NCEA Guest Services on the second floor of the Convention Center in the registration area.

Hotel Reservations

The official housing vendor for NCEA 2024 is Connections Housing. If you have questions regarding your hotel reservation, please call 702-476-6976. You may also visit the housing desk located at registration.

Lost and Found

The lost and found is located at the NCEA Guest Services in the registration area.

Mobile App

Go to your provider's app store to download the free Whova App. You can sign in using the same email and password you used for the online platform. Search for NCEA 2024 to see sessions, speakers, exhibitors and more. Use code "Pittsburgh" if asked for an event invitation code.

Name Badges

Badge pick-up for attendees, participants and speakers is on the second floor of the Convention Center in the registration area. Attendees, participants, speakers and exhibitors must wear their Convention name badges for all activities. Only people with official Convention badges will be admitted to general sessions, liturgies and the Exhibit Hall. To attend professional learning sessions, attendees must have a participant or speaker badge.

Nursing Room

Nursing mothers may utilize the dedicated nursing room located on the second floor concourse under the escalators that go up to level 3. This room is secured throughout the Convention for privacy purposes, so please stop in at guest services to pick up the key.

On-Site Registration

Attendees not previously registered may register on-site on the second floor of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Member	
Full Convention Registration	\$500
One Day Only	\$340
Non-Member	
Full Convention Registration	\$730
One Day Only	\$570

Phone Charging Stations

Need to recharge? Charging stations are available in the Corporate Partner Pavilion Lounge.

Sponsored by FACTS

Photo Booth

The FACTS photo booth is open for business Tuesday – Thursday. Located outside of the Exhibit Hall, come by to snap a free souvenir photo. Outside the exhibit hall in concourse A. Come by and snap a free souvenir photo.

Photography

By participating in NCEA Conventions, attendees grant NCEA the right to use and reproduce photographs for NCEA educational, news or promotional material, whether in print, electronic

or other media, including the NCEA website. Event photography is brought to you by Lifetouch, NCEA's event photographer.

Session Overcrowding

As seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, attendees are encouraged to arrive early and preselect alternative sessions. Safety and fire regulations must be followed. Once meeting rooms reach maximum capacity, attendees will be restricted. Standing room is not allowed. We ask all attendees to be patient and courteous to the local volunteers as they enforce the Convention center safety regulations.

Social Media

Join us online! Use hashtag #NCEA2024 and tag us in your posts: @NCEATalk on X and Instagram; National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Wireless Internet

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available to all guests at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Additional upgraded packages are available for purchase. Follow the on-screen instructions to complete a purchase for one of the paid services or agree to the terms and conditions to gain access to our complimentary Wi-Fi.

Get *Whova* for NCEA 2024



The Official Event App of NCEA 2024!

- Explore the **professional profiles** of event speakers and attendees
- Send **in-app messages** and **exchange contact info**
- **Network and find attendees** with common affiliations, education, shared networks and social profiles
- Receive **update notifications** from organizers
- Access the **event agenda**, GPS guidance, maps and parking directions at your fingertips

Scan for the link to download Whova from the App Store and Google Play.

Event invitation code: **Pittsburgh**



NCEA 2024 Board of Directors

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NCEA 2024 Liturgical Celebrations

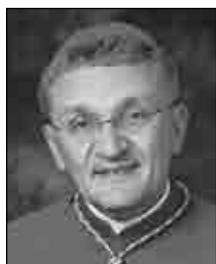
All liturgical celebrations will take place in David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Tuesday, April 2

Opening Eucharistic Liturgy

9:15 – 10:15 AM

Level 2, Hall A, David L. Lawrence Convention Center



Most Reverend David A. Zubik, D.D., M.S. Ed.

Bishop of Pittsburgh

Bishop David A. Zubik, D.D., M.S. Ed., was named by Pope Benedict XVI as the twelfth Bishop of Pittsburgh in 2007. Following his first priestly assignment as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Parish, Shadyside, he served as vice principal of Quigley Catholic High School, Baden, and chaplain to the Sisters of Saint Joseph Motherhouse and the students at Mount Gallitzin Academy. He served as adjunct spiritual director at Saint Paul Seminary and associate spiritual director at Saint Vincent Seminary.

Wednesday, April 3

Eucharistic Liturgy

9 – 10 AM

Level 2, Hall A, David L. Lawrence Convention Center



Most Reverend William John Waltersheid, VG, STL

Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh

Most Reverend William John Waltersheid, VG, STL, was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh and Titular Bishop of California in 2011. In 1985, he was accepted to the seminary formation program of the Diocese of Harrisburg. In 1988, he attended the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Ordained a deacon in Rome and a priest in Harrisburg in 1992, he remained in Rome until 1995 when he returned to the Diocese of Harrisburg as parochial vicar at Prince of Peace Parish.

Most Reverend Gerald F. Kicanas, D.D., Ph.D.

Bishop Emeritus of Tucson

Most Reverend Gerald F. Kicanas, D.D., Ph.D., was appointed chair of the NCEA Board of Directors in 2018. He served the Diocese of Tucson since 2003, becoming Bishop Emeritus in 2017. In 1995, Bishop Kicanas was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago and served as Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate I of the Archdiocese of Chicago. He serves on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Catholic Education Committee, chairs the Subcommittee on Accreditation, consults to the Subcommittee on the Church in Africa and is a member and consultant to the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs. He is a board member of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC).

Thursday, April 4

Closing Eucharistic Liturgy

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Level 2, Hall A, David L. Lawrence Convention Center



Most Reverend Mark A. Eckman, M.Div.

Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh

Bishop Mark A. Eckman, M.Div., entered priestly formation at Saint Paul Seminary in East Carnegie and graduated from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Since his priestly ordination on May 11, 1985, Bishop Eckman has served primarily in South Hills parishes: as parochial vicar, high school chaplain at Seton LaSalle and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech, pastor and administrator. From 2013 until 2020, he was episcopal vicar for clergy personnel. He was assigned administrator of the parishes of Saint Thomas More and Saint John Capistran that merged to become Resurrection Parish, where he has remained pastor since 2021.

Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM, Conv.

Archbishop of Atlanta

Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM, Conv., is the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, appointed by Pope Francis on March 5, 2020, and installed on March 6, 2020. Previously he was the Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, appointed by Pope Benedict XVI on July 19, 2011. He joined the Order of the Friars Minor Conventual, commonly known as the Conventual Franciscans and took his simple vows in 1970 before making his solemn profession in 1973.

NCEA 2024 Schedule at A Glance

Please check Whova, the official mobile app of NCEA 2024, for the latest information. With the exception of the President's Reception, Dinner and Awards, all activities occur at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh. See maps for assistance.

Monday, April 1, 2024

3:30 – 5:15 PM

Check-In and Badge Pick-Up

LEVEL 2, CONCOURSE B

5:30 – 8 PM

President's Reception, Dinner and Awards

(Invite only)

Music performance by Hot Weather Holiday

ALLEGHENY BALLROOM, THE WESTIN PITTSBURGH

5:30 PM

Reception

Sponsored by Mutual of America and Catholic Inclusion

6 PM

Dinner

Sponsored by FACTS and Archangel Education + Technology

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

7:30 AM – 3:45 PM

Check-In and Badge Pick-Up

LEVEL 2, CONCOURSE B

8 AM – 5:50 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

LEVEL 3, ROOM 305

7:30 AM – 6 PM

Box of Joy

Come put your faith into action and spread joy to a child in need. Pack a Box of Joy with Cross Catholic Outreach and learn more about how you can make an impact overseas.

LEVEL 2, CONCOURSE A

9 – 9:15 AM

Welcome and Introductions

Lincoln Snyder, *NCEA President/CEO*

Michelle Peduto, *Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Pittsburgh Catholic Schools*

LEVEL 2, HALL A

9:15 – 10:15 AM

Opening Eucharistic Liturgy

Most Reverend David A. Zubik, *D.D., M.S. Ed., Bishop of Pittsburgh*

LEVEL 2, HALL A

10:30 – 11:30 AM

KEYNOTE:

Steve Angrisano

Keeping the Faith While Teaching the Faith

LEVEL 2, HALL A

11:30 – 6 PM

Exhibit Hall Open

LEVEL 2, HALL B

11:30 AM

"Taste of Pittsburgh" Kick-Off Reception

Sponsored by Community Brands
Musical performance by The Cama Duo

All are welcome!

LEVEL 2, HALL B

1:30 – 2:45 PM

Professional Learning Breakout Sessions #1

LEVEL 3 AND 4, CONVENTION CENTER

3 – 3:30 PM

Meet the Author:

Michael Boyle, Ph.D.

NCEA CENTRAL, LEVEL 2, HALL B

3:15 – 4:30 PM

Professional Learning Breakout Sessions #2

LEVEL 3 AND 4, CONVENTION CENTER

4:30 – 6 PM

Happy Hour Reception

Complimentary Bar

All are welcome!

LEVEL 2, HALL B

4:45 – 5:15 PM

Meet the Author

Sr. Patricia M. McCormack, IHM, Ed.D.

NCEA CENTRAL, LEVEL 2, HALL B

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

7:30 AM – 3:15 PM

Check-In and Badge Pick-Up

LEVEL 2, CONCOURSE B

7:30 AM – 6 PM

Box of Joy

Come put your faith into action and spread joy to a child in need. Pack a Box of Joy with Cross Catholic Outreach and learn more about how you can make an impact overseas.

LEVEL 2, CONCOURSE A

8 AM – 5:50 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

LEVEL 3, ROOM 305

9 – 10 AM

Eucharistic Liturgy

Most Reverend William John Waltersheid, VG, STL

Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh

Most Reverend Gerald F. Kicanas, D.D., Ph.D.

Bishop Emeritus of Tucson

LEVEL 2, HALL A

9 AM – 6 PM

Exhibit Hall Open

LEVEL 2, HALL B

10:30 – 11:30 AM

NCEA GENERAL SESSION:

Josh Packard, John Galvan,
Megan Bissell
**The Power of Listening for Faith
Formation in Catholic Education**

LEVEL 2, HALL A

11:30 AM – 12 PM

Meet the Authors:
Josh Packard, Ph.D.
John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed.
Megan Bissell, M.A.

NCEA CENTRAL, LEVEL 2, HALL B

11:30 AM – 1 PM

Game Day Reception
*Musical performance by
Tyler Cassidy*
All are welcome!

LEVEL 2, HALL B

11:30 AM – 1 PM

Catholic Higher Education
Supporting Catholic Schools
(CHESCS) Meeting
Open to all CHESCS members

LEVEL 4, ROOM 413

12 – 1:15 PM

Superintendent Lunch and
Networking (Invite Only)
Sponsored by Renaissance

WESTIN, ALLEGHENY BALLROOM

1:30 – 2:45 PM

**Professional Learning Breakout
Sessions #3**

LEVEL 3 AND 4, CONVENTION CENTER

3 – 3:30 PM

Meet the Author:
Frank Donaldson

NCEA CENTRAL, LEVEL 2, HALL B

3:15 – 4:30 PM

**Professional Learning Breakout
Sessions #4**

LEVEL 3 AND 4, CONVENTION CENTER

4:30 – 6 PM

Happy Hour Reception
Sponsored by Catapult Learning
Complimentary Bar
All are welcome!

LEVEL 2, HALL B

Thursday, April 4, 2024

7:30 – 9:30 AM

Check-In and Badge Pick-Up

7:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Box of Joy

Come put your faith into action and
spread joy to a child in need. Pack
a Box of Joy with Cross Catholic
Outreach and learn more about
how you can make an impact
overseas.

LEVEL 2, CONCOURSE A

8 AM – 1:30 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

LEVEL 3, ROOM 305

9 AM – 1:30 PM

Exhibit Hall Opens

LEVEL 2, HALL B

8 – 9:15 AM

**Professional Learning Breakout
Sessions #5**

LEVEL 3 AND 4, CONVENTION CENTER

9:30 – 10 AM

Meet the Author:
Jodee Blanco

NCEA CENTRAL, LEVEL 2, HALL B

9:45 – 11 AM

**Professional Learning Breakout
Sessions #6**

LEVEL 3 AND 4, CONVENTION CENTER

11:15 – 11:45 AM

Meet the Authors:
Sr. Mary Angela Shaughnessy, SCN,
JD, Ph.D., Cynthia Ryals

NCEA CENTRAL, LEVEL 2, HALL B

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

KEYNOTE:

Steve Angrisano
**Teaching Youth to Follow Christ in
“The Way” of Discipleship**

LEVEL 2, HALL A

12:15 – 12:30 PM

Closing Remarks
**Lincoln Snyder, NCEA President/
CEO**

**Henry P. Fortier, Secretary for
Education/Superintendent of
Catholic Schools, Diocese of Orlando**

LEVEL 2, HALL A

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Closing Eucharistic Liturgy
**Most Reverend Mark A. Eckman,
M.Div., Auxiliary Bishop of
Pittsburgh**

**Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer,
OFM, Conv.
Archbishop of Atlanta**

LEVEL 2, HALL A

1:30 PM

Farewell

2 – 4 PM

**Nurturing Excellence: Exploring
Whole-Child Education in U.S.
Catholic Schools**

**Molly McMahon, Ph.D. and
Michael Boyle, Ph.D.**

Lunch available for purchase
Special Convention Add-On: \$25.
Check with NCEA Guest Services to
secure your spot.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 315

2 – 4:30 PM

Shrines of Pittsburgh Excursions

Special Convention Add-On: \$25.
Check with NCEA Guest Services to
secure your spot.

MEET AT LEVEL 1 LOBBY BY 1:45 PM

NCEA 2024 Keynote Speakers

NCEA 2024 Keynote sessions – Level 2, Hall A, David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Tuesday April 2, 2024

Keynote Speaker
10:30 – 11:30 AM



Steve Angrisano
Singer, Songwriter, Storyteller

Keeping the Faith While Teaching the Faith

A highly effective hour designed especially for teachers and administrators with a little humor and genuine appreciation for what Catholic school educators do! This session is a great spiritual boost for anyone teaching in Catholic schools. To be “around” faith is not the same thing as having faith. With great spiritual and practical suggestions on keeping our faith strong, this keynote is designed to keep us from mistaking our own spiritual journey with our frequent professional “near faith experiences!”

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

NCEA General Session
10:30 – 11:30 AM



Josh Packard, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President of Strategy and Operations



John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed.
Vice President of Assessments

Megan Bissell, M.A.
Vice President of Research and Data

The Power of Listening for Faith Formation in Catholic Education

Listening is a sacred act. It’s also the single most impactful thing you can do to support young people’s faith formation. In this engaging general session, you’ll learn what the research says about the importance of listening, what young people themselves say about the adults who have taken the time to listen and what church teachings say about why you should listen. Come see three dynamic speakers and a panel of young people on the mainstage to learn how you can reverse the trend of disaffiliation by listening to young people.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Keynote Speaker
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Steve Angrisano
Singer, Songwriter, Storyteller

Teaching Youth to Follow Christ in “The Way” of Discipleship

It’s not enough to teach our young people about God, we need to provide them with opportunities that draw them into an experience with God, an experience they yearn to share with the world. The youth that we encounter in our schools are ready for this challenge. Participants will explore ways to engage youth to live the Word, share the Word and BE the next generation of faith-filled disciples.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

NCEA 2024 Featured Sessions

NCEA 2024 Featured sessions – David L. Lawrence Convention Center

We are excited you will be with us for three days of professional learning in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Whether it's one of the keynote sessions, a Eucharistic liturgy, one of the six professional learning sessions, a reception or networking in the exhibit hall, we are pleased to share in your experiences.

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

1:30 – 2:45 PM

Professional Learning Breakout Sessions #1

Getting a "Head Start" on Pre-K Vitality Through Language Intensive Preschool Development

Erika Gallardo; Kenna Arana; Sarah Butch

LEVEL 3, ROOM 310

Due to COVID, preschool enrollment has dipped significantly. In this session, we will share the magnificent story of 25+ schools across two major (arch)dioceses combatting this trend while deeply honoring the rich linguistic gifts of their communities through the formation of language-intensive preschools (~1 hour a day of targeted literacy-focused language instruction). We believe and have found that bilingual early childhood programs not only provide a strategic academic onramp for Spanish-speaking Latino children, they also attract a diverse array of families to Catholic schools who recognize the cognitive, career and interpersonal value of speaking more than one language. The session will present the Early Childhood Language Intensive Program (ECLIP) model, curriculum design, outcomes and benefits of this innovative model and its implementation in multiple schools.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Putting the Grade on Faith: 10 Tips for Religion Teachers

John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 306-307

Have you ever had a student question whether you can assign a grade to their faith? Explore practical approaches to teaching religion from a 30-year veteran. John Galvan, NCEA Vice President of Assessments, spent the better part of his career in Catholic education teaching high school religious studies before becoming an administrator and superintendent for his home Diocese of San Diego. John will reflect on 10 lessons learned from the religion classroom and share tips to advance your Catholic education mission. This session promises to be informative, insightful and inspired.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

3:15 – 4:30 PM

Professional Learning Breakout Sessions #2

Catholic Schools and The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP): Partners in Progress

Jessica Couey; Mike Fassbach, M.S.;
Matthew Snyder; William Ward, Ph.D.

LEVEL 4, ROOM 408

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only nationally representative assessment of what students in public and private schools know and can do in various subjects. Catholic school participation is essential for the accurate reporting of national and private school results. The presenters will provide updates to the NAEP program for schools, highlight recent and historical results for students and demonstrate various NAEP tools available to members of the Catholic school community to learn more about student performance.
NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Ministering to Whole Families

Steve Angrisano

LEVEL 3, BALLROOM B

We spend a great deal of time catechizing young people about God, who will return home to no experiences of faith in God. We are sowing seeds in shadow soil. What we must do, what Pope Francis is urging us to do, is evangelize families as we catechize their children. Come discover strategies to reach and engage entire families with a compelling message of the Gospel.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

NCEA 2024 **Featured Sessions** (continued)

NCEA 2024 Featured sessions – David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

1:30 – 2:45 PM

Professional Learning Breakout Sessions #3

Public Policy Issues and Federal Education Benefits for Students and Teachers

Sr. Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, BALLROOM B

Navigating the current political landscape of education policy, this presentation will focus on issues and concerns surfacing in federal education legislation, guidance documents and court decisions and their potential effect on Catholic school teachers and students. Topics will include maximizing equitable participation in federal education programs, school choice, religious liberty issues along with questions from participants.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Weaving a Richer Tapestry: Inviting, Welcoming and Supporting Teachers of Color in Catholic Schools

John Beltramo, Ph.D.; Antonio Felix, Ed.D.; Héctor Martínez; Maritza Ortiz

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 310-311

Our session outlines the blessings and cultural richness bestowed upon Catholic schools by ethnically, racially and linguistically diverse teachers. We will lead attendees in a workshop-style exploration of practical and research-based strategies that school leaders can take to recruit, welcome, support and develop teachers of color in their own dioceses and school sites. We also offer illustrative examples of these strategies, and we then share first-hand accounts of current Catholic school teachers of color who have participated in them. Throughout the session, we invite attendees to reflect on the extent to which their schools already utilize these strategies and how they could more intentionally and effectively do so in the future.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

3:15 – 4:30 PM

Professional Learning Breakout Sessions #4

St. Anthony School Programs - Inclusivity and Beyond

Korin H. McMillen, M.A.; Anka Gataric

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 310-311

St. Anthony School Programs offers support and opportunities for students with special needs in select Catholic schools within the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Comprehensive programming includes many facets to create a successful, positive school experience for students, such as specially designed instruction, replacement curriculums, accommodations and modifications to grade-level material, as well as speech and occupational therapy when eligible. Staff are comprised of certified special education teachers, as well as paraprofessionals at the elementary level, and job coaches at the high school level. Our programs have one or two classrooms in each of our partner schools, which serve as the hub for special services, and where our staff collaborate to meet the needs of our students. Student programming is guided by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which is customized to the St. Anthony's program and the goals of the student. We focus on inclusion experiences, social skills, vocational skills and faith-formation in all aspects of our programs. We utilize a teaming approach to all things, from instruction to social programming, to vocational aspirations. We utilize strategies and practices that provide optimal learning for students, while continuing to assist in their emotional and spiritual development, rooted in our Faith.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

PANEL

State of Catholic Education

Lincoln Snyder; Sr. Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D.; Megan Bissell, M.A.; Elena Sada, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, BALLROOM B

Join NCEA President/CEO Lincoln Snyder and a panel of national educational leaders to discuss important topics that impact Catholic education.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Thursday, April 4, 2024

8 – 9: 15 AM

Professional Learning Breakout Sessions #5

Calming an Anxious Organization: Lead with Conviction

Melanie B. Palmisano, Ed. D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 310-311

All organizations have challenges, but some seem to experience a culture of anxiety that inhibits growth and improvement. It can be difficult for a leader to determine how to calm anxious waters. Leaders will understand how to lead with conviction so that they can be more effective in navigating challenging times while making a huge difference in outcomes. Leading with conviction prepares us to ride the waves of chaos and sabotage. Come learn to stay calm, stay the course and stay connected as you act boldly within increasing complexity and escalating change.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Implications of Changes in Religious Sponsorship for P-12 Catholic Schools

Fr. Tom Simonds, SJ, Ed.D.;

Mike Daniels, Ed.D.



LEVEL 3, ROOMS 306-307

As some religious orders plan for a future with fewer members, they are rethinking how they will sponsor Catholic schools and sustain the charism of the schools. Through presentations and breakout table discussions, participants will develop strategies to address changes to religious sponsorship in their schools.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

9:45 – 11 AM

Professional Learning Breakout Sessions #6

From Inclusion to Belonging: Lessons Learned on a Continuing 25-year Journey

Joseph E Vorbach III, Ph.D.; Diane Elliott, M.Ed

LEVEL 3, ROOM 303

Presenters will share experiences from the Diocese of Arlington, VA, related to consistent growth in expanded services for students with intellectual disabilities in diocesan schools. Opportunities seized and challenges encountered will be covered to give attendees a sense of the diocesan experience over 25 years. The discussion will focus on the importance of listening, networking, leadership, mindset and optimizing resources for greatest impact. From only one high school offering options for students with disabilities in 2000, there are now 19 (out of 41) schools serving students with intellectual disabilities, including all four of the high schools.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Cultivating Talent Continued: Exploring Innovative Educator Pipelines Strategies from Recruitment to Retention

Michael T. O'Connor, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 306-307

Recruiting and retaining excellent educators and school leaders is a critical and ongoing issue in our Catholic schools and systems. Building upon the Cultivating Talent report from Boston College (Ospino & Wyttenbach, 2022) this collaborative session goes deeper into educator pipelines in Catholic education. The session will provide a guided examination to identify pipeline "leaks," explore innovative recruitment and retention strategies implemented across the U.S., and review research on educator pipelines for thoughtful design of pipeline strategies in your Catholic school or system. Participants will engage with a pipeline diagnostic tool and concrete examples of policies and practices, collaborating to put strategy into action with a distinctive mission-informed approach. The presenter will share research, resources and tools and will make all session resources available to participants in real time (and for future reference) via a shared Google Drive folder. Select printed materials, particularly the pipeline diagnostic tool, will be provided. Intended for leaders or any educators in Catholic schools and systems working to support human capital and talent strategies.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Exhibit Hall Highlights & NCEA Central

Level 2, Hall B, David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Exhibit Hall Highlights

Level 2, Hall B, David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Exhibit Hall Hours

Tuesday, April 2 11:30 AM – 6 PM
Wednesday, April 3 9 AM – 6 PM
Thursday, April 4 9 AM – 1:30 PM

Exhibit Hall Special Events

"Taste of Pittsburgh" Kick-Off Reception

Tuesday, April 2: 11:30 AM

Musical performance by The Cama Duo
Mini Pittsburgh style sandwiches, ham sliders, pierogies, strawberry pretzel salad and black & gold cupcakes.

Sponsored by Community Brands

Happy Hour Reception

Tuesday, April 2: 4:30 – 6 PM

Complimentary bar with cocktails, beer and wine.

Game Day Reception

Wednesday, April 3: 11:30 AM - 1 PM

Musical performance by keyboardist, Tyler Cassidy
Pretzels, chips & salsa, mixed nut shooters, cheddar popcorn and assorted candy bars

Happy Hour Reception

Complimentary bar with cocktails, beer and wine.

Wednesday, April 3: 4:30 – 6 PM

Sponsored by Catapult Learning

Rest and Recharge

Relax at the Corporate Partner Pavilion Lounge
Join our corporate partners in the lounge to recharge your devices, grab a snack and chat about innovations in Catholic education.

Sponsored by FACTS

Photo Booth

Come to Concourse B and snap a free photo.

Sponsored by FACTS

NCEA Central

Level 2, Hall B, David L. Lawrence Convention Center

NCEA Central Hours

Tuesday, April 2 11:30 AM – 6 PM
Wednesday, April 3 9 AM – 6 PM
Thursday, April 4 9 AM – 1:30 PM

NCEA Central is the place to purchase new publications, connect with NCEA staff, learn about member benefits, professional development opportunities and the latest Catholic school education news. Explore products and services to enhance your educational institution and career. Learn how to become a contributor for NCEA member publications.

Come learn more about NCEA's new family of assessments, NCEA Rise - IFG, ACRE and the Belonging Index.



Meet the NCEA Authors

NCEA CENTRAL, LEVEL 2, HALL B

Tuesday, April 2

3 - 3:30 PM

Michael Boyle, Ph.D.
A Light Unto My Path

4:45 - 5:15 PM

Sr. Patricia M. McCormack, IHM, Ed.D.
Resilience and Self Reliance

Wednesday, April 3

11:30 AM - 12 PM

Josh Packard, Ph.D., John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed.,
Megan Bissell, M.A.

Sacred Listening Tools: Workbook for
Catholic Educators

3 - 3:30 PM

Frank Donaldson
Adapting to Change: Successful
Catholic School Development in a
Virtual, Person-to-Person, or Hybrid
World

Thursday, April 4

9:30 - 10 AM

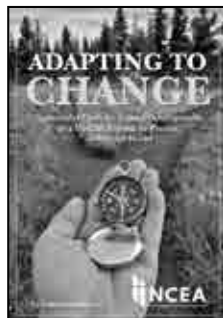
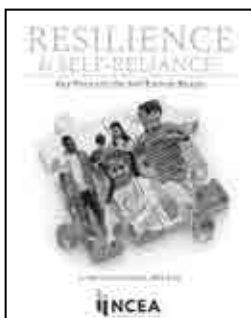
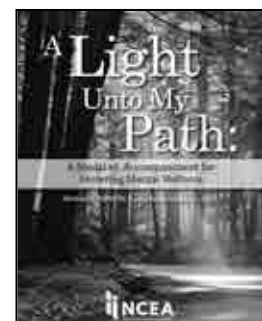
Jodee Blanco
A Primer on Compassionate Discipline

11:15 - 11:45 AM

Sr. Mary Angela Shaughnessy, SCN, JD, Ph.D.
School Handbooks: Legal
Considerations (Updated and Revised
Fourth Ed.)

11:15 - 11:45 AM

Cynthia Ryals
Crisis Planning for Catholic School
Leaders



NCEA 2024 Other Events

President's Reception, Dinner and Awards

(Invite only)

Monday, April 1, 5:30 - 8 PM

**THE WESTIN PITTSBURGH, THIRD FLOOR,
ALLEGHENY GRAND BALLROOM**

Reception, dinner and a special night honoring NCEA 2024 Lead. Learn. Proclaim. (LLP), President's Award and Lifetime Commitment to Catholic Education Award recipients.

President's Awards Reception

Sponsored by

Mutual of America and Catholic Inclusion Services

President's Awards Dinner

Sponsored by

FACTS and Archangel Education + Technology

Superintendent Lunch and Networking

(Invite Only)

Wednesday, April 3, 12 - 1:30 PM

**THE WESTIN PITTSBURGH, THIRD FLOOR,
ALLEGHENY GRAND BALLROOM**

Enjoy lunch and networking with fellow superintendents and other invited guests.

Sponsored by Renaissance

Box of Joy Packing Event

Tuesday, April 2, 7:30 AM - 6 PM

Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 AM - 6 PM

Thursday, April 4, 7:30 AM - 1:30 PM

**BOX OF JOY - CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH PROJECT -
CONCOURSE A**

The Box of Joy project at NCEA 2024, organized with Cross Catholic Outreach, involves partnering with Catholic communities to assemble Christmas shoeboxes filled with toys, clothing, and school supplies for children in need. Attendees fill shoebox-sized packages with toys, clothing, school supplies, and other cherished items. To learn more about how to bring Box of Joy to your school visit: <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/>.

Nurturing Excellence: Exploring Whole-Child Education in US Catholic Schools

Thursday, April 4 2024, 2 - 4:30 PM

LEVEL THREE, ROOM 315

Special Convention Add-On: \$25

(Lunch available for purchase)

Check with NCEA Guest Services to secure your spot.

Think beyond test scores and textbook knowledge. Imagine cultivating students who are not only intellectually sharp, but also spiritually nourished, and morally grounded, as well as emotionally resilient, and socially responsible. That's the promise of Whole-Child Education, and it's already flourishing in U.S. Catholic schools.

Join Dr. Molly McMahon and Dr. Michael Boyle on a post-conference odyssey.

Shrines of Pittsburgh Excursions

Thursday, April 4, 2 - 4 PM

MEET AT LEVEL 1 LOBBY BY 1:45 PM

Special Convention Add-On: \$25

Check with NCEA Guest Services to secure your spot.

The city of Pittsburgh is known for its rich ethnic traditions, borne out of the waves of immigrants who sought employment in Pittsburgh's many steel mills at the turn of the twentieth century. These varied communities left a lasting mark especially through the unique Catholic churches which stand to this day as witnesses to the diversity and religious sentiment that made Pittsburgh great. You are invited to sample this legacy by visiting some of region's most unique historic Catholic sites known as the "Shrines of Pittsburgh." Choose from one of three tour options:

Historic Inspiration

St. Patrick Church, 1711 Liberty Avenue

St. Stanislaus, 57 21st Street

Heavenly Glories

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 3058 Brereton Street

St. Anthony Chapel, 1704 Harpster Street

Cultural Treasures

St. Nicholas Church, 24 Maryland Avenue

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 3058 Brereton Street

Professional Learning Sessions

DAY 1: TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

Keynote Sessions occur at Level 2, Hall A. All Professional Learning Sessions are located at David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Levels 3 and 4. See Maps for assistance.

The schedule is subject to change. Please check the Convention Mobile App for the latest information.

9 – 9:15 AM

Welcome and Introductions

Lincoln Snyder, NCEA President/CEO

Michelle Peduto, Superintendent of Catholic Schools,
Pittsburgh Catholic Schools

LEVEL 2, HALL A

10:30 - 11:30 AM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Keeping the Faith While Teaching the Faith

Steve Angrisano

Singer, Songwriter, Storyteller

LEVEL 2, HALL A

A highly effective hour designed especially for teachers and administrators with a little humor and genuine appreciation for what Catholic school educators do! This session is a great spiritual boost for anyone teaching in Catholic schools. To be “around” faith is not the same thing as having faith. With great spiritual and practical suggestions on keeping our faith strong, this keynote is designed to keep us from mistaking our own spiritual journey with our frequent professional “near faith experiences!”

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity



FEATURED SESSIONS



NCEA AUTHOR

1:30 – 2:45 PM

Professional Learning Breakout Sessions #1

LEARNING TRACK:

Centered in Christ

Appeal to the Human Heart: Theology of the Body and Tough Pastoral Conversations

Rev. Christopher J. Ford, M.Ed.

LEVEL 4, ROOM 404

In the contemporary world, we face many challenging pastoral conversations with our students. What we believe and profess as Catholics is often challenged by the beliefs and propositions of the culture in which we live. How do we answer the questions posed by our students, both in the classroom and during their lives? How do we balance the truth we are called to teach with the love we must express? John Paul II’s Theology of the Body provides a framework to answering not only the questions directly addressed within it, but many more contemporary moral questions faced daily by administrators, teachers, students and their families. I will introduce Theology of the Body, exploring its content and how the method John Paul II uses can be adapted to various pastoral situations, especially in schools, allowing us to authentically profess the truth in love.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Biomimicry: Inspired by God’s Creation

Jaelyn Farley

LEVEL 3, ROOM 327

God is a great engineer! Let’s study his creation! Scientists, engineers and product designers sometimes model everyday things after animal structures. This imitation of nature is called biomimetics or biomimicry. Animals use different structures for different things. An example of something in nature (plant) used to help create an everyday object is a prickly burdock bur getting stuck on fur. The idea for Velcro came from studying this plant. There are many animals that scientists could study to help them mimic an animal or plant structure to create or improve an everyday item. God has given us solutions to problems and the answers are all around us. I will discuss the importance of

studying God’s creation and how we can share this passion with our students. Students will learn how engineers study God’s creation to solve problems and use the engineering process (STEM) to create a solution.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Elementary Music Education in Catholic Schools

Kevin Humke

LEVEL 4, ROOM 407

Dialogue exploring what the elementary music classroom should be like in a Catholic school. Topics such as: including the Catholic Faith in all music lessons, how to use traditional and contemporary sacred music to teach national music standards, concert/programming ideas for Catholic school elementary Christmas/spring concerts and exploring the lives of the saints using hymn tunes.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Catholic Meditation as the Foundation of Catechesis that Lasts a Lifetime

Nathan Crankfield

Hallow

LEVEL 3, ROOM 329

Explore the dynamics of disaffiliation among youth and young adults in the U.S. and strategies for Catholic school educators and administrators to create an experience of faith that lasts a lifetime of discipleship. The discussion will be grounded in the recent sociological research around the rise of the “spiritual, but not religious,” comment on the rise in popularity of the mindfulness movement and highlight what distinguishes an authentically Catholic approach to meditation. Attendees will learn about the different expressions of prayer, how to extend an inclusive invitation to personal relationship with God and why building a culture of prayer in a Catholic school is critical to effective catechesis and resilient mental health.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Putting the Grade on Faith: 10 Tips for Religion Teachers

John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed.



LEVEL 3, ROOM 306-307

Have you ever had a student question whether you can assign a grade to their faith? Explore practical approaches to teaching religion from a 30-year veteran. John Galvan, NCEA Vice President of Assessments, spent the better part of his career in Catholic education teaching high school religious studies before becoming an administrator and superintendent for his home Diocese of San Diego. John will reflect on 10 lessons learned from the religion classroom and share useful resources to advance your Catholic education mission. This session promises to be informative, insightful and inspired.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LEARNING TRACK:

Characterized by Excellence

Transform Your Classroom with Math Stations

Erin Meunier

LEVEL 3, ROOM 301

Are you looking to jumpstart your math class? Do you want students to feel confident when leaving your room? Make math fun again for students and you by coming to this session. Learn how introducing stations/centers in your classroom (elementary, middle or high school) can engage your students, leading to rich learning and achievement. Leave with new ideas you can use in your next classroom with little to no budget required.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Encourage Curiosity, Spark Inquiry: Teach Students to Ask Their Own Questions

Maureen McGrail; Greg Macklem

LEVEL 4, ROOM 405

The Question Formulation Technique (QFT) will be explored in a hands-on, teacher-to-teacher training session with life and physical science standards as the guide. “How can we work together on creating more opportunities for all students to ask their own questions?” This multidisciplinary presentation will explore the QFT created by the Right Question Institute. We will explore why some students are not asking questions while taking participants through the QFT strategy and research-based process of identifying, sorting and improving questions. Learn how to prepare students to ask more and better questions and how to use student questions to meet different instructional goals. Experienced biology, chemistry, environmental science and physics teachers will share their real-world examples and applications for this impactful teaching strategy. Share connections

to your life and physical science subjects and reflect on the successes and challenges of implementing the QFT in a science classroom.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Pursue Excellence, Not Enrollment

Mike Wisnor

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 411-412

One of the most pressing issues facing Catholic school administrators across the country is declining or lagging enrollment. Let's face it, when somebody asks, "How are things at your school?" What they are really asking is "How is your enrollment?" Digital marketers and enrollment management companies all promise to help solve this problem, but the efforts often fall well short of expectations. Why? Conversely, we have all witnessed schools that see a significant boost in enrollment in a short time, only to have other issues arise as a result of "solving" their enrollment issue. See enrollment management from a different perspective. Participants will learn to view enrollment as a symptom of a larger root problem. Once the root problem is identified and addressed, the path to enrollment management becomes clear. Participants will learn to set conventional wisdom aside and pursue excellence, not enrollment. Although this will look different at every school, it is the only real solution to addressing the issue of enrollment.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

Innovative Instructional Leadership: Data-Informed Decision-Making in Catholic Schools

Brian Colomban; Liz Dowd; Anthony Cook, Ed.D.
Curriculum Associates

LEVEL 3, ROOM 302

Teachers and leaders from across the country are invited to share and learn about innovative data-informed decision-making. Diocesan and school leaders from the Diocese of Rockville Centre (NY) and the Diocese of Rochester (NY) will discuss how valid, reliable and actionable data informs best practices for pedagogy and leadership. Participants will connect with perspectives from a diocesan assistant superintendent and Catholic elementary school principal, highlighting cutting-edge instructional design for student growth and achievement. While school leaders are aware of the importance of data, all attendees will be inspired to embrace continuous change using invaluable tips, tools and practices. A key takeaway for all will include a holistic roadmap for teachers and leaders, focusing on the "how" to utilize both qualitative and quantitative data to engage and inspire academic excellence in our classrooms.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

LEARNING TRACK:

Committing to a Successful Tomorrow

Retain to Gain – Planning, Designing and Executing Your Yearly School Retention Campaign

Becky Haghighi; Crystal Hughes
Community Brands

LEVEL 4, ROOM 409

Do you want to learn some new strategies to keep your school's retention rates high? If your rates are between the average of 90 to 95 percent, your retention rates can still rise. Each new academic year presents a valuable opportunity for increasing retention numbers in schools. Attendees will learn how to design, plan and execute a powerful retention campaign. How to promote the campaign, how to use their Student Information System (SIS) to target each grade level specifically, and how to engage the parents and community as part of the retention efforts. This presentation will also help schools plan retention efforts focused on increasing equity (keeping students who are at risk of not being able to afford to stay). It will also involve helping schools use social media, online marketing and offline marketing to grow and connect the community as part of the retention campaign plan. All attendees will leave with a draft retention campaign plan and analysis to ensure incorporating next steps to take back to their schools. There will be breakout opportunities within the session to share and brainstorm effective retention techniques and to highlight new ideas and successes.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

Put the "R" in STREAM: Practical Ways to Integrate STEAM Strategies in Your Religion Classroom

Kayla Dellinger; Stefanie Horgan

LEVEL 3, BALLROOM C

Ready to re-energize your religion classroom, but not sure how? Join us as we guide you through how to develop plans and activities that will incorporate and connect STEAM strategies and concepts with your religion content. Help your students to understand the role that religion has played throughout history including how religious ideas have influenced innovations in science, technology and art. Incorporate critical thinking skills and encourage global perspective to foster well-rounded student development. Use authentic resources to explore methods for integration and collaborate with other educators to develop ready-to-use lessons. Participants will leave with templates and experience for creating hands-on, cross-curricular, current and engaging religion units.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges

W. Joy Lopez, Ed.D.

LEVEL 3, BALLROOM B

This presentation will explore the promising landscape where AI intersects with education, offering novel possibilities and confronting distinct challenges. Uncover the myriad opportunities AI presents to educators, from personalized learning experiences to efficient administrative tasks. We'll delve into AI-powered adaptive learning platforms that cater to individual student needs, enhancing engagement and comprehension. Learn how AI can streamline administrative duties, allowing educators to focus more on teaching and mentoring. However, as AI's influence grows, so do the challenges. Dive into discussions about data privacy and ethical considerations when implementing AI in educational contexts. Discover strategies to ensure transparency, fairness, and inclusivity in AI-driven educational tools.
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

LEARNING TRACK:

Connecting with Community

Believing. Belonging: A House System at Work

Kristie Wainwright, MEDL; Candice Barbosa, M.Ed.

LEVEL 4, ROOM 410

In 2019, Bishop Lynch High School transitioned to a House System to better engage the community. Driven by building relationships outside of academics and athletics, the House System offers students an opportunity to meet classmates outside of their friend groups, develop activities and service projects and build relationships with adults on campus who will walk with them throughout their high school experience. While aspects of competition foster comradery, mentor time reaches far beyond the classroom or the playing field. The relationships that are built within the mentor group provide opportunities for students to build trust with one another, which then evolves into peer-led dialogues, developing inclusive activities and working toward a common goal—being in community with one another.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

PANEL

What We Have Learned: The Role of Catholic School Leadership in Advocating for School Choice and Maximizing Enrollment

Lauren May; Bruce Hermie; Ron Matus; Jeremy Ekeler

American Federation for Children



LEVEL 4, ROOM 406

School leaders can learn about the national landscape of school choice, how Catholic school leaders in states across the nation are engaging in advocacy and steps those school leaders are taking to provide tools to their families, students and communities to increase educational funding and opportunity. Hear about how Florida Catholic school enrollment has increased over the past ten years and how schools offering choice, innovation, diversity and competition are growing. Review the report called, "Why Catholic Schools in Florida Are Growing: 5 Things to Know" by Step Up For Students. Participants will leave with takeaways they can implement in their state or at their school to see growth, foster vitality and focus on the ways Catholic school leadership, at the diocesan and school levels, can impact the establishment, expansion and defense of school choice opportunities for families who desire a Catholic education for their children.
NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

A New Model for Parent Engagement and Leadership in Catholic Schools

Jason Curtis; Emily Curtis

LEVEL 3, ROOM 319

Parent engagement is the key to strong schools. We will be sharing a new and proven model of parent engagement that encourages parent involvement, increases volunteerism, offers parent leadership opportunities and actively engages parents in the mission of Catholic schools. Participants will discuss challenges and obstacles to parent engagement and will learn ways to mentor parents to both an authentic partnership with schools and engagement resulting in inspirational parent formation. See a new structure for an effective, visionary parent leadership group, and discuss the challenges and opportunities in changing established parent leadership organizations.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LEARNING TRACK:

Leading the Way

Getting a “Head Start” on Pre-K Vitality Through Language Intensive Preschool Development

Erika Gallardo; Kenna Arana; Sarah Butch



LEVEL 3, ROOM 310

Due to COVID, preschool enrollment has dipped significantly. In this session, we will share the magnificent story of 25+ schools across two major (arch)dioceses combatting this trend while deeply honoring the rich linguistic gifts of their communities through the formation of language-intensive preschools (approximately one hour a day of targeted literacy-focused language instruction). We believe and have found that bilingual early childhood programs not only provide a strategic academic onramp for Spanish-speaking Latino children, they also attract a diverse array of families to Catholic schools who recognize the cognitive, career and interpersonal value of speaking more than one language. The session will present the Early Childhood Language Intensive Program (ECLIP) model, curriculum design, outcomes and benefits of this innovative model and its implementation in multiple schools.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

The LRN Framework: A Comprehensive Approach to Program Evaluation for Catholic School Leaders

Michael Faggella-Luby; Adam Bigbee; Sean Smith

LEVEL 3, ROOM 304

Discover the LRN Framework, an innovative and adaptable program evaluation model tailored to the unique context of Catholic schools. Developed over two decades of collaboration with educators, the LRN Framework emphasizes iterative processes and aligns with Catholic Social Teaching principles. Explore six comprehensive steps, guided by five key principles that align with Catholic values: (1) utility of evaluation, (2) evaluation serving the common good, (3) ethical evaluation with dignity for all, (4) empirically and methodologically sound evaluation, and (5) social justice guided evaluation. In each step, you will gain insights into how the LRN Team employs instruments such as schoolwide surveys, classroom observations, focus groups and interviews to gather credible evidence. Learn to justify conclusions and ensure findings translate into actionable steps for school improvement planning. Finally, school leader-partners from the Catholic Diocese of Arlington will share practical tips for using framework findings to guide improved service delivery and student outcomes. Whether you’re a seasoned administrator or new to the world of program evaluation, this

session offers valuable tools and strategies to enhance your impact. Join us to discover how the LRN Framework can guide your journey toward meaningful inclusion, ethical evaluation and evidence-based decision-making.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Prioritizing TALENT: A Roadmap for Best-In-Class Retention and Recruitment in Your School

Brendan Bedell, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 320-321

Learn tools and strategies to minimize your staff turnover every year and gather tools and strategies for hiring the best talent in your school. This session will also provide you with space to review and refine the selection tools you are using this hiring season. The decision of who to hire in your school is the most significant decision you’ll make. Refine your tools to make sure you’re bringing in mission-fit individuals who fit into your school community.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Leading Your School Advisory Board to Success: An Asset, Not a Burden

David Sorokin, Ed.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 315-316

The goal for school advisory boards is to help school leaders further realize the mission of the school and partner with stakeholders to drive the school forward toward strategic success. Unfortunately, school advisory boards can become ineffective for school leaders. Members can push personal agendas that may conflict with the direction of administration—they may want to complain about a teacher or discuss what happened in the parent pickup line—or the advisory board may lack strategic focus. Participants will discuss and learn strategies to effectively lead school advisory boards by focusing on seven principles of effective advisory school boards, along with the roles and responsibilities of advisory board members. The result of an effective advisory school board is that the advisory board becomes a significant asset to the principal, not a burden.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

The “Why” and “How” of Meaningful Generational Mentoring Relationships in Catholic Schools

Anna M. Alinda; Leslie Fundakowski

LEVEL 4, ROOM 408

Who first invested in your potential to minister as a Catholic school educator or administrator? Whether that answer comes quickly or requires reflection, this session offers an opportunity to consider your own mentoring experiences even as you are challenged to engage more deeply in the best practices of generational mentoring. Participants will walk through the individual and institutional arguments for investing in generational mentoring relationships.

They will also use a participatory approach to examine the impact of such partnerships on their own professional lives. Finally, participants will consider key elements of intentional, mutual and impactful mentoring frameworks as they plan professional space for a two-way mentoring experience.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

LEARNING TRACK:

Serving All Students

Building Connections Through a Middle School Advisory Program

DawnMarie Smith

LEVEL 3, ROOM 330

The middle school advisory program's purpose is to equip students with academic, social and emotional life skills that foster individual wellbeing and promote a healthy faith-based community connection. To foster connections, you need to intentionally build the space into your schedule and develop the programming. In addition to imparting knowledge, education is also about forming the whole child and fostering a sense of belonging and community. A focus on individual connections and relationships promotes a sense of responsibility and service to others as well. Service is rooted in the Catholic tradition of social responsibility and the belief that everyone has a duty to contribute to the common good. As a result of creating a sense of community, we are promoting positive outcomes for students. It is proven that students who feel connected will also feel a sense of ownership in their learning. Through a variety of lessons and activities, faculty will empower the students with life enhancing themes that will address developmentally appropriate needs and concerns. Advisory time will allow students to foster relationships with faculty and peers, providing an opportunity to grow together.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education

Pamela Allen

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 317-318

The U.S. Department of Education will provide an overview of the requirements and discuss the 2022 updated guidance related to children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools under in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This includes the consultation requirements to ensure that eligible children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools can participate equitably in programs authorized under the act.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Mapping the Journey: Finding Your Path for Inclusionary Approaches in Catholic Schools

Michael J. Boyle, Ph.D.



LEVEL 3, ROOM 303

"How do we begin?" "What are the next steps?"

These are some of the questions Catholic schools might ask as they consider how they best serve students with disabilities. Come join this interactive presentation in exploring the map for inclusionary practices in Catholic schools. Using a readiness rubric designed specifically for Catholic schools and checklists, participants will identify their starting point, identify strengths and areas in need of growth to create a map for increasing the capacity of their school to serve all of God's children. As a result, participants will create a plan to journey towards inclusive approaches.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Technology and Differentiation, a Powerful Combination!

Clare Kilbane, Ph.D.



LEVEL 3, ROOM 328

How can teachers achieve more powerful differentiation with technology? Explore how approaching teaching with a design mindset transforms what is possible, with even the simplest educational skill set and tool set. Learn how functioning as an educational designer enables the creation of more equitable, efficient, effective and engaging instruction.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Fostering Lifelong Health Through Physical Education

Rory O'Brien, M.S., CSCS, PES

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 401-402

This presentation will delve into the pivotal role of physical education in nurturing not just healthy bodies, but also strong minds and resilient spirits. Modern exercise science has unveiled groundbreaking insights that can revolutionize physical education curricula. This presentation will showcase how these scientific advances can shape physical education to prevent injuries, enhance sports performance, foster a lifelong love for active living, enhance community building and elevate academic achievement. This presentation will highlight how physical education serves as a powerful tool to address the escalating health and mental health challenges among high schoolers today. By intertwining physical activity with personal growth, this approach aims to bolster confidence and self-esteem. Central to this approach is the transformation of traditional sports-focused physical education into a fitness-based paradigm. This presentation will illustrate how this approach aligns with Catholic teaching and offers an inclusive platform for all students. By transcending the

limitations of sports-centric methods, this ensures that students not only embrace exercise but also carry these habits into their adult lives. This will enrich educators' understanding of how physical education can integrate faith, science and holistic student development, fostering a generation equipped with health, resilience and a strong moral compass.
NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

3:15 – 4:30 PM
Professional Learning
Breakout Sessions #2

LEARNING TRACK:

Centered in Christ

Ministering to Whole Families

Steve Angrisano



LEVEL 3, BALLROOM B

We spend a great deal of time catechizing young people about God, who will return home to no experiences of faith in God. We are sowing seeds in shallow soil. What we must do, what Pope Francis is urging us to do, is evangelize families as we catechize their children. Come discover strategies to reach and engage entire families with a compelling message of the Gospel.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Catholic School Athletic Programs: An Essential Place to Integrate Faith, Culture and Life

Max T. Engel, Ph.D.; Ronald D. Fussell, Ed.D.



LEVEL 3, ROOM 330

Are sports in your school a place where student athletes, coaches and support staff integrate faith, culture and life? Benchmark 2.6 of the revised *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, Second Edition* (NSBECS) states: "Catholic culture and faith are expressed in the school through multiple and diverse forms of visual and performing arts, music, and architecture, as well as all extra-curricular and co-curricular activities" [emphasis added]. Further, Standard 3 asserts, in part, that "An excellent Catholic school adhering to mission provides opportunities both within and outside the classroom for Christ-centered student faith formation..." The NSBECS recognize that extra-curricular activities and experiences outside the classroom, such as sports, are essential for Catholic school identity and faith formation. In light of this, this conversational session, designed for athletic coaches and school leaders responsible for faculty and staff formation, will present the fundamental theological and

philosophical premises for a Catholic approach to sports and demonstrate how these Catholic principles can be incorporated into every facet of a school's athletic program. Examples and anecdotes will illustrate concrete practices for coaches to implement with their athletes.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Let's Pray, Learn and Celebrate the Truths of Our Catholic Faith

John Burland

LEVEL 3, ROOM 327

Australian educator and composer will demonstrate practical and engaging activities that support teachers as they accompany students on their journey of faith in the elementary classroom. You will learn a variety of engaging songs that deepen understanding, add enjoyment to learning, increase knowledge and foster celebration. These songs and associated activities will enrich and energize faith formation across a range of catechetical themes including scripture, doctrine, the liturgical year, Catholic prayer and sacraments. They will support children as they learn the core beliefs of our faith and move deeper into understanding God's love for them. Join us as we joyfully move our bodies and raise our voices in songs that help us to pray, learn and celebrate our Catholic faith.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Providing Specialized Preparation for Counselors in Catholic Schools

Timothy J. Cook, Ph.D.; Jan Powers, Ph.D.



LEVEL 4, ROOM 407

School counselors are needed now more than ever. Providing Catholic school counselors, the specialized formation they need to be effective in the Catholic school context is essential. We conducted a study that addressed this research question: What competencies (e.g., understanding, incorporating) and topics do Catholic school principals and school counselors believe are important for school counselors to fully contribute to the educational and faith-based mission of Catholic schools? Online surveys were developed using the Defining Characteristics of Catholic Schools from NSBECS and research-based, mission-centered competencies and topics. The surveys were sent to the 40 principals and 54 school counselors at the schools in one mid-size U.S. diocese that employs school counselors. The survey response rates were 87.5% for principals and 91% for school counselors. Come and learn about the study findings and how the responses from principals and school counselors compare. Engage in conversation about the mission-centered role of school counselors in Catholic schools, the corresponding competencies and recommendations that emerged from the study. Recommendations include designing mission-centered professional development opportunities and building networks of school counselors to support them in their complex and evolving role in support of Catholic school mission.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Transforming Education: Implementing the Global Compact for a Sustainable Future

Gerald Cattaro; Timothy Uhl



LEVEL 3, ROOM 329

Join us for an insightful session that explores the Global Compact on Education, a transformative initiative envisioned by Pope Francis. We will delve into the eight commitments of the Global Compact and examine their application at the diocesan level. Discover how this global framework calls for placing human persons at the center, empowering young voices, promoting inclusivity and nurturing the integral role of the family. Explore the vital connection between the economy, ecology and education, and how safeguarding our common home is intertwined with providing quality education for all. *NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity*

LEARNING TRACK:

Characterized by Excellence

Catholic Schools and The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP): Partners in Progress



Jessica Couey; Mike Fassbach, M.S.;
Matthew Snyder; William Ward, Ph.D.

LEVEL 4, ROOM 408

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only nationally representative assessment of what students in public and private schools know and can do in various subjects. Catholic school participation is essential for the accurate reporting of national and private school results. The presenters will provide updates to the NAEP program for schools, highlight recent and historical results for students and demonstrate various NAEP tools available to members of the Catholic school community to learn more about student performance.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

School Enrollment as an Essential Vitality Process: Ten Proven Strategies that Build and Sustain Your Marketing and Branding Process

Bernard Dumond

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 411-412

As Catholic schools exist in a competitive marketplace of educational options, creating and executing a daily, monthly and annual strategic enrollment growth plan is essential for sustainable growth. Mr. Dumond illustrates, based on his experience in working with numerous Catholic schools, the ten most effective strategies that every school must implement to make enrollment growth a true reality.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

Debate Across the Curriculum/Evidence-Based Learning: Instructional Development Workshop

Daniel Lingel

LEVEL 3, ROOM 302

This workshop will introduce the theory, research and practice of debate across the curriculum emphasizing learning and across all disciplines and grade levels. Participants will receive practical examples of demonstrating how instructional methods can be incorporated and adapted to align with teachers', courses', departments', and diocesan-level curricula structures. The workshop will highlight and showcase the significant academic and life skills fostered by debate across the curriculum and evidence-based learning. These skills include research, organization, persuasion, advocacy, critical thinking, active listening, note-taking, teamwork and, notably, heightened engagement. Learn how to create positive and engaging classroom environments where students feel empowered and enjoy learning.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Implementing a Professional Learning Community in a Catholic School: Setting High Expectations, Providing Support and Being Accountable

Caryl Unseld; Clarissa Fanelli; Laura Blake;
Carrie Pearson

LEVEL 3, ROOM 301

Attendees will experience a strategic and practical approach to implementing a professional learning community in a Catholic school. Participants will learn about the positive impact a professional learning community can have on a school by strengthening the connections to each other and as a faith-based community, deepening a commitment to providing a high-quality education steeped in the gospel values and instilling the collective belief that collaboration in faith development and learning is a unifying school theme.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

LEARNING TRACK:**Committing to a Successful Tomorrow****AI for All: Control a Robot with Your First Machine Learning Model**

Zee Ann Poerio; Tom Lauwers, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 310-311

Today's students are excited to use and explore Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom. Join "AI for All" to peek under the hood of AI with other like-minded, curious educators. We'll discuss AI's impacts inside and outside of the classroom while we build and train our own image recognition model. We'll program our models to control a real robot, programming it to respond to different images. Participants will leave with a toolkit of free AI and robotics resources ready to be used right away. Dive into AI and learn how you can bring it into your classroom to delight ALL of your students as they develop creativity, collaboration and problem-solving skills.

*NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence***Nurturing Well-Being: Practical Strategies for Catholic Educators**

Jennifer Antkowiak

LEVEL 3, ROOM 328

Given the increasing challenges facing educators today, it's more important now than ever before to prioritize self-care. Nurturing Well-Being: Practical Strategies for Catholic Educators is a session designed to empower attendees with the knowledge and tools they need to thrive in their vital roles within the Catholic education community. In this interactive workshop, attendees will learn tailored self-care practices and be guided through a self-care assessment, where they'll gain valuable insights into areas of their well-being that may need nurturing. Attendees will also receive expert guidance on creating a personalized Wellness Action Plan, where they'll set clear, achievable goals and outline practical steps to ensure that self-care becomes an integral part of their daily routine.

*NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity***Middle School Mayhem Transformed**

Sr. Patricia McCormack, IHM, Ed.D.

**LEVEL 3, ROOMS 306-307**

Despite heroic teacher efforts, COVID adversely affected school socialization. If immaturity, inability to focus, impulsivity, lack of accountability and disruptive behavior impedes class productivity in your school, this session will illustrate how one middle school reversed the COVID effect and increased self-control, autonomy and industry. Participants will benefit from handout material.

*NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity***Building an Admissions and Retention Mindset Across Your Campus**

Cristy McNay, Ed.D.; Kristin Moore

LEVEL 4, ROOM 404

We will explore practical and fun ways leaders can engage teachers and staff across campus to use their unique gifts to grow enrollment and increase retention. With practical tips, hands-on tools and "a-ha" moments, we will shine a light on the treasure of a Catholic education and how we can all work together to build excitement about our schools.

*NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality***LEARNING TRACK:****Connecting with Community****Coping with Post COVID Parents**

Carol Cimino, SSJ, Ed.D.

**LEVEL 3, ROOM 319**

If parents exhibited anxiety and fear before COVID, it was even more evident afterwards. Examine parent behaviors and their cause, while offering some practical considerations for dealing with parents and enhancing their partnership with the Catholic school.

*NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity***How Our Catholic Social Teaching Class Transformed into a Service-Learning Community Course**

Mandi Sonnenberg, Ed.D.; Adrianna Knifong

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 401-402

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and service-learning standards share a profound synergy, as both are grounded in principles of justice, compassion and community engagement. CST provides a moral framework deeply rooted in Catholic faith and doctrine, emphasizing the dignity of every human person, the importance of the common good and the call to care for the marginalized. These principles align seamlessly with service-learning standards, which guide the planning and execution of experiences. Hear St. Teresa Academy's journey from transforming a CST class into a CST service-learning course for all our juniors based on research and reflection. We will share curriculum, assessments, agency training and a how-to guide while noting the challenges and successes. CST and service-learning standards share a strong moral and ethical foundation, both seeking to instill values of compassion, social justice and responsible citizenship in students. When integrated effectively, they create a powerful educational framework that prepares students to live out their faith while actively contributing to the betterment of society.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Strategies for Restorative Family-Centered Catechesis

Katherine Bazin, Ed.D.

LEVEL 4, ROOM 409

Faith blooms when nourished in the home. However, instituting new patterns and faith-filled routines can be a challenge for new families, recently returning or out of synch in their practice of the faith. This session reviews strategies for engaging the whole family in restorative family-centered catechesis. You will receive an overview of characteristics demonstrated by parents who have successfully transmitted the faith to their children and learn research-based strategies for supporting families through periods of asynchronous conversion. You will learn best practices and approaches for nourishing families experiencing tension due to religious differences. Restorative family-centered catechesis practices invite all families to engage in intentional faith-filled dialogues designed to aid their lived practice of faith.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LEARNING TRACK:

Leading the Way

Panel

Priests and Our Schools

Rev. Peter M. J. Stravinskis, Ph.D., STD;
Rev. Michael Davis, M.A., M.Div., M.Ed.;
Rev. John Belmonte, SJ, Ph.D.



LEVEL 4, ROOM 406

This session will consider the role of the priest in our schools from a variety of possible perspectives: pastor, parochial vicar, school administrator, high school chaplain or teacher. Special attention will be given to the interrelatedness of those positions with school administrators, faculty, parents and diocesan officials. Panelists are veteran pastors and high school administrators.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Effective Board Management for Catholic School Leaders

Christopher Martin; Dan Ferris

LEVEL 4, ROOM 405

Recent data suggests that 80% of all Catholic schools utilize a governance model that includes a board— be it advisory, specified, independent or otherwise. However, we now know there are boards, and then there are BOARDS. Participants will hear a brief history of the evolution of Catholic school governance, helping school leaders to better understand the type of board in operation at their school. Participants will also hear from school leaders and board members on best practices—and what not to do—as it relates to board activation and management. Tools and resources to expand one's board, establish and launch committees, and run effective meetings will be presented and shared.

Leaders will walk away knowing how a trained board can help them become more effective leaders, while also arming them with ways to engage the board as active servant leaders working to support all aspects of the school.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Leveraging Standards (NSBECS 2.0) to Strategically Support School Improvement and Sustainability

Debra Sullivan

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 320-321

Whether your school is a sustainable micro-school, a school with a waiting list or somewhere in the middle, the NSBECS 2.0 can (and should) be used strategically to support continuous improvement efforts on all fronts for the school. This session will address how the NSBECS 2.0 can be used to ensure common vision and focus across the school's constituencies to support the continuous improvement work essential to any sustainable Catholic school, no matter how big or small.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

Teacher Retention and Recruitment

Jane Bleasdale, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 315-316

Teacher recruitment and retention continues to be a struggle in K-12 schools across the U.S. In this workshop researchers and practitioners from the University of San Francisco Catholic Educational Leadership Program will share research, data, current trends and best practices in building teacher pipelines. The workshop will also share practices in effective recruitment and retention of teachers committed to mission and identity of our Catholic schools.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Building Up Leadership Capacity in your System

Jodi McLawhorn, M.Ed.

LEVEL 4, ROOM 410

The director of Leadership Formation for the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) in the Archdiocese of Chicago will lead school leaders through unique and innovative ways to distribute leadership in their buildings. This work is based upon the Aspiring Leaders Program that Jodi facilitates monthly with teachers and staff members who aspire to become leaders in their buildings, thus easing the leadership burden on OCS principals. The Aspiring Leaders Program focuses on empowering teachers and staff to become spiritual leaders, instructional leaders, operational leaders and cultural leaders. Participants will get the opportunity to discuss their leadership needs/programs and learn from other leaders, learn how to identify their leadership needs, outline a leadership plan for their school and identify creative compensation possibilities.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

LEARNING TRACK:

Serving All Students**Empowering Students to be the Boss of Their Brains**

Colleen Santoni, MAT

LEVEL 3, ROOM 303

Do you have students who struggle with time management, organization and planning for projects and assignments? Educators can maximize learning while minimizing frustration by teaching students the brain science behind executive function skills and integrating inclusive strategies essential for all students to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Learn more about strategies based on the newest research in neuroscience and education and how they can enhance success in your classroom.

*NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence***Let's Talk It Out: Increasing School Safety by Equipping Students with Practical Skills to Solve Conflicts in Healthy and Productive Ways**

Joy Roberts, M.A.; Whitney Stovall, M.S.; Julie Widman, M.S.

*Friendly***LEVEL 4, ROOM 403**

Ready to talk it out? Watching relationships blossom in our students is one of the greatest gifts from God, but when tensions rise it can feel a bit like "Spaghetti Day" in the school cafeteria—messy!

From classroom skirmishes and text message tiffs to playground problems and lunchroom squabbles, conflict is a part of life. The good news is that navigating tension is not only teachable, but it creates richness and depth to relationships; God hardwired us to weather the tough stuff!

Teaching conflict resolution skills can empower students to be their own problem-solvers, and it can reduce incidents of unkindness, bullying, discipline referrals, violence and more.

Join us as we discuss how we can help students learn healthy communication skills, problem-solving strategies and the importance of forgiveness.

Together, we can help students learn to talk it out.

*NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence***Overview of Equitable Services Under Title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**

Jenay Morrisey

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 317-318

The U.S. Department of Education will provide an overview of guidance addressing the equitable services provisions for eligible private school students and teachers under Title VIII of the ESEA. Topics will include implementation requirements for all Title VIII covered programs and strategies to help private school officials engage in timely and meaningful consultation.

*NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership***Unique and Unrepeatable: Serving All God's Children in Catholic Schools**

Janette Boazman, M.S., Ph.D.;

Michael Boyle, Ph.D.

**LEVEL 3, ROOM 304**

This session makes the case for Catholic schools to "reach out to the margins" and serve students with disabilities as well as those students with giftedness. The Catholic Church believes that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person. All learners are "unique and unrepeatable." Yet, there are several groups of learners that do not "fit" in the mainstream of instruction and programming in Catholic schools. Catholic school leaders are called to move beyond student development for this world. Every student has a destiny to live with God in the world to come. It is up to those in Catholic education to help all students develop their potential fully in our earthly world, be meaningful and impactful contributors to this world and prepare them to fulfill their destiny of an eternal heavenly life. In the absence of programming for these "atypical" learners, they are marginalized and excluded from the ministry of the Catholic school. Practical strategies as well as examples of policies, procedures and protocols will be discussed.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Professional Learning Sessions

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

Keynote Sessions occur at Level 2, Hall A. All Professional Learning Sessions are located at David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Levels 3 and 4. See Maps for assistance.

The schedule is subject to change. Please check the Convention Mobile App for the latest information.

10:30 - 11:30 AM

NCEA GENERAL SESSION



The Power of Listening for Faith Formation in Catholic Education

Josh Packard, Ph.D.;
John Galvan, M.A.,
M.Ed.;
Megan Bissell, M.A.



LEVEL 2, HALL A

Listening is a sacred act. It's also the single most impactful thing you can do to support young people's faith formation. In this engaging general session, you'll learn what the research says about the importance of listening, what young people themselves say about the adults who have taken the time to listen and what church teachings say about why you should listen. Come see three dynamic speakers and a panel of young people on the mainstage to learn how you can reverse the trend of disaffiliation by listening to young people.

1:30 - 2:45 PM

**Professional Learning
Breakout Sessions #3**

LEARNING TRACK:

Centered in Christ

Embracing Grace: Discerning, Accepting and Deploying Your Spiritual Gifts

Michael Zelenka

LEVEL 3, ROOM 327

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, Paul encourages his student, "For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:6-7). As ministers of Catholic education, Paul's words to Timothy should also inspire us to "stir into flame the gift of God" that we have received and to use this gift in service of others. Focusing on the idea of a charisma, participants will prayerfully consider the "gift of God" that they have received, humbly accept it and sacrificially deploy it through their ministries. Using Mother Mary as the model and example of this approach to embracing grace, participants will spend time reflecting on their personal charisms, considering what stands in the way of fully accepting these supernatural gifts and designing strategies to offer these gifts in service to God and others.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Becoming a Retreat Master: 10 Tips to Designing a Meaningful, Memorable Ministry

Chris Storm, M.A.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 328

Retreats can be a powerful element in any catechetical program, but leading them can be daunting. Drawing from best practices in youth ministry and Catholic education, participants will explore ways to make retreats both experiential and reflective. Begin with the foundations (setting realistic goals, group structuring) and then get creative with session design, theme and even STREAM integration. New retreat leaders will come away with tools to help craft the right retreat for their communities and experienced retreat masters will learn ways to diversify an established ministry.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

WEDNESDAY SESSIONS • 1:30 - 2:45 PM

Growing From Knowledge of Faith to Living the Faith

Jonathan Lewis; Tricia Helms

FACTS

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 306-307

Transformative formation requires more than passing on knowledge. While curriculum and content provide an essential framework for formation, decades of disaffiliation show that only passing on knowledge of faith is not enough. What is required today is the witness of well-trained leaders who are skilled in the art of accompaniment, walking with young people and adults to integrate faith into their head, heart and hands. This session will discuss practical ways for leaders to enliven curriculum and will provide creative examples of emerging models of teacher and staff formation for in-person and online learning.

LEARNING TRACK:

Characterized by Excellence

Developing STREAM Integrated Units

Silvia Kenna, M.S.; Gabriel Cambert, M.Ed.

LEVEL 3, BALLROOM C

Traditionally, schools have taught subjects in isolation; however, we know that that is not how the real-world works. Mimicking the real world, STREAM Integration is one way to prepare future Catholic leaders to be problem-solvers in our world. Participants will learn effective strategies for designing and implementing STREAM units of study that inspire and engage students. Explore what is meant by STREAM integration, learn key design elements, as well as gain access to planning resources and model units. Participants will also hear tips and strategies for implementing these projects in isolation, as collaborative projects with other teachers or as school-wide initiatives. The presenters are senior fellows of the University of Notre Dame STEM Trustee Fellowship Program and have experience designing and implementing these lessons for children from age two through eighth grade.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Lifestyle Wellness: Innovating Physical and Health Education to Engage the Whole Child

Kristin Patterson

LEVEL 3, ROOM 302

Health is wealth. Middle and high school teachers are encouraged to rethink their physical and health education classes to meet the needs of post-pandemic students through a faith-based setting. Kristin Patterson uses her certifications as an American Red Cross Instructor, National Exercise Group Fitness Trainer and Youth Mental Health First-Aid citizen to motivate and engage her high school students at a high school in Virginia Beach, VA. Attendants may look forward to learning and

applying the eight dimensions of wellness to structure their curriculum for academic excellence, how to teach sensitive topics (Digital Literacy, Drug Education and Mental Health) while incorporating the Catholic faith, and discover authentic assessments, in various learning styles that make learning fun! After all, physical and health education are not just classes...it's a lifestyle!

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

PRAISES: Practicing Restoration and Integrating Social Emotional Skills

Lynne Lang, MHM, MRP

LEVEL 4, ROOM 403

Learn about this successful research project integrating social-emotional competencies with virtue-based restorative discipline. Developed for the Diocese of Wichita, PRAISES was designed to be used in virtue circles as part of the initiative developed for Catholic schools. Self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and virtue-based decision-making come together in a middle school curriculum that emphasizes virtue and the six basic human emotions. Outcomes show a deeper empathy connection and meaningful application of virtues into everyday life. Come and learn strategies for building social-emotional skills with any grade, any age. Even adults! This work builds on the foundation of Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline (VBRD), developed in St. Louis, MO, to reduce bullying and disruptive behaviors in Catholic schools.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

What If? Build Your Stage!

April Moore, Ed.S.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 301

Close your eyes and picture your classroom... What do you see? What do you hear? How do you feel? What if you were a student walking down the hall of a new school and you could choose your new classroom? Would you pick yours? In today's dynamic educational landscape, one of the most pressing challenges educators face is keeping students motivated and engaged in the learning process. Motivation is defined as the process that initiates, guides and maintains goal-oriented behaviors. Motivation is what causes us to act. When we can help students become self-motivated, the level of learning moves to a whole new level! Through excitement, positive relationships and student-centered lessons this is an achievable task! We as educators must lead by example and build a stage for our students to grow to their full potential. Optimism And Positivity are Contagious—WHAT IF we changed up how we approach day-to-day teaching and focused on the excitement of learning!

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

LEARNING TRACK:

Committing to a Successful Tomorrow

Academic Recovery: Impact on Achievement Gaps and Student Growth

Catherine Welch, Ph.D.; Stephen Dunbar, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 315-316

Research on learning loss and recovery has been arguably inconclusive in the sense that findings have ranged widely. Some estimates of achievement have led researchers to infer that a full recovery could take years, whereas other analysts have presented evidence of progress similar to what would be expected during a normal school year (Center for Research on Education Outcomes, 2020; Renaissance Learning, 2021; Schwartz, 2021). A more consistent concern about learning loss and recovery has been evidenced by the markedly greater impact on the widening of achievement gaps (Calfas, 2021). Academic recovery can be defined in many ways, but achievement gap differences and growth measures are two reliable and appropriate approaches to describing recovery. This session will present comprehensive data comparing Catholic school performance to public school performance before (2019) and after COVID (2021, 2022 and 2023) in reading and mathematics across grades 3 to 11. Overall, the change in the achievement gap between the two types of schools has widened since 2019, with Catholic school performance outpacing that of public school performance. In addition, growth in reading and mathematics for students in Catholic schools has exceeded expectations at a higher level than student growth in public schools.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

PANEL

CAAC Discussion: Continuous Improvement, School Accreditation and More

Daryl Hagan, Ed.D.; Mary Camp; Andrew Kremer, Ph.D.; Greg Dhuyvetter

LEVEL 4, ROOM 407

The Catholic Accreditation Agency Council (CAAC) members invite you to attend a session where your questions get answered! We will discuss continuous improvement within the school and classroom, what's new in accreditation, Catholic identity and much more.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Catholic School Development/Advancement: Understanding the True Meaning

Frank Donaldson



LEVEL 4, ROOM 408

For years, Catholic schools have relied upon tuition, subsidies and fundraising events to balance the budget; many lean heavily on those areas today. While this approach is mostly "transactional,"

Catholic schools need to move or continue to move their focus to a more "relational" culture. To do that, Catholic schools need to understand the true meaning of Catholic development/advancement and be able to put the right steps/stages (the foundation) that will lead to people wanting to invest in the future of their Catholic school. It begins with understanding the difference between fundraising and development and then proceeds to establishing the steps (cadence) that need to be taken to build a Culture of Philanthropy.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

Pathways to the Promise of a Future of Faith in Action

Donna Kiel, Ed.D.; Molly Cinnamon, Ed.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 317-318

The future of Catholic schools is dependent on creating a pipeline of faith-driven leaders who will continue the legacy of Catholic faith and academic excellence. The Catholic Future Leader program developed by DePaul University creates that pipeline for any school by leveraging the potential brilliance of middle and high school students and engaging them in a learning experience that provides distinctive skills in Catholic leadership while transforming the school culture with students as researchers. In the program, university faculty train students as researchers who develop innovative solutions to enliven and secure their Catholic school. The program integrates into existing curriculum to enliven learning for the students, the teacher, and the school. Students visit a university campus and work with professors to create research on enlivening Catholic schools. The program is a template for any Catholic school looking for student-engaged innovation that creates connections with universities, families and the community.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

Public Policy Issues and Federal Education Benefits for Students and Teachers



Sr. Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, BALLROOM B

Navigating the current political landscape of education policy, this presentation will focus on issues and concerns surfacing in federal education legislation, guidance documents and court decisions and their potential effect on Catholic school teachers and students. Topics will include maximizing equitable participation in federal education programs, school choice, religious liberty issues along with questions from participants.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Organizational Development and Change: Managing Expectations and Creating Stakeholders

Justin A. Camp, Ph.D.

LEVEL 4, ROOM 409

This session will discuss the recent adoption of a new Student Information System (SIS) Learning Management System (LMS), recruiting, website and fundraising across an entire school. Discussions will cover change decision processes, human capital realization, organizational effectiveness, change management, stakeholder cultivation, creation and maintenance. Based on the recent article *Change Management = Changing Mindset* from Blackbaud. *NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership*

LEARNING TRACK:

Connecting with Community

From Theory to Practice: How Catholic Social Justice Class Can Build Collaborative Community Connections

Michaela Bruzzese, M.Div.; Charles Rodgers

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 401-402

The rich tapestry of Catholic Social Teaching includes complex social issues such as criminal justice, immigration and poverty. In addition, recent social movements like Black Lives Matter, Me Too and others demand new approaches in our classrooms, ones that allow students to connect with disenfranchised individuals ("the least of these") not as beneficiaries but as equal partners in the struggle for justice. This session will offer detailed examples of how connecting with people affected by these issues can result in student commitment to working together to overcome social inequities. By integrating guest speakers, and even class "co-teachers," abstract issues are brought from head to heart. As a concrete example of the power of connection and collaboration, Mr. Charles Rodgers, featured in the OPRAH Network documentary *Serving Life* and St. Pius X High School teacher, Michaela Bruzzese, will share the enormous impact of the program on students, the powerful connections they have made and surprise endings to their efforts.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Weaving a Richer Tapestry: Inviting, Welcoming and Supporting Teachers of Color in Catholic Schools



John Beltramo, Ph.D.; Antonio Felix, Ed.D.; Héctor Martínez; Maritza Ortiz

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 310-311

Our session outlines the blessings and cultural richness bestowed upon Catholic schools by ethnically, racially and linguistically diverse teachers. We then lead attendees in a workshop-style exploration of practical and research-based strategies that school leaders can take to recruit, welcome, support and develop teachers of color in their own dioceses and school sites. We also offer illustrative examples of these strategies, and we then share first-hand accounts of current Catholic school teachers of color who have participated in them. Throughout the session, we invite attendees to reflect on the extent to which their schools already utilize these strategies and how they could more intentionally and effectively do so in the future.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Deacons and Catholic Schools: Building Bridges

Dcn. Michael Loeffler, M.A.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 319

Deacons have been described as a bridge between the secular and sacred worlds, having one foot in each. In a growing number of dioceses, deacons bring their professional education and experience into the Church, serving as chancellors, parish managers and finance directors, for example. While some deacons do currently serve as teachers, principals and superintendents, this is largely an untapped realm of possibilities. Discuss two complementary movements: (1) Encouraging deacons to consider teaching and ministering in Catholic schools and (2) encouraging Catholic school teachers and leaders to consider discerning a call to become deacons. Deacon Michael Loeffler will share his experiences in both worlds and will discuss ways that schools, parishes and dioceses can foster the growth of diaconal ministry in Catholic education.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LEARNING TRACK:

Leading the Way

Panel

Under the Microscope: A Highly Successful Inner-City Regional School

Robert L. Paserba Ed. D.; Suzanne Vertosick, M.Ed., BME; Nick Bayat Ed.D.; Dr. Mary Anne Battaglia; David Barr; Rosanne Kwiatkowski

LEVEL 4, ROOM 406

The Pittsburgh City Regional Catholic Elementary Schools, Inc. is a corporation created six years ago by the Diocese of Pittsburgh to oversee three Catholic elementary schools within the city and in nearby Wilksburg. These three Catholic elementary schools collectively enroll a student body of nearly 500 who are described as follows: 1) economically disadvantaged in that ALL students are eligible for free and reduced lunches under the criteria set by the Community Eligibility Provision of the Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010, and 2) the students are primarily African-American and multi-racial but are able to consistently: average 95% daily attendance; 96% graduation rate from high school in four years; nearly all grade 8 graduates attend the diocesan Catholic high schools; 88% attend college and/or post-secondary education. A panel of Catholic school experts, including the executive director of the Extra Mile Education Foundation, the retired superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the school principals and University of Pittsburgh education experts will put the workings of the governance board and these remarkable educational outcomes “under the microscope” as it delivers a thorough analysis of the pros and cons of this regionalization model, especially with inner-city, urban schools.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Resilience and Well-Being: Tools to Support Flourishing for Teachers and Students

Judy Madden, M.A.

LEVEL 4, ROOM 404

Since their inception, Catholic schools have nimbly responded to the needs of their communities. Catholic schooling is, in the words of Blessed Basil Moreau, “the art of helping young people to completeness” and is animated by the conviction that each child possesses inherent God-given dignity. Students’ abilities to succeed academically and personally are strongly correlated with their emotional and social intelligence, and their ability to manage these domains is strongly informed by their teachers’ skills. Grounded in Gospel narratives and Visio Divina, we will examine ways to support student flourishing in the classroom by strengthening teachers’ and leaders’ cognitive agility and addressing effective SEL strategies. We will outline how to embody and model resilience skills and SEL tools in the classroom, and in doing so, empower

everyone in the classroom to transform their unproductive thoughts into creative problem-solving, enlivening them further to be the person God created them to be.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Departmentalization in Elementary Schools: An Innovative and Community-Driven Learning Model

John Amann, M.A.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 320-321

While departmentalization traditionally happens in middle and high schools, this form of organization and learning is an excellent opportunity for elementary schools. This system creates structures where teachers can specialize in their content areas of strength and also have the same students for up to three years. A fully departmentalized school creates deeper communities of learning and support for all students and families. This innovative model also allows schools to differentiate from other schools and better market themselves.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Student Leader Academy: Building Character, Growing Leaders

Mary Schapp; Abbie Withbroe; Jamie Sheehy

LEVEL 3, ROOM 330

This session will introduce participants to a forward-thinking, proven, faith-based student leadership program designed for K-12 Catholic schools called Student Leader Academy. The session will focus on the K-8 program which requires just one lead teacher to implement and has three components: 1) 6-8 Leadership Lessons: Lesson plans for grades 6, 7 and 8 to learn about leadership competencies and virtues. Lessons are 30 minutes, low prep and can be done whenever it fits in student and teacher schedules; 2) Leadership Club: The Middle School Leadership Club helps students learn and strengthen leadership competencies and virtues as they prep short lessons for K-5 classrooms; 3) K-5 Leadership Lessons: K-5 teachers are offered the opportunity for Leadership Club student members to come into their classroom and teach interactive leadership lessons, modeling servant leadership. Participants will leave with access to the full K-8 and/or 9-12 Student Leader Academy program which includes a facilitator’s guide, scope and sequence, monthly agendas and lesson plans. Students and teachers rave about the program. It is easy for a teacher to adopt and provides connection for elementary and middle school teachers. Students have demonstrated significant growth in confidence, flexibility, positivity and engagement in school as a result of their participation in Student Leader Academy.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Forming New Leaders

Sharon Willmes

LEVEL 4, ROOM 410

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has developed a New Leader Mentorship Program for its new principals in years one to three. The goal of the program is to strengthen, nurture and cultivate the leadership skills, mindset and knowledge of these newest leaders. The director of leadership development and professional growth meets individually with the new principals twice a month to tailor the coaching to the needs, growth areas and strengths of the leader. In addition, the new principal group meets monthly to learn, dialogue as a group and support each other. There are also sessions held with the year two and year three principal groups focusing on professional learning. Finally, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has an Aspiring Catholic School Leaders Residency program with the goal of increasing the leadership pipeline of exceptional Catholic school leaders who learn, in collaboration with existing leaders in our schools, to build a shared knowledge of best practices in spiritual, operational and academic leadership among cohort members.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

LEARNING TRACK:

Serving All Students

Finish Your Scheduling Puzzle One “Peace” at a Time

Lauren Carr, M.Ed.

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 411-412

Creating a schoolwide schedule that fits your student, teacher and facility needs can be a challenge—regardless of grade level or academic support needed. Learn various methods for creating a “peaceful” schedule while still managing all the puzzle pieces.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Enlightening Nourishment and Compassion for Young Children’s Minds, Hearts and Souls Using Spiritual Literacy

Kathleen Harris, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 329

The issue of mental health in young children is an increasing problem in society, and one that is rarely addressed properly. More than ever, mental health has been on the minds of early childhood teachers over the past year. Early childhood teachers are likely to come across children who have experienced trauma regularly. These traumas may include absence of attachment with a loving adult, early grief and loss, anxiety, depression and/or emotional and social neglect. How can we provide sufficient sustenance for the growth of a child’s mind, heart and soul or spiritual sense of self? This workshop will define and examine how promoting spiritual literacy can endorse a holistic curriculum that focuses on the

whole child and the interconnectedness among the mind, heart and soul. The importance of mindfulness will be explored with practices for improving spiritual well-being through its effects on mental health. A holistic and spiritually responsive curriculum for educators and health professionals will be introduced including a section for families with spiritual literacy strategies for relieving anxiety, depression and stress and developing self-acceptance, resiliency and emotional and spiritual strategies for children.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Make Room for Reconciliation: Supporting Belonging and Positive Behavior for All Students

Sandria Morten, Ed.D.



LEVEL 3, ROOM 304

Teachers and administrators report a rise in student behavior post-pandemic which has significantly impacted student learning, school culture and teacher morale. Responding to student behavior can dominate the time and emotional energy of teachers and administrators alike, as they attempt to individually respond to each situation. This session is designed to help school leaders use collaborative planning time and coaching to build the capacity of teachers to develop positive relationships with students, prevent undesired behaviors and respond productively to behavior incidents. Time will be spent considering processes for understanding the causes of student behavior and responding with targeted interventions. This approach aligns with our Catholic faith, prioritizing discipleship, reconciliation and transformation.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

There’s No Substitute for the Human Connection, Saving Lives Peer-to-Peer.

Jennifer Roberts LPC-S, CSC; Greg Hudnall

LEVEL 4, ROOM 405

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth 10-18 according to the most recent data released in the CDC’s Youth Behavior Survey. Seven out of ten youth will tell a peer they are struggling before they tell an adult. This session will share the latest data post-pandemic on youth suicide, explore the neurobiological implications of adolescent brain development, in particular the relational brain and the impacts of the peer-to-peer connection. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how Hope Squad’s across the country are standing in the gap, peer-to-peer, as a conduit of support, while bringing mental health awareness and connectedness to students, faculty and families from grades 4-12.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Enhancing Learning Through Personalized Vocabulary Instruction: A Research-Based Approach

Ellen O. Edmonds
William H. Sadlier

LEVEL 3, ROOM 303

In today's dynamic educational landscape, personalized learning has gained prominence as an adaptable and evidence-based pedagogical approach. An integral facet of effective personalized learning is vocabulary instruction, with substantial research confirming its pivotal role in academic success (e.g., Beck et al., 2013; Graves, 2016). This session explores the concept of personalized learning through adaptive vocabulary instruction, leveraging research-based strategies to evolve and optimize the learning process. Our presentation will delve into practical applications of research findings, emphasizing the role of data-informed decisions, pedagogical adaptability and inclusive practices (e.g., Biancarosa & Snow, 2006; National Reading Panel, 2000). We will showcase the tangible benefits of personalized vocabulary instruction, backed by research, for diverse student populations. Join us to discover how to harness the potential of research-driven, personalized vocabulary instruction to elevate learning outcomes for all students.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

3:15 – 4:30 PM

Professional Learning
Breakout Sessions #4

LEARNING TRACK:

Centered in Christ

Catholic Spirituality

Beth Roeder, D.Min.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 306-307

This presentation will look at the rich resource of Catholic spirituality. Catholic spirituality can be used in the classroom to deepen faith, help with promoting peace and give opportunities to spend time with God; building a relationship with God.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Faith Rally: Eucharistic Adoration, Praise and Worship Music, Faith Families and More

Joan Latto

LEVEL 3, ROOM 327

Especially during the Eucharistic Revival, we come together in faith as a school community, let the Catholic identity flourish, and increase our devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. All of this can be done by having a school-wide Faith Rally! "The Eucharist is the heart and the summit of the Church's life..." (CCC

1407). What is Faith Rally? What are Faith Families? How do I integrate Faith Families and Faith Rally into the school year? How does the experience of a Faith Rally enrich and deepen students' understanding of the Catholic faith? I will share video clips of a Faith Rally (praise and worship music, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, catechesis and more) and give session participants specific guidelines and materials to bring this exciting event to their schools. Leave with all of the necessary tools and inspiration to make a Faith Rally an integral part of the school year, strengthening devotion to the Blessed Sacrament within the school community.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Planting the Seeds of Faith Through a Vibrant Campus Ministry Program

Brooks Conlan; Sue Sonnier

LEVEL 3, ROOM 330

Are you ready for an adventure and to witness your students' hearts set on fire to spread God's love? Then join us for this awesome talk and get your program started this year. A vibrant campus ministry program in an EC-8 school is crucial to shaping the Catholic culture, enhancing Catholic identity, and continuing the evangelization of the school community. With over 30 years of combined ministry experience, we will share our campus ministry programs and how we developed them, as well as their impact on our school community. We are ready to share our journey, both successes as well as challenges, so come and join us as we continue to build God's Kingdom one Catholic School at a time.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Answering Today's Questions: New Priorities in Religious Education

Joseph White, Ph.D.

Our Sunday Visitor

LEVEL 3, ROOM 328

How do we present the Good News of Jesus to students in a post-Christian society? How can we hand on a Christian vision of the human person as it becomes increasingly counter-cultural? How do we prepare our students to live a life of discipleship and share the example of Jesus with others, both in word and in action? How has the growth of technology impacted the way students think about religion and spirituality? This session, facilitated by a seasoned child and adolescent psychologist and religious educator, will discuss creative and effective ways to respond to today's pressing needs in religious education.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LEARNING TRACK:

Characterized by Excellence

Clarifying the Science of Reading for Multilingual Learners

Kenna Arana; Sarah Butch

LEVEL 3, ROOM 302

English learners (ELs), students who speak a language other than English at home, are the fastest and largest growing population in U.S. schools. This growing diversity in our schools creates exciting opportunities and an urgent need for strategic training and formation of educators and leaders, particularly in literacy and reading science. Literacy is crucial to lifelong learning, and all children deserve access to the opportunities, curriculum and guidance they need to become confident readers. The science of reading is a large-scale early reading instruction approach that emphasizes explicit, systematic teaching. This session will take a closer look at what research indicates are areas of strength for this approach and areas of challenge for multilingual learners.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Engaging Educators in Combating Student Disengagement

Christie Bonfiglio, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 301

Student engagement is a complex variable with a profound impact on student success. Given its importance, educators are concerned with the growing levels of 'disengagement' in their classrooms. Although there are varied descriptions of this concept, the critical questions for any educator include: What contributes to disengagement? And more importantly, how do we combat it? In this interactive session, student engagement and its contributing factors will be defined. Practical, yet tactical strategies for the Catholic classroom will be explored in an engaging format to provide a strategic plan for easy implementation.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Feedback that Promotes Teaching and Learning

Patrick Triplett, Ph.D.; Kim Anderson, Ed. D.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 303

Feedback as a pedagogical tool promotes higher level thinking, student engagement and student autonomy—it also makes students, not the work, the subjects of their learning narrative. Feedback should provide information to the student about how they are doing, where they are going and how they get there, it should spur action for the student. Teachers should use feedback to inform their plans and adjustments.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Curriculum from Scratch

Laura Blicharz, M.A.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 319

Calling all small private schools and singletons! Need to work on curriculum development, but don't have a curriculum director? Not to fear! Learn how to kickstart your school's curriculum development! Receive templates, timelines and more to get your school started on the road to establishing an effective and viable curriculum you can showcase to prospective parents and families!

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

A Study on How Coaching and Developing Teachers and Leaders Led to Increased Academic Achievement and Teacher Retention

Nicholas Huck

LEVEL 3, ROOM 304

In the past six years, St. Helena-Incarnation Catholic School nearly doubled its math achievement scores and students have regularly made more than one grade level of growth in both math and reading. Additionally, teacher and leader turnover decreased substantially while the school also developed leaders for other Catholic schools in the city of Philadelphia. Serving about 520 students in an under-resourced Philadelphia neighborhood, the school's focus on both teacher and leader development helped spur the dramatic increase in math achievement and increase in teacher retention. Every teacher and leader in the school received coaching, an effective professional development method. In coaching, teachers and leaders focus on developing specific skills related to teaching or school leadership. This, in turn, helps improve student outcomes while simultaneously increasing employee retention. In this presentation, attendees will be given specific strategies and practices used at St. Helena-Incarnation Catholic School. These strategies were effective in student, teacher and leader growth.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

Powerful Learning Through Play

Paula Don

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 315-316

Participants will experience how to integrate engaging hands-on learning into PreK-12 Catholic school STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) programs using LEGO® Education solutions. Participants will explore our learning tools, make curriculum connections and have fun learning by doing, just like our students! Participants will leave with innovative, practical ideas to bolster STEAM learning across their classrooms.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

LEARNING TRACK:

Committing to a Successful Tomorrow

PANEL

Teaching Holocaust

Stefani F. Sobol-Pastor, Ph.D.; Tosha Tillotson

LEVEL 4, ROOM 406

Take a direct look at the necessity of Holocaust and genocide education in current curriculum offerings to work together toward prevention of cultural violence and mass atrocities. Focus on the use of students' curiosity and the arts, cross-curricular teaching methods and cooperative communication with established groups for material assistance. Hear about various ways to teach about the Holocaust and genocide, what to teach and how to implement lessons into your curriculum.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Engaging AI for Intelligence Augmentation

Susan Morrissey; Brian Smith

LEVEL 3, BALLROOM C

The emergence of new generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Stable Diffusion, and DALL-E, has highlighted the rapid pace of technological change and its potential impact on education. Since ChatGPT's release in late 2022, articles in the news and academic publications have suggested both enthusiasm and fear about AI. The reality is that educators need to consider a range of ways that these tools could impact teaching and learning. In this workshop, we will explore emerging AI technologies and consider what they might mean for education. We'll focus on intelligence amplification—how AI tools can positively extend our abilities to think and learn. We hope to provide leaders with valuable insights into the potential of AI as intelligence amplifiers and ways to use these tools ethically and effectively in K-12 education.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Beyond Fundraising: Building a Culture of Philanthropy in Your School

Patrick Tiernan

LEVEL 4, ROOM 408

This session will explain the necessary steps for your school to build a thriving culture of philanthropy. Development at its best is an emotionally engaging endeavor that is both an art and a science. Most schools struggle with fundraising efficiency often resulting in burnout and minimal results. By maximizing various methods of communication with a cycle of informing, reporting and asking, participants will learn what their community needs to build their mission through specific and segmented appeals. Topics will include developing donor relationships, structuring a robust annual fund program, day of giving campaigns and exploring planned giving options.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

P.A.C.E. (Providing Access to Catholic Education)

Fr. Jim Lee; Dana Lashley; Roseann Feldmann

LEVEL 4, ROOM 404

In 1884, a group of visionary Providence sisters established the first Catholic school in the Olympia, WA, area. In the late 1920s, this Catholic school became part of St. Michael Parish. In 1951, the parish built a new school of eight classrooms and a convent. In 1956, a gym and four more classrooms were added. In the late 1990s, a vision of a "Family of Families" took root under the direction of Father Jim Lee and stewardship as a way of life became fundamental in the parish, with the ultimate goal of funding all parish ministries through Sunday offerings. The last ministry to be fully funded is the parish school; however, in 2021 the parish froze tuition, last year the parish decreased tuition by 10.3%, and this year the parish decreased tuition by 14.8% for a total decrease in tuition over the last two years of 25.1%! Learn how nurturing a collaborative process between parish and school leadership and changing the Sunday experience encouraged faithful financial stewardship of all parishioners and made the P.A.C.E. dream a reality.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

Planning to Thrive: Designing a Roadmap for Today's Catholic School

Daniel R. Baillargeon, Ph.D.; Daniel Breen

LEVEL 3, ROOM 329

Strategic planning is an essential element of securing a Catholic school's institutional vitality. Catholic school leaders handle many day-to-day responsibilities and issues that arise which can lead them to practice reactionary leadership regularly. Building a good strategic plan helps principals make decisions that will impact the future of the school, engage the community in supporting the mission and create a road map that will lead to excellence in all aspects of school life.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

LEARNING TRACK:

Connecting with Community

Fiat Mentorship Program: Mary's Yes to God

Nikki Powell

LEVEL 4, ROOM 409

How do you create a sense of community and belonging when you have students coming from 50 different schools/districts? Oakland Catholic High School has developed a mentorship program called Fiat. Fiat means "YES" and we named this program after Mary's "YES" to God. Fiat is a program for freshmen to seek comfort and wisdom from senior student mentors who have already gone through the same experiences as a freshman in a new environment. Attendees will learn how to implement

a similar program in their high school as an opportunity to create a sense of community where all students feel safe, welcomed and loved.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

The Evangelization Team: Parish and School Working Together

Julie Delaney

LEVEL 4, ROOM 405

A parish with a school? A school with a parish? Or a parish school? Which best describes your school and parish? In an era of declining enrollments and church attendance, strengthening the relationship between the school and parish(es) is a win for the entire community. Learn strategies to strengthen the partnership between parish(es) and school and increase the evangelization capacity for your parish(es) and school. Participants will also develop an individualized plan to put strategies into place tailored to meet their parish-school situation. Dr. Delaney's presentation is based on research, experience in working with schools and parishes across the county and 35 plus years of experience in Catholic education.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LEARNING TRACK:

Leading the Way

PANEL

State of Catholic Education

Lincoln Snyder; Sr. Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D.; Megan Bissell, M.A.; Elena Sada, Ph.D.



LEVEL 3, BALLROOM B

Join NCEA President/CEO Lincoln Snyder and a panel of national educational leaders to discuss important topics that impact Catholic education.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

The Spiritual CEO

Rob Birdsell; Kent Hickey

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 317-318

A presentation for Catholic school leaders on practical ways to provide spiritual leadership for their school. "Many heads of Catholic schools are lay people who have not been trained in spirituality. We know that leadership has a primary role in establishing and maintaining a strong Catholic identity in a school. Less than five years ago there were five lay people leading one of the 28 Jesuit universities. Today there are only five Jesuits leading these universities. This remarkable change from religious to lay leadership has also happened in Catholic K-12 schools, albeit not as dramatically but over a longer period. Today there are 61 lay people leading one of the 91 Jesuit pre-secondary or secondary schools. According to NCEA, today

98% of the professional staff in Catholic schools are lay people. That compares to 52% who were lay people in 1970. When a lay person becomes the president or principal of a Catholic school they become the spiritual leader of the institution, not just the academic or business leader. During the transition from a religious to a lay leadership, the institution has the opportunity to symbolically show the school community the transfer of the spiritual leadership. "Birdsell goes on to share some ways schools or dioceses can commission a new leader in their spiritual role. Participants will learn practical and innovative practices to spiritually lead a Catholic school.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Instructional Coaching: Let's Differentiate PD for Teachers

Donna Moss

FACTS

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 320-321

Have you ever had a great coach? The teacher-centered PD option of instructional coaching meets each teacher's individual needs in a way that traditional style PD can't. With the goal of improving both teacher practice and student achievement, teachers work closely with their coach to learn and implement research-based strategies. Explore the benefits of providing coaching to teachers either 1:1 or in small teams of 2-3 teachers. Participants will learn what the research tells us about coaching, why coaching works, how coaching can contribute to teacher retention and how it can be part of a more effective schoolwide PD plan.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence



Serving All Students

St. Anthony School Programs - Inclusion and Beyond



Korin H. McMillen, M.A.; Anka Gataric

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 310-311

St. Anthony School Programs offers support and opportunities for students with special needs in select Catholic schools within the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Comprehensive programming includes many facets to create a successful, positive, school experience for students, such as specially designed instruction, replacement curriculums, accommodations and modifications to grade-level material, as well as speech and occupational therapy when eligible. Staff are comprised of certified special education teachers, as well as paraprofessionals at the elementary level, and job coaches at the high school level. Our programs have one or two, classrooms in each of our partner schools, and these classrooms serve as the hub for special services and where our staff collaborate to meet the needs of our students. Student programming is guided by an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), which is customized to the St. Anthony's program and the goals of the student. We focus on inclusion experiences, social skills, vocational skills and faith formation in all aspects of our programs. We utilize a teaming approach to all things, from instruction to social programming, to vocational aspirations. We utilize strategies and practices that provide optimal learning for students, while continuing to assist in their emotional and spiritual development, rooted in our faith.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Literacy for English Language Learners - Best Practices

Gretchen Wolfe Anselmo, M.S.

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 401-402

This session will explore research-based instruction methods that have been shown to be effective in building literacy among English Language Learners (ELLs). Culturally linguistically sustaining and responsive practices to create inclusive classrooms will also be explored.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Building Resilience in Kids

Christine Gibson

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 411-412

Resilience, grit, tenacity, perseverance...where does it come from? How can we as educators help grow these traits in our children? Join us for tips, tricks and discussion on how to encourage resilience in the classroom and in life.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Empowering Every Catholic School: The Roadmap to Success through MTSS

Emily Kleintop, Ed.D.; Sarah Kerins, Ed.D.; Susan Parker

LEVEL 4, ROOM 407

The Diocese of Allentown administrators will share their experience in implementation of a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) model for the success of all students. The presenters sought to improve the continuum of services in special education to provide for developing the whole-child and preserving the dignity of all learners. The continuum ranges from the provision of accommodations and modifications in general education settings to stand-alone special learning centers, as well as enrichment and gifted education. To develop this framework, the Diocese of Allentown created the Child Success Leadership Council to support the implementation of MTSS using: a benchmark assessment for data collection, school level monthly team meetings and guidance and resources from the Diocesan Leadership Team. The Council sought to dispel myths around special education and gifted education, gain a better understanding of remediation and intensive interventions versus modifications and identify when and why an academic evaluation would be sought.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Flourishing Vocationally: How to Help High School Students Discover Strengths and Discern Careers

Julia Klausli, Ph.D.

LEVEL 4, ROOM 410

Discerning possible careers and vocations is essential for life-long flourishing. This session provides a holistic and practical guide for educators and guidance counselors to help students take steps toward informed vocational discernment. Building on the Catholic-Christian vision of the flourishing person and research in career counseling, the session provides a guide for career exploration illustrating the significance of factors such as career interest, family background, faith, values, personality, and validated aptitude testing like the Highlands Ability Battery.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Professional Learning Sessions

DAY 3: THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024

Keynote Sessions occur at Level 2, Hall A. All Professional Learning Sessions are located at David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Levels Three and Four. See Maps for assistance.

The schedule is subject to change. Please check the Convention Mobile App for the latest information.

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Teaching Youth to Follow Christ in “The Way” of Discipleship

Steve Angrisano

Singer, Songwriter, Storyteller

LEVEL 2, HALL A

It’s not enough to teach our young people about God, we need to provide them with opportunities that draw them into an experience with God, an experience they yearn to share with the world. The youth that we encounter in our schools are ready for this challenge. Participants will explore ways to engage youth to live the Word, share the Word and BE the next generation of faith-filled disciples.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

12:15 – 12:30 PM

Closing Remarks

Lincoln Snyder, *NCEA President/CEO*

Henry P. Fortier, *Secretary for Education/
Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Orlando*

LEVEL 2, HALL A

8 – 9:15 AM

**Professional Learning
Breakout Sessions # 5**

LEARNING TRACK:

Centered in Christ

Creating a Culture of Service Learning

Liz Goldman

LEVEL 3, ROOM 327

Offering service-learning opportunities for students at all grade levels helps to create disciples who learn to put their faith into action. This session will explore how and why schools can offer school wide service projects that students of all ages will enjoy. We will discuss ways our students can be the hands and feet of Jesus.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Faith: More Than a Class

Matt Kresich

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 411-412

Attending a Catholic school no longer assures a lifelong disciple. A significant portion of former Catholics have a Catholic school as their alma mater. How can we, as educators, respond? The answer is far from new. This international speaker has youth ministry at his core. You will learn how every educator plays an integral role in the faith life of their students. Through engaging with their own journeys, educators will learn how to authentically be a witness of Jesus Christ. Faith becomes less a theoretical idea and more a community of believers. Getting there can be hard, but that is why we are on the journey together.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

In the Image and Likeness of God: Engaging with Catholic Social Teachings and Restorative Practices

Julie Hendry, MCSL

LEVEL 3, ROOM 328

Through engagement with Catholic Social Teachings and the principles of restorative practices, participants will have the opportunity to experience the connections between these two frameworks and

what they have in common—the foundational principle of the God-given dignity we all share. Participants will learn practices that tie our faith to the social science of restorative practices while focusing on best practices around community building, service learning and virtue literacy.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Sparking: Holistically Integrating the Catholic Faith into your School

Jim Schultz

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 317-318

What makes Catholic schools different from other schools? The answer is not the liturgy or the sacraments, and it is not that Catholic schools celebrate Christmas or Easter. Catholic schools are distinguished by their unique paradigm of seeing the world, the entire world, through the eyes of Christ. Sparking the faith is the evangelical mission of every Catholic school and it is not simply accomplished through one Mass or through the parish priest. Instead, Catholic schools need a method of sparking to truly educate the whole child, the whole faculty and the whole community in the fire of the Catholic faith. Illuminate strategies and tactics for implementing holistic faith education in a school system and help identify gaps where changes need to be made for authentic faith to flourish. Participants will be introduced to faith ARCS, SPARK teachers, religious intellectual planning and family engagement as means to help spark the faith in their school. Together we can not only spark the faith but light the fire of Christ's love for all to see.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Making Every Class Catholic

Brett Salkeld

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 401-402

The Church asks Catholic school educators to put the integration of faith and reason at the heart of individual subjects. What does this mean in practical terms? How do we teach math, art or science from a Catholic point of view? First, we need to recognize that the presuppositions underlying any approach to a subject are never neutral. Then we are in a position to ask how a Catholic understanding can inform our teaching and practice in every subject and transform our classrooms.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LEARNING TRACK:

Characterized by Excellence

A Spirit-Led Compass: Empowering Students and Teachers to Catalyze Innovations in Teaching and Learning Through Action Research

Terra Caputo, Ph.D.; Anthony Fior Ed.D.;
Cindy Reagan; Thomas Yarcusko; Michael Polito;
Owen McDonald

LEVEL 4, ROOM 406

Catholic schools have long been heralded as hubs of academic excellence. This session will share one school's journey to cultivate deeper experiences of academic excellence and engagement through the creation of an action research center that empowers students and teachers to collaborate as researchers and study high-impact strategies for teaching and learning in Catholic school contexts. Intersections between Ignatian pedagogy and mind, brain, education science; the value of action research for better understanding students' dynamic contexts and better meeting them where they are; and the mission-centered process for building learning communities that spark deeper learning will be discussed.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Active Learning in the Middle School Classroom

Sarah DeGreene Turner, M.Ed.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 330

With the schedule format and curriculum expectations of a typical middle school, we too often move away from effective strategies commonly used in elementary classrooms. Active learning strategies improve engagement, knowledge retention and classroom culture with the added benefit of supporting classroom management. These strategies will bring new life to established routines, invigorating teachers and students alike.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Building a Beta Team for Better Readers and Writers

Rachel Edelman, M.A.; Carissa Maddox, Ed.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 302

The session will focus on English-Language Arts curriculum adoption for elementary and middle school. We will outline the process of determining the criteria of success for the school, reviewing programs that met the criteria and establishing a beta team of teachers to implement the curriculum in the first year. We will focus on the elements that we were looking for including diverse representation of texts and authors, knowledge-building content, many and varied opportunities for reading, writing and discussion connected to text, and the ability to have students read full texts. Additionally, we will focus on the professional development and support offered to

the beta team in year one of adoption, highlighting the key successes and lessons learned.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Data Teams: Unraveling the Power of Collaborative Inquiry for Continuous Improvement

Cherae Nash

Catapult Learning

LEVEL 3, ROOM 301

Schools are increasingly using data to improve outcomes for students. Often, schools miss the opportunity to pair collecting and analyzing data with collaborative inquiry. Join us as we unravel the transformative power of curiosity within data teams. In this dynamic exploration, we'll delve into the intricacies of inquiry-driven approaches that increase a team's capacity to problem-solve and make strategic decisions. Using Catapult Learning's model of data teams, participants will learn about the three phases of data teams, steps to initiate data teams and strategies to build teams that engage in collaborative work to continuously improve outcomes. This session will include opportunities for Q & A.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Milestones, Trip Steps and Chocolate Broccoli

Jan Bryan

Renaissance

LEVEL 3, ROOM 319

Almost any review of math assessment data, especially at the national level, highlights the much-needed emphasis on effective and empirically validated math instruction, opportunities for student practice and assessment that yields insights to skilled and caring teachers. Review where our nation is in mathematics and insights from Renaissance Star Math data to examine math power evident in Catholic schools. Continue with an analysis of the four math milestones; the make-it-or-break-it moments in teaching and learning math. Review resources and strategies to address these milestones. Evaluate each math scholar's sense of belonging in the math community, as some may seek chocolate broccoli rather than understand that math knowledge is evident and measurable from birth. Regardless of a learner's sense of belonging, each one, with rare exception, is born a math person. Guide them to experience the best moments, which usually occur when a person's body or mind is stretched to its limits in a voluntary effort to accomplish something difficult and worthwhile.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

LEARNING TRACK:

Committing to a Successful Tomorrow

Oral Histories and Connections: How the Past informs the Present through Interviews with Doctors John Convey, Merylann Schuttloffell and Leonard DeFiore

Melissa Mitchell, Ed.D.; Cynthia Sanders, Ph.D.

LEVEL 4, ROOM 407

The Catholic University of America (CUA) has a long history of excellence in Catholic teacher education. Part of that history includes the work of Dr. John Convey, Dr. Merylann Schuttloffell and Dr. Leonard DeFiore, who are also long-time members of NCEA. Their collective work, conducted between 1970s - 2018, continues to serve students, the CUA community and research in Catholic education in the United States. CUA is currently in the process of renewing our teacher education programs. As a part of engaging in this work, we want to connect with previous faculty leaders as we build for the future. The proposed session will feature interviews with Drs. Convey, Schuttloffell and DeFiore that are informing our work. Oral histories and interviews allow us to explore the rich history and wealth of research that was conducted by the team during their tenure at CUA. This session will feature a synthesis of the interviews and a delightful discussion with Drs. Convey, Schuttloffell and DeFiore, with an interactive discussion and actionable takeaways to inform how oral histories can serve to make meaningful connections between the past and present for Catholic schools and communities.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Catholic School Revenue Best Practices and the Importance of Philanthropy

Angela Gunderson; Steve Michalek;
Dawn Handwerker

LEVEL 4, ROOM 409

All Catholic elementary and secondary schools face budgetary issues. We will examine best practices from understanding revenue sources, how to incorporate (and embrace) "school choice," where and how fundraising/development should be properly utilized and everything in between.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

LEARNING TRACK:

Connecting with Community

It Begins with Us: Creating a Compassionate Culture with Each Other, Students and Parents

Jodee Blanco



LEVEL 3, BALLROOM C

How the adults at a school treat each other, students and parents, especially during stressful situations, sets the bar for students. Communication isn't just about words. It's also about body language, facial expressions, attitude and demeanor. Children are like sponges. They absorb and learn from the behavior of the adults at school just like they do at home. In this engaging session, Jodee Blanco will provide participants a tool kit full of simple, practical strategies for becoming more intuitive, compassionate communicators in even the most challenging of circumstances, and create and sustain a school culture that respects, nourishes and celebrates everyone.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LEARNING TRACK:

Leading the Way

Calming an Anxious Organization: Lead with Conviction



Melanie B. Palmisano, Ed. D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 310-311

All organizations have challenges, but some seem to experience a culture of anxiety that inhibits growth and improvement. It can be difficult for a leader to determine how to calm anxious waters. Leaders will understand how to lead with conviction so that they can be more effective in navigating challenging times while making a huge difference in outcomes. Leading with conviction prepares us to ride the waves of chaos and sabotage. Come learn to stay calm, stay the course and stay connected as you act boldly within increasing complexity and escalating change.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Implications of Changes in Religious Sponsorship for P-12 Catholic Schools



Fr. Tom Simonds, SJ, Ed.D.;
Mike Daniels, Ed.D.



LEVEL 3, ROOMS 306-307

As some religious orders plan for a future with fewer members, they are rethinking how they will sponsor Catholic schools and sustain the charism of the schools. Through presentations and breakout table discussions, participants will develop strategies to address changes to religious sponsorship in their schools.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

The Diocesan Response to Critical Incidents in Schools

Bruce E. Varick

LEVEL 4, ROOM 408

A critical incident can occur at any time in any school. Are our schools prepared? This session will provide a framework for the diocese to support schools during times of crisis. The framework includes understanding the components of a comprehensive emergency operations plan, identifying essential elements to responding effectively, assessing needs of individual schools, and preparing to mobilize diocesan resources and personnel to support school communities in crisis.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality



Communicate Like A Champion: How to Build Trust with Your Board and Leadership

Rob Bridges; Scott Barron; Tammy Barron

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 315-316

Communication habits are the single most important predictor of a leader's success, and the best leaders understand that HOW you communicate trumps WHAT you communicate. The laws of the grapevine provide practical techniques that will have an immediate impact on your communication habits and how you are perceived by faculty, staff, parents, donors and your entire ecosystem. Great leaders are great communicators and we need both in our schools. Learn ways to build trust and engagement in both your personal and professional life.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Systems for Instructional Improvement in Catholic Schools

Eileen McLaughlin; David Corvi

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 320-321

Since the fall of 2019, participants in the Lynch Leadership Academy (LLA) RCAB Leaders Academy have dived deep into the skills and knowledge required to be effective instructional leaders in their schools. LLA's work focuses on developing leaders with strong instructional knowledge and skills who can disrupt inequity in their schools and systems. LLA has partnered with the RCAB Catholic Schools Office to provide professional development and coaching to build instructional leadership capacity. We focus on defining a vision for instructional excellence and leading others to implement practices that make that vision a reality. It is becoming increasingly clear in research and examples of successful urban schools that the learning of adults is essential for school improvement. Adult learning, then, is essential for student learning, particularly if teachers work together in teams to continuously improve their instructional practice. Additionally, a rigorous curriculum and an integrated approach to data-driven instruction are essential to increase student achievement. School leaders have learned how to establish systems and structures to support adult learning in service of ambitious teaching and learning for all of the students in their schools.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

LEARNING TRACK:

Serving All Students

How to Meaningfully Include Children with Autism in Your Classroom

Lawrence Sutton, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 304

It is estimated that 1-36 school aged children have an autism spectrum disorder. Many of these children can meaningfully succeed in a typical classroom with often simple and concrete accommodations. The purpose of this session will be on how to recognize children with autism and how to effectively educate them in a typical classroom.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Know What to Do, Do What You Know: Executive Function in the Classroom

Michelle Lia, Ed.D.



LEVEL 3, ROOM 303

Teachers have high expectations and want each student to be successful. This success requires planning beyond the content. This interactive session will share eight areas of executive function (EF). Participants will learn what each EF skill might look like in the classroom and then they will be invited to reflect and identify how these EF skills currently look or might look in their own classrooms.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Teaching to the Adolescent Brain

Terence Houlihan; Eileen C. Houlihan

LEVEL 4, ROOM 410

This lively and engaging session considers the cognitive and developmental context of today's adolescent learner. Using cutting edge research in educational and cognitive neuroscience and experiential activities, attendees will learn the most effective strategies for proactive classrooms, enhancing executive skills and connecting with their students.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Virtue is Catholic Social Emotional Learning

Sr. John Dominic Rasmussen; Karen Villa Ph.D.

Openlight Media / Disciple of Christ, Education in Virtue

LEVEL 3, BALLROOM B

Virtue for centuries has been central to human growth and development and is a treasure of the Catholic faith. We will review how the use of the theological and the cardinal virtues coincides with the YES brain fundamentals for childhood development outlined by interpersonal neurobiologist, Dr. Dan Siegel, and how the virtues correspond to the CASEL five core competencies of self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills and social awareness. We review how placing virtue education within Catholic teaching, a Christian anthropology and sacramental living creates a social-emotional learning curriculum that integrates fully the dignity and wholeness of the child as God intended. We will address how the theological virtues of faith, hope and love facilitate a child feeling safe, seen, soothed and secure within the holding environment of the classroom and school. We will also review how the four cardinal/moral virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice promote neuroplasticity across the developmental span from K through high school leading to mental health, secure attachments and human flourishing. Lastly, we will discuss how creating a "still point of grace" and using virtue to keep students in the River of Grace facilitates behavioral and learning outcomes in the classroom and beyond.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

9:45 – 11 AM
Professional Learning
Breakout Session #6

LEARNING TRACK:

Centered in Christ

Hearts of Mercy: Designing and Implementing Gospel-Inspired Service-Learning Programs

Mary Beth May, M.Div.; Hope Zelmer

LEVEL 4, ROOM 404

“Hearts of Mercy” focuses on Christian service-learning programs at Catholic high schools. This session will explore the theological foundations that inspire and shape service-learning programming. The session will also serve as a guide for anyone interested in starting or reimagining service-learning programs at their own school. High school campus ministers Hope Zelmer and Mary Beth May will share their firsthand experiences of redesigning and implementing the Christian Service Program at Fenwick High School in Oak Park, IL. Many resources exist to assist high school campus ministers with retreat programming, but there are few Catholic resources available to guide high school personnel through the process of designing and implementing service-learning programs. Our session seeks to fill that gap so that we can share our insights and knowledge with other campus ministers and theology teachers. The session will also include time for audience members to share their own experiences and best practices with the group. This session will encourage and give practical tools and advice to audience members so that they can provide quality service-learning opportunities at their local Catholic high schools.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Integrating Faith Across the Curriculum

Monica Kowalski, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 327

Catholic schools are called to integrate faith throughout the curriculum, but teachers are not always sure how to do this outside of religion class. This session will introduce a framework for thinking about how the Catholic faith can be integrated into any subject by focusing on WHY, HOW and WHAT students learn in schools. Participants will reflect on ways their schools currently succeed in this mission and brainstorm new ideas to implement.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Pilgrims on a Journey: Planning Retreats that Build Community and Draw Students to Christ

Emily Appert

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 401-402

We will explore the retreat program built by the middle school staff at our Catholic school in Washington State. Themes will include back-to-school retreats, end-of-year retreats and retreats for the various liturgical seasons. Come and see how we built a vibrant Catholic community in our school and city.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LEARNING TRACK:

Characterized by Excellence

Leveraging the Strengths of Catholic Schools to Build a Strong Data Culture

Julie Dallavis, Ph.D.; Frankie (Mary Frances) Jones, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 301

Data-informed leadership promotes a cycle of inquiry in which leaders engage teachers in “problems of practice” which they explore together through data, resulting in a course of action based on evidence and shared analysis. This session aims to equip principals with the knowledge and strategies to be more data-informed and to involve their teachers in these efforts. Specifically, we highlight key insights from research on building a strong data culture and the characteristics of Catholic schools that can serve as the foundation for this important work. Session leaders will lead participants through a guided reflection on their own school data context with the goal of identifying possible next steps in developing their school’s data culture.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Math Party! Building Student Engagement and Developing Number Sense in Middle School Math

Erin E. Whalen

LEVEL 3, ROOM 328

Math is not a spectator sport. Students must be active participants to learn mathematical content truly, and number sense is the foundation on which all other content is built. Explore ways to help students develop number sense and get excited about math through games, brainteasers, manipulatives, thinking tasks and more. This interactive session will allow time for you to try out the activities and discuss them with those around you. The session is geared toward students in middle school but can be adapted for older or younger students. Let’s have some fun and make math creative, engaging and accessible to all!

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Teaching Math for Deep Understanding for K-12 Teachers

Michelle Kozakiewicz
Catapult Learning

LEVEL 3, ROOM 302

The math standards emphasize conceptual understanding as the foundation for procedural fluency and application. Teachers can accelerate recovery by focusing on these important components of math teaching. Participants in this workshop will:

- Break down what “deep understanding of math” really means and why it matter
- Structure math learning as a sequence of stages
- Represent math using concrete, representational and symbolic forms for a range of topics

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

The Senior Capstone Project and Post High School Readiness

Andrea Williamson

LEVEL 4, ROOM 403

In 2020, 66% of high school graduates planned to attend college post-graduation, however, less than 1/2 of students taking the SAT or ACT in 2020 were deemed college-ready. Discuss the impact a senior capstone program can have on the college writing readiness of high school students. Also, we will discuss how a school can begin implementing a capstone experience as a component of the senior year along with ways to connect it to Catholic Church teachings.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Catholic Identity Standards: Using Pillars of Priestly Formation in Catholic Education

Christopher Uhler; Fr. Michael Kapperman

LEVEL 3, ROOM 319

This presentation focuses on the different elements of formation as outlined by the Church that aid in forming humans to be fully alive. Looking at forming our students in five areas—religious, spiritual, apostolic, human and intellectual—we seek to create lifelong, Catholic missionary disciples who are well-integrated and effective people and incredible witnesses to the Gospel.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

LEARNING TRACK:

Committing to a Successful Tomorrow

Embracing Innovation: Artificial Intelligence in Catholic Education

Annabel Dotzman, M.Ed.; Anthony Dunn

LEVEL 3, ROOM 329

Join us for an engaging session that explores the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Catholic education. Discover how AI can enhance personalized learning, support teachers, and streamline administrative tasks, all while aligning with the mission of Catholic education. This session will provide practical insights, ethical considerations and real-world examples that empower Catholic school administrators to harness the benefits of AI while preserving the integrity of our educational mission.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

We've Been Here Before: How Catholic Schools Have Grappled with Mission and Identity in the Past

Michael Rizzi, Ed.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 315-316

This session will provide a historical overview of Catholic education in the United States, showing how Catholic schools have wrestled with questions about their mission and religious identity. What distinguishes them from non-Catholic schools? How do they offer an education of equal quality to the public schools without losing their religious identity? These questions were just as common in the 1800s as they are today. Many Catholic school educators wrongly assume that these are new issues or that Catholic schools used to have everything perfectly “figured out,” but previous generations struggled with the same problems for over 200 years. The presentation will also offer some tried-and-true strategies for success from history.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

PANEL

STREAM-Line Your Annual Fund

Mike Habeeb; Jose Hernandez-Aguirre; Norma Rothschild; Dom Marino
Our Sunday Visitor

LEVEL 4, ROOM 406

Learn the Science behind giving and generosity, the importance and best practices of Technology, how Religion ties to giving, the Engineering/Design of the program, the Art of asking, and the Math that brings value. Our experts will share The Science of Giving, how, when and why donors respond and how to build your annual fund to include the fundraising best practices. Technology is more critical now than ever and we see it everywhere. We will share where it is used in the classroom and a few ways it can be used for the annual fund. Giving has a religious basis—God blessed us with a “dominion” or responsibility to take care of “things” while we are here. Encouraging generosity is a part of our call to stewardship and living our lives as disciples. We will “reverse engineer” the OSV Annual fund to see what components have been important to the process and how to strengthen them. There is an art to asking and sharing your mission. Doing this well will not only reinforce your Catholic identity but reinforce your mission and history. And mathematically, the annual fund makes sense. Most schools see an average of five times their investment when they follow OSV’s process. Whether you have a seasoned annual fund, or you are hoping to launch your first annual fund, this session will have something for everyone.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

LEARNING TRACK:

Connecting with Community

A Culture of Belonging: What it Means for Student Retention and Attrition

Jennifer Haley; Charlie Lytle
Blackbaud

LEVEL 4, ROOMS 411-412

Discover data-driven insights and proven strategies that drive student retention and foster a culture of belonging in private schools. Join former director of enrollment and institutional advancement, to explore why families choose to stay at or leave a school, how to evaluate your attrition and cost-per-enrollment and best practices for forming long-term bonds that build community with students and their families.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

LEARNING TRACK:

Leading the Way

PANEL

The COHORT School Board: A PK-8 Governance Model for Success and Accountability

Llewellyn Young, Ph.D.; Mandy Thronas-Brown; Beverly Sandobal; Wendy Castillo; Alicia Nakamoto; Deacon Rafael Mendoza; Michele Lum

LEVEL 4, ROOM 407

To help prevent school closures, the Hawaii Catholic Schools Office created a governance model for PK-8 parochial schools called the COHORT Board. The model brought together at least three separate schools under one board with formally delegated responsibility from each pastor to hold school administration accountable for finance and institutional advancement. Two of the schools were on the brink of closure at the onset of the pilot but are now considered “thriving” schools. The other participating school was not at risk of closure but struggled with its enrollment and advancement initiatives, and as a result of its participation with the COHORT Board, experienced consistent enrollment growth every year since the Board’s inception and has met all its strategic planning goals in the process. The panel will provide an explanation of the model and how it impacted the governance of the three participating schools.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Cultivating Talent Continued: Exploring Innovative Educator Pipelines Strategies from Recruitment to Retention



Michael T. O’Connor, Ph.D.

LEVEL 3, ROOMS 306-307

Recruiting and retaining excellent educators and school leaders is a critical and ongoing issue in our Catholic schools and systems. Building upon the Cultivating Talent report from Boston College (Ospino & Wyttenbach, 2022) this collaborative session goes deeper into educator pipelines in Catholic education. The session will provide a guided examination to identify pipelines “leaks,” explore innovative recruitment and retention strategies implemented across the U.S., and review research on educator pipelines for thoughtful design of pipelines strategies in your Catholic school or system. Participants will engage with a pipelines diagnostic tool and concrete examples of policies and practices, collaborating to put strategy into action with a distinctive mission-informed approach. The presenter will share research, resources and tools and will make all session resources available to participants in real-time (and for future reference) via a shared Google Drive folder. Select printed materials, particularly the pipelines diagnostic tool, will be provided. Intended for leaders or any educators in Catholic schools and systems working to support human capital and talent strategies.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

Formation for Mission: Building Vibrant Educational Communities

Sarah Laitinen; Tom Southard

LEVEL 3, ROOM 330

Catholic schools that are sponsored by religious congregations have a deep sense of identity and connectedness with mission. In the Lasallian region of North America, we have mission formation programs that strengthen Lasallian identity and mission in the hearts and minds of Lasallian educators in schools sponsored by the Brothers of the Christian Schools. This deeper sense of belonging allows for educators to commit more deeply to the mission. As school leaders, how do you bring faculty, staff, students and families into learning about and connecting with the mission? Drawing from the Lasallian tradition and other religious congregations, in this session participants will learn of practical strategies and formation program models to keep the mission at the forefront in their educational communities, so the mission remains vibrant for all involved.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

Leading the Way: Building Leadership Capacity One Program at a Time

Justyna King, Ph.D.; Kelly Surapaneni

LEVEL 4, ROOM 410

How the Archdiocese of Seattle is pioneering leadership development from the inside out. The Archdiocese of Seattle is committed to the NSBECS (*National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*). The Office for Catholic Schools (OCS) in Seattle has created goals in its strategic vision to ensure alignment with the four domains of the NSBECS. Of all the various initiatives that our OCS has embraced in the last decade, the one most comprehensive has been the dedication to building leadership capacity (BLC) within our own Catholic schools. By 2023, the OCS helped facilitate 30+ different BLC groups; from new teacher supports, to vice principal consortiums, to teacher-leader development, there is a group for every Catholic school employee in our archdiocese. One notable BLC group that has yielded an incredible springboarding of Catholic school leaders is the GRACE program. Growing Reflective Authentic Catholic Educators (GRACE) supports robust leadership development. Currently, GRACE supports 87% of our 74 Catholic schools with over 120 teacher leaders enrolled in 2023. The majority of our Catholic school principals hired in the last five years have been graduates of the GRACE program.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

LEARNING TRACK:

Serving All Students

Data + Student Study Teams + Collaboration = Success

Jennifer Insua; Tammi Haas

LEVEL 4, ROOM 405

When data analysis and collaboration among teachers and staff in student study teams are combined, your students will be met with success! Administrators and teachers will be equipped with an approach to determine student needs using a data-based, team approach. From their success with student study teams, the presenters will share examples of the who, what, when, where, why and how these can be implemented in any school. Student study teams will ensure all students, including those of diverse needs, are successful in your school setting.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

From Inclusion to Belonging: Lessons Learned on a Continuing 25-year Journey



Joseph E Vorbach III, Ph.D.; Diane Elliott, M.Ed.

LEVEL 3, ROOM 303

Presenters will share experiences from the Diocese of Arlington, VA, related to consistent growth in expanded services for students with intellectual disabilities in diocesan schools. Opportunities seized and challenges encountered will be covered to give attendees a sense of the diocesan experience over 25 years. The discussion will focus on the importance of listening, networking, leadership, mindset and optimizing resources for greatest impact. From only one high school offering options for students with disabilities in 2000, there are now 19 (out of 41) schools serving students with intellectual disabilities, including all four of the high schools.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Planning for the Whole Child: Practices, Frameworks and Immediate Solutions for Catholic Education

Sean Smith; Mary Brigid Cahill; Michael Faggella-Luby

LEVEL 3, ROOM 304

The demands on educators in today's 21st century appear to increase annually. Meeting the needs of the whole child in collaboration with our colleagues, parents/family members and our greater Catholic community is essential to our instructional, behavioral, social and emotional efforts. This interactive session will feature specific tips, tools and strategies to plan and design classroom instruction to meet the learner variability our students

are increasingly bringing to the K-12 classroom. Concentrating on ways to further plan and design for the varied demands is critical. We will consider potential barriers impacting instruction and ways to address them. To develop our students into expert learners, we will identify ways to develop motivated, purposeful, knowledgeable, strategic and goal-directed students. Universal Design for Learning Framework (UDL) is a powerful approach because it helps one anticipate for all learners. Learn three principles: multiple means of engagement, representation and action and expression, and then continue into specific ways to operationalize various guidelines and checkpoints into our classroom. Attendees will learn about the UDL Design Cycle and how Catholic school educators have utilized the component of this cycle to design their instructional goals, identify flexible materials and methods that offer options to student learning and various forms of assessment that reflect accurate monitoring of students' progress. Gain a clear understanding of how Catholic school educators have and can implement the UDL Framework to tackle both learner and environmental barriers, promoting a more inclusive and effective learning environment.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Academic and Behavioral Interventions, Accommodations and Modifications: Gospel and Legal Implications

Sr. Angie Shaughnessy, SCN, JD, Ph.D.;
Karen Juliano, Ed.D.



LEVEL 4, ROOM 408

Today's students, like students in other times, may require academic and behavioral accommodations and modifications. This presentation will identify: (1) legal issues and requirements concerning the education of students with special needs and (2) Gospel imperatives stemming from Jesus' mandate to let the little children come unto Him. Intersections of the two will be identified and discussed. Areas of possible conflict will be noted and suggestions for navigating these areas will be made. Practical suggestions for ensuring compliance with both civil law and gospel mandates will be offered.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

Crisis Response and Preparedness for Catholic Schools

Cynthia Ryals



LEVEL 3, ROOMS 317-318

Effective managing of school crisis events often reflects the way past events were handled. Experts in school safety have deconstructed past school crisis events to reveal valuable, lifesaving lessons. Various disciplines involved in school crisis responses also contribute unique perspectives for quick and decisive intervention, rescue and post-vention techniques. This session will highlight how past school crisis events and practical viewpoints from various disciplines can provide attendees with key takeaways for enhancing school crisis responses with faculty and staff.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

Brain Basics: How to Regain a Calm and Focused Mindset in Times of Big Emotions

Whitney Stovall, M.S.; Julie Widman, M.S.;

Joy Roberts, M.A.

Friendzy

LEVEL 4, ROOM 409

When was the last time emotions got the best of you and you "flipped your lid?" Every day we face hundreds of emotion-evoking stimuli, and sometimes those emotions get the best of us! God designed our brains and bodies to be an incredible duo. Together they can perceive and protect us from danger and can bring us from a heightened emotional state into a calm and focused mindset. God has also given us strategies and people in our lives to help us calm both our bodies and minds when we need help. Join us as we learn about our amazing brains. This session will introduce easy-to-implement ways we can teach students about how their brain functions and how we can choose healthy coping skills and seek help in times of big emotions.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

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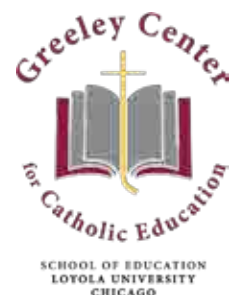
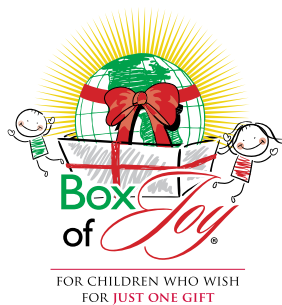


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NCEA Publications

National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools



The National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (2012, 2023) (NSBECS) was first developed and is now updated to complement, support and reach beyond academic and curricula standards to provide schools a roadmap to faith-based education that is governed with integrity and academically, spiritually and operationally rigorous.

Product code: ADM-31-1645
Member price \$6/non-member \$9
ISBN 978-1-55833-780-0

Monograph Catholic School Identity and Mission



A sourcebook for practitioners for NSBECS Standards 1 and 2.
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ISBN: 978-1-55833-783-1
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Monograph Faith Formation for the Catholic School Community



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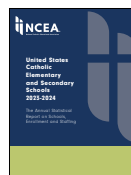
Monograph Governance and Leadership



A sourcebook for practitioners for NSBECS Standards 5 and 6.
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U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2023-2024



This annual statistical report presents information about schools, school enrollment and staffing patterns for grades PK-12 for Catholic elementary and secondary schools. An executive summary provides insight into the data along with highlights of the statistics in a historical perspective for comparison of past years and decades.

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ISBN: 978-1-55833-786-2

School Handbooks Legal Considerations 4th Edition



Mary Angela Shaughnessy, S.C.N., J.D., Ph.D.

Handbooks continue to be an indispensable aid in the realization of the Catholic school's mission and ministry. This revised edition helps administrators understand that it is no longer sufficient to be able to defend what one has done; now one must give reasons for policies and procedures before actions are taken.

Product code: LEG-31-1647
ISBN: 978-1-55833-782-4
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From Schoolhouse to Statehouse: The Role of School Leaders in Legislative Advocacy Through the Lens of School Choice



Bruce Hermie

The voices of school leaders are drastically underrepresented in the formation of educational policy. You may not be a politician and you may not be into politics, but you do know education and the needs of your students and families. This fact alone makes you an asset to policymakers.

Product code: ADM-31-1641
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Adapting to Change: Successful Catholic School Development in a Virtual, Person-to-Person or Hybrid World



Frank Donaldson

Written during the pandemic and vaccines, the challenge in writing this book is the desire to offer best wisdom and practices. This book is not just from me. I have invited guests to offer their best practices in a number of areas – all related to the title of this publication. Their stories and experiences are wonderful.

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ISBN: 978-1-55833-756-5

Annual Financial Report 2020-2021



NCEA and CARA

NCEA, in partnership with CARA, conducted the online surveys for information to produce this summary. This report highlights some of the national, regional and specific school-type data about a school's finances, governance, administrative structures, tuition, financial aid and other relevant fiscal issues.

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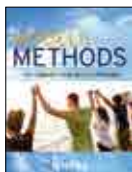


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This book presents the religious and psychological justification for retreats and the history and an overview of the different aspects of these programs.

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The Law and Catholic Schools (Updated and Revised Third Edition)

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NCEA Briefs Series available online

NCEA Briefs: 4Cs: Collaboration

Clare Kilbane, Ph.D.

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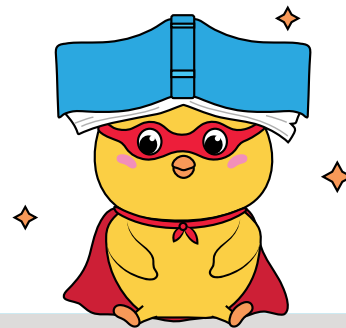


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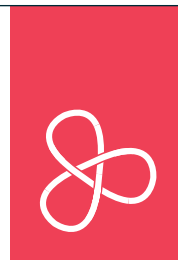
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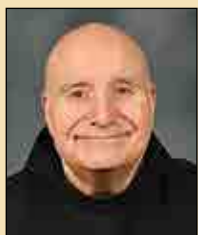
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NCEA 2024 President's Awards

The President's Awards are presented in the names of past NCEA presidents to individuals and organizations who model the characteristics that advance the mission of Catholic school education and display the significant virtues of faith, support, leadership and development that impact Catholic school education across the country. This year we added two special honors. To learn more visit [NCEA.org/awards](https://www.ncea.org/awards).

C. Albert Koob Merit Award

Presented to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to Catholic education at any level in one or more of these areas: teaching, administration, parish religious education, research, publication or educational leadership.



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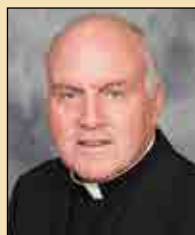
Presented to an individual who has provided substantial support for Catholic education through contributions in the areas of development, public relations, scholarship programs, financial management or government relations.



2024 Recipient:
Tim M. LaMott
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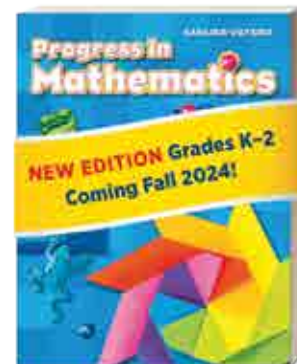
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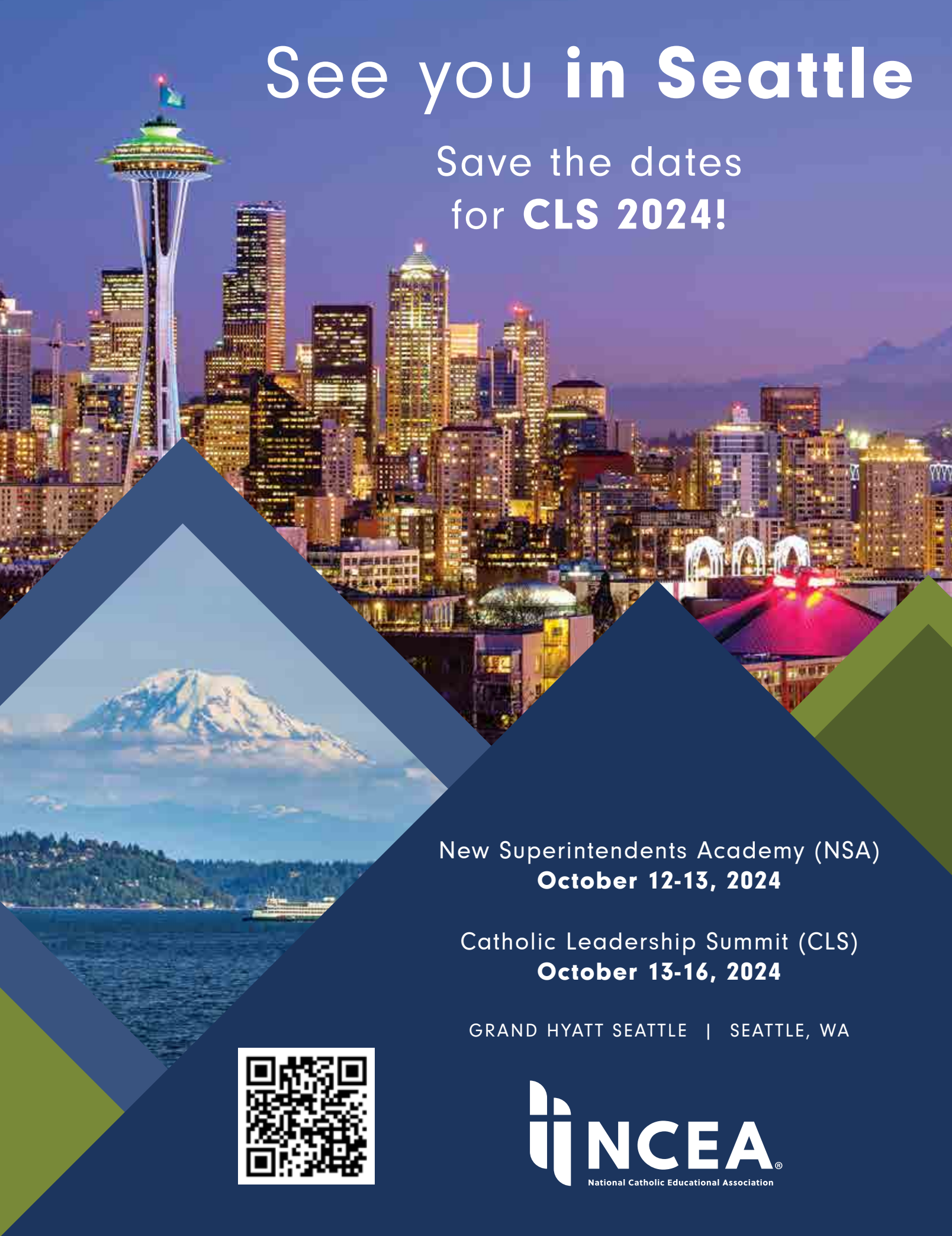


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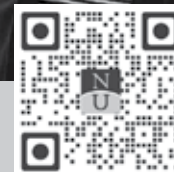
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At Savvas, we believe learning should inspire. Our next-generation K-12 learning solutions, developed by leading authors and educators, leverage the power of adaptive learning and advanced technology to deliver immersive, personalized, and engaging content that connects teachers and students with real-world learning experiences, helping all learners discover their greatness. Visit www.savvas.com

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www.schoolealth.com

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www.schoolbelles.com

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www.setonhill.edu

Shields Crime and Security Consultants LLC 843

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At Simple Solutions, our mission is to give students and teachers the resources they need to be

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SM, Inc 111

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SmartLab (Creative Learning Systems) 732

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Sophia Institute for Teachers 107

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Manchester, NH 3108
(800) 888-9344
www.sophiainstituteforteachers.org

Sophia Institute for Teachers was founded to renew and rebuild Catholic culture through service to Catholic education. With the goal of nurturing the spiritual, moral and cultural life of souls and an abiding respect for the role and work of teachers, we provide materials and programs that are at once enlightening to the mind and ennobling to the heart; faithful and complete, as well as useful.

SparkCognition**709**

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844-205-7173
www.sparkcognition.com

SparkCognition's award-winning AI solutions allow organizations to predict future outcomes, prescribe next actions, empower people and protect assets. We partner with the world's industry leaders to analyze, optimize and learn from all types of data, augment human intelligence, drive profitable growth and achieve operational excellence. Our patented AI technologies include machine learning, deep neural networks, natural language processing, generative AI and computer vision—enabling productivity, innovation and accelerating digital transformation. Our solutions solve critical problems, prevent unexpected downtime, maximize asset performance, deliver net-zero initiatives, proactively address safety and prevent cyberattacks. To learn more about how SparkCognition's AI solutions can unlock the power of your data, visit www.sparkcognition.com.

Steve Angrisano and Mary's Meals**927**

www.linktr.ee/steveangrisano

Steve Angrisano is an internationally recognized Catholic composer and music missionary. As an ambassador for Mary's Meals, Steve encourages students and adults to share their little acts of love so that the poorest children around the world can have a daily meal and the chance at an education. His desire for his family and each of us is simply this: to live every day as a compelling case for Jesus.

St. Lawrence Seminary High School**109**

301 Church Street
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057
www.stlawrence.edu

St. Lawrence Seminary High School is a private, Catholic, seven-day residential high school for young men. It is a community and institution that exists to promote, foster and live principles proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and articulated in the Roman Catholic Church. It is accredited by Cognia Global Commission.

Studies Weekly**841**

1140 N 1430 W
Orem, UT 84057
www.StudiesWeekly.com

Studies Weekly is a customized, award-winning, standards-based core curriculum for K-8, founded on deep learning strategies that increase student knowledge and skills in social studies, science and health & wellness.

Studio 3:16**712**

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205-381-8504
www.studio316.com

Studio 3:16 is a supplemental religion program that is focused around teaching kids from 2-8 how to live out the gospels in a way that is formative, educational and engaging.

Summerbook Company**924**

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843-383-5554
www.summerbookcompany.com

A Summer Book reviews all core subjects in one book to be completed by students during the summer. Math, ELA, reading comprehension and writing are included on each page along with material from science and social studies. We also offer a wide variety of workbooks and support materials (including math, English and Spanish dice).

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The Pontifical Mission Societies**127**

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267-265-6919
www.onefamilyinmission.org

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is an organization within the Catholic Church that promotes responsibility for missions and supports new and growing Churches in some of the poorest parts of the world that need our help. MCA aims to foster a missionary spirit in children, families and educational institutions. We offer resources and activities to support our mission.

Theology of the Body Evangelization Team (TOBET) 804

948 Blaylock Circle N
Irving, TX 75061
888-855-4791
www.tobet.org

Founded on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 2001, The Theology of the Body Evangelization Team, known as TOBET, seeks to share this life-affirming message of TOB with audiences of all ages (in English and Spanish) through educational resources: books, programs, talks and seminars offering hope and healing to a culture in need.

TinkRworks 928

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Track it Forward 318

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www.trackitforward.com

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United School Supplies/ KiddoQuiz 437

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202-213-1305
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www.upub.net

Universal Publishing provides simple, effective handwriting instruction materials for grades PK-8. The Writing Our Catholic Faith program incorporates Catholic curriculum into each handwriting lesson. AlphamationPlus, our online handwriting instruction tool, shows students how to form each letter with the click of a button. Visit our booth to get sample books and see AlphamationPlus in action!

University of St. Thomas (TX) 931

3800 Montrose Blvd.
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713-942-5996
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The University of St. Thomas (TX) is the Catholic university liberal arts university in East Texas offering a range of undergraduate majors as well as graduate and doctoral programs.

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Yondr**337**

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Founded in 2014, Yondr offers a patented system of products to help schools eliminate the distraction and intrusion of smartphones and other personal technology. Yondr fosters distraction-free learning environments to help students connect meaningfully with one another and improve academic performance.

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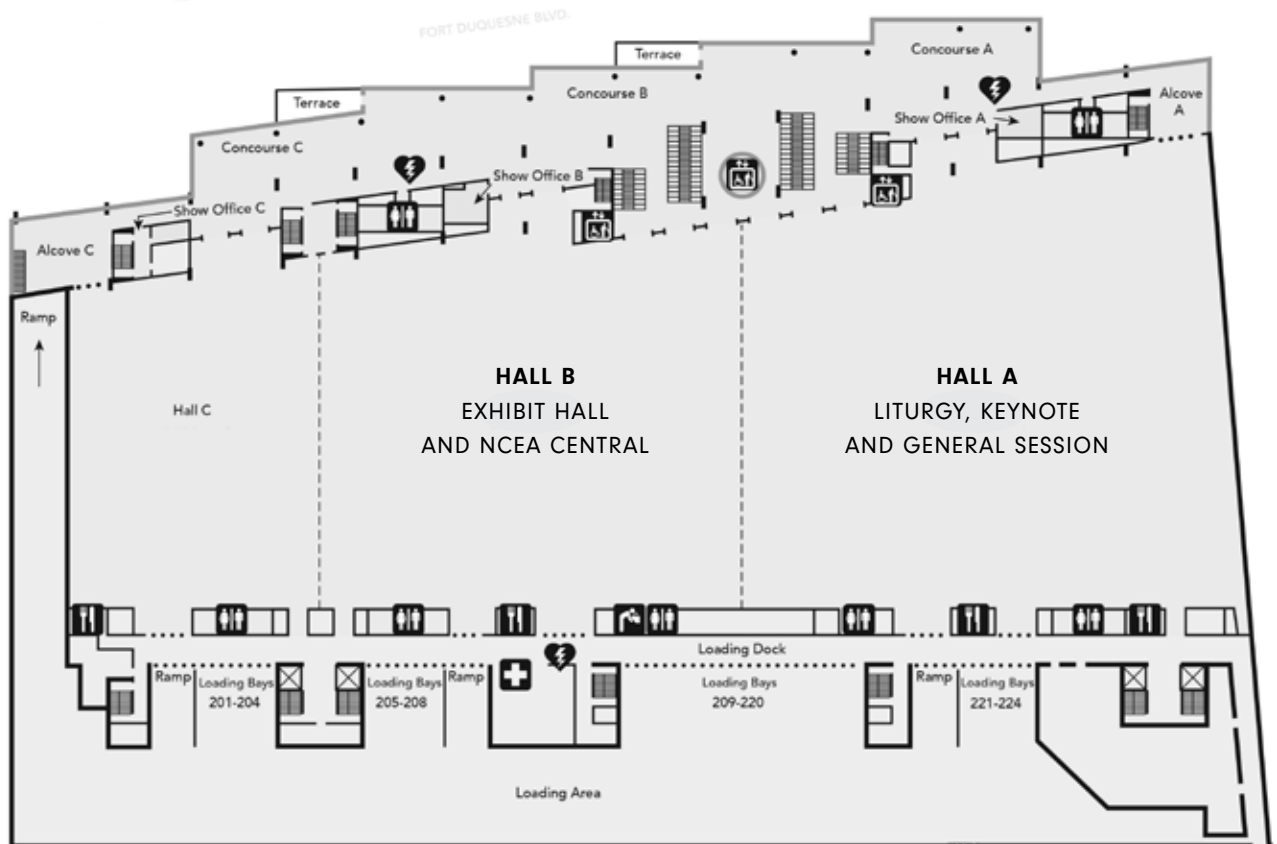
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April 2-4, 2024 • David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA

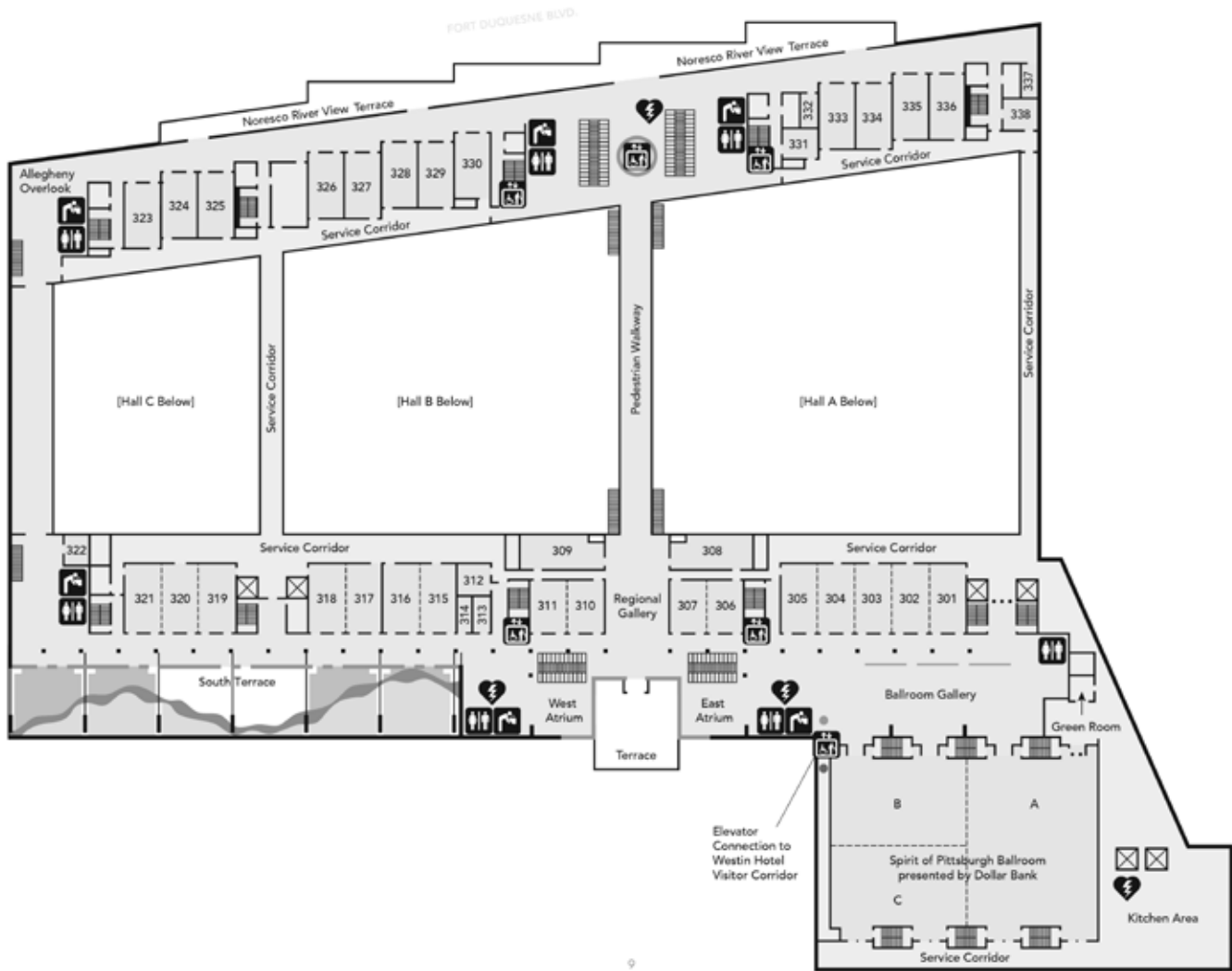
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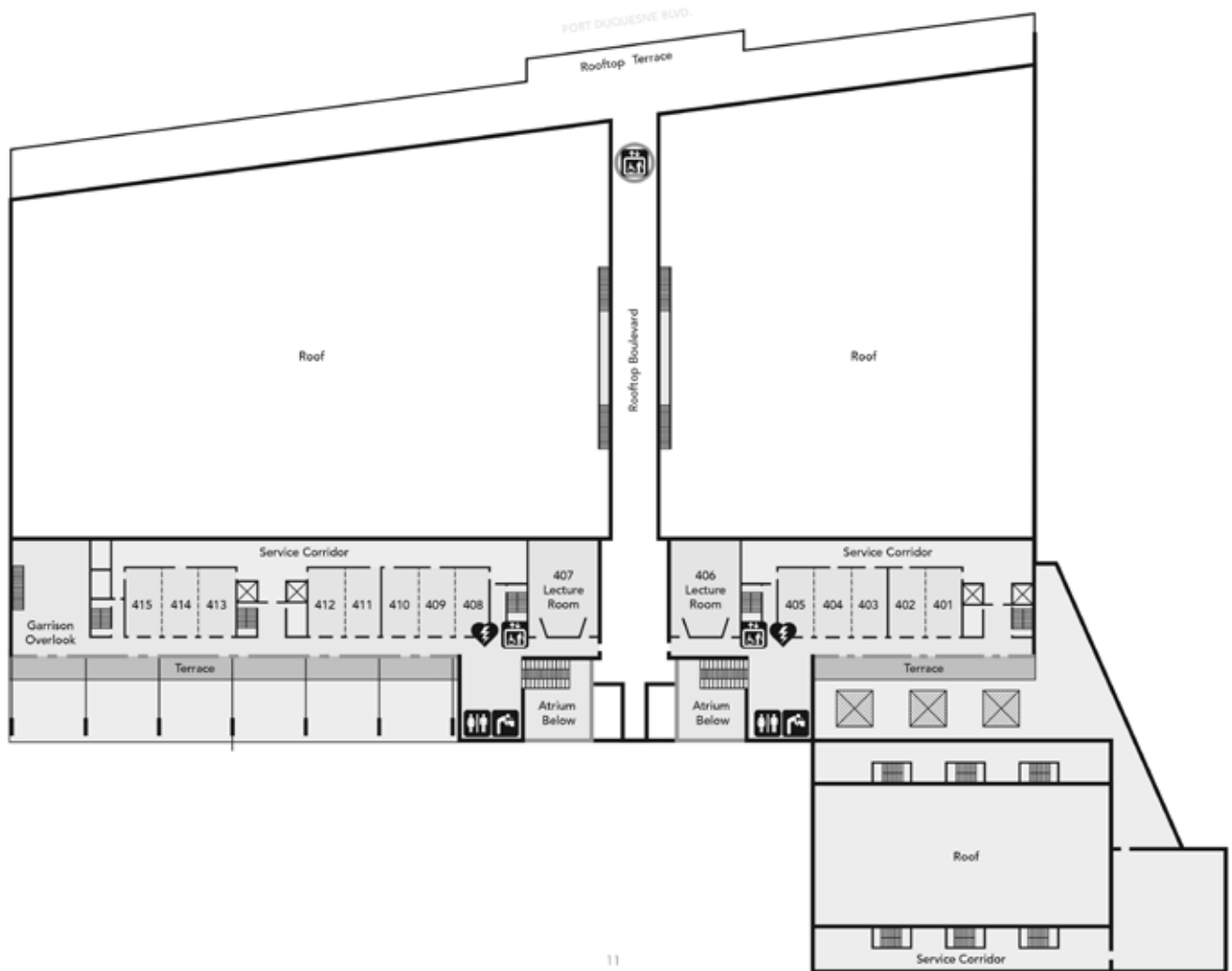
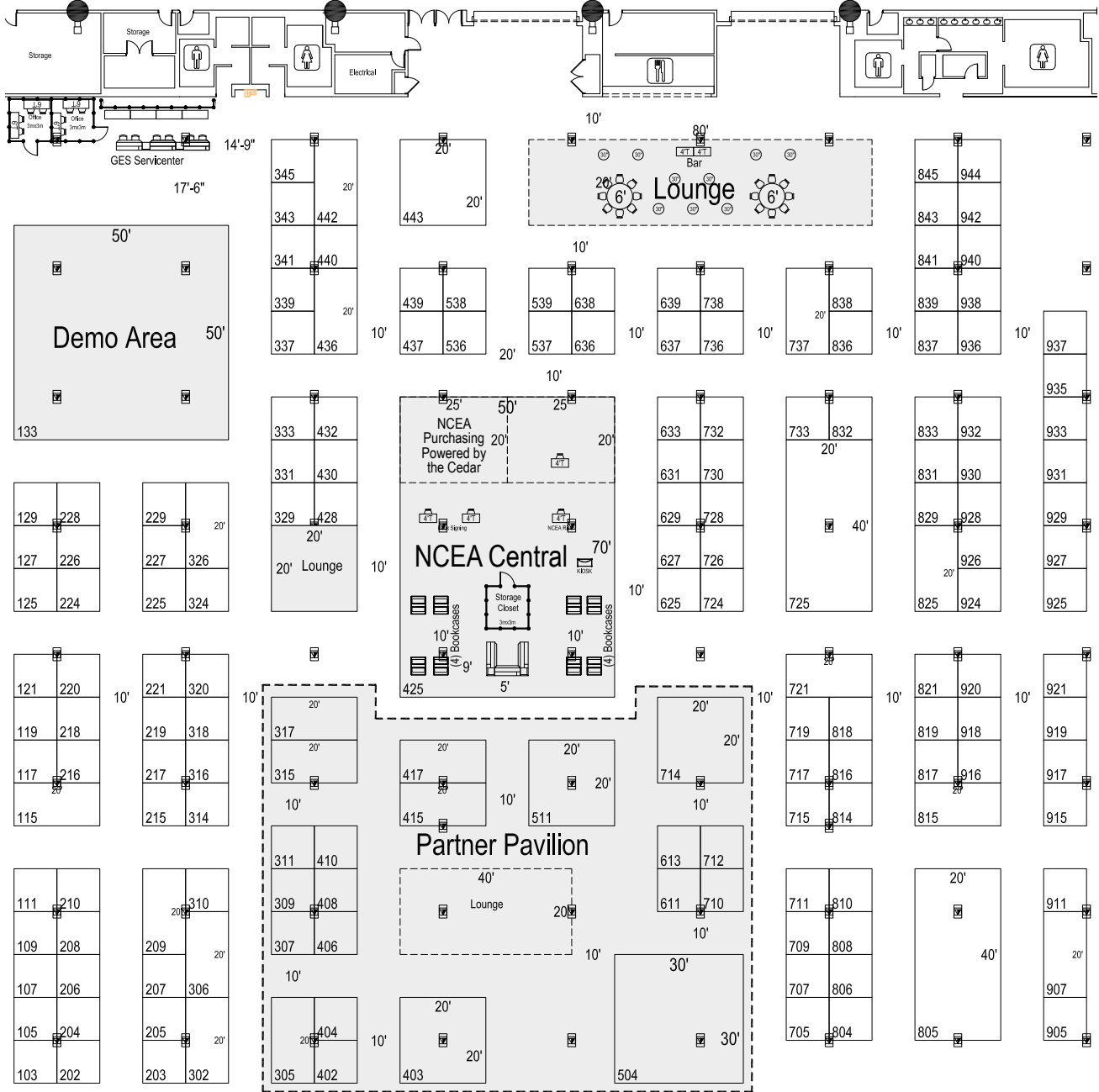


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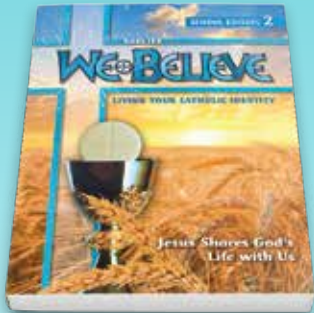
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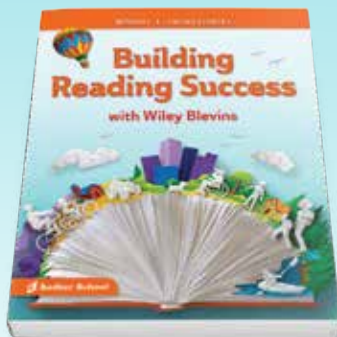
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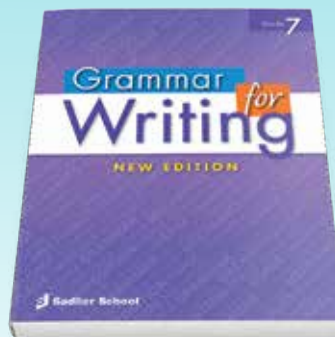
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