

2024 POWERFUL LEARNING CONFERENCE

# Innovating & Educating

JANUARY 29-30 • TAN-TAR-A CONFERENCE CENTER • OSAGE BEACH



# General Information

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

### Your registration includes:

- National keynote presentations and more than 65 breakout sessions
- Breakfast, lunch, and an evening social on Monday
- Breakfast on Tuesday morning

## REGISTRATION FEES

If your registration is received **on or before Dec. 16**, you will receive the early registration rate of \$225. If your online registration is received **after Dec. 16**, your registration rate will be \$275. On-site registration will be \$325. Regular registration will close on Jan. 24. **Any registration received after Jan. 24 will be considered an on-site registration.**

## PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES

Payment of fees may be made by credit card, purchase order, or check. A purchase order must be emailed within five business days of receipt of the online registration confirmation to Custom Meeting Planners at [tammy@custommeetingplanners.com](mailto:tammy@custommeetingplanners.com). If you prefer to pay by check in lieu of submitting a purchase order, your check must be received within five business days of your confirmed registration. Make checks payable to Custom Meeting Planners.

### Mailing address:

Custom Meeting Planners  
P.O. Box 30785  
Columbia, MO 65205

## REFUND POLICY

Registration fees, minus a \$50 processing fee, may be refunded **if a request is emailed to Custom Meeting Planners at [tammy@custommeetingplanners.com](mailto:tammy@custommeetingplanners.com) no later than Jan. 8, 2024.** If your payment has yet to be received at the time of your refund request, your

invoice will be adjusted to reflect the administrative fee due. No refunds will be authorized after this date, but substitutions will be permitted. No cancellations will be accepted after this date, and any subsequent registrations are not eligible for refund.

Full payment of fees will be expected from registrants who are unable to attend the conference **but fail to notify Custom Meeting Planners in writing on or by Jan. 8.**

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

To register, please go to [na.eventscloud.com/24plc](https://na.eventscloud.com/24plc). Please view and/or print the online registration brochure and select the sessions you would like to attend prior to beginning online registration. Confirmation for your registration and session selections will be emailed to you immediately after completion of the online registration.

If you do not receive confirmation or have questions about registration, please contact Tammy Bagley at **573-881-4849** or [tammy@custommeetingplanners.com](mailto:tammy@custommeetingplanners.com).

## LODGING

Tan-Tar-A Conference Center  
494 Tan-Tar-A Drive  
Osage Beach, MO 65065  
573-348-3131

Participants are responsible for making their own room reservations. A block of rooms at the discounted rate of \$110.25 per night has been reserved for the Powerful Learning Conference. A tax exemption letter must be provided to the hotel in order to receive this rate. **Based upon availability, this rate is available until Jan. 2.**

To make your reservation, call **800-826-8272** and identify yourself as an attendee of the Powerful Learning Conference using code **POWE**. You also may make your reservation online by [clicking here](#). Enter your arrival and departure dates, and then click on *Check Availability*. Make your reservations early!



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# Registration Notes

Please review the following information before you begin the online registration. You will be asked to select a category type from the list below. If you have questions about which category type you are, please contact Christine Nobbe at [christine.nobbe@dese.mo.gov](mailto:christine.nobbe@dese.mo.gov) or Tammy Bagley at [tammy@custommeetingplanners.com](mailto:tammy@custommeetingplanners.com).

## CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

Please select this category type if you are an attendee whose district, charter, school, or organization is paying for your registration fees; or you are a co-presenter for a breakout session and your district, charter, school, or organization is paying for your registration fees.

## DESE/RPDC DIRECTOR ATTENDEE

Please select this category type if you are on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Powerful Learning Conference planning committee and you have approval to attend from an assistant commissioner, or if you are a DESE employee presenting a session on behalf of DESE. Please also select this category type if you are a Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) director. Contact Christine Nobbe at [christine.nobbe@dese.mo.gov](mailto:christine.nobbe@dese.mo.gov) if you have any questions.

## PRESENTER

This category type is designated specifically for a complimentary registration for each non-DESE presented session. Select *Presenter* if your registration has been designated as complimentary.

## RPDC ATTENDEE

Please select this category type if you are an attendee who is a contracted consultant for an RPDC.



# Conference Agenda

## SUNDAY, JAN. 28

4:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**Registration**

## MONDAY, JAN. 29

6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Registration**

7:15 – 8:15 a.m.

**Breakfast Buffet**

7:45 – 10:00 a.m.

**Coffee Service**

8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

**Welcome and General Session**

Keynote Speaker: Thomas C. Murray

*Personal and Authentic: Creating an Innovative School Culture*

10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

**Concurrent Session A**

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Lunch**

12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

**General Session and Commissioner's Address**

Dr. Margie Vandeven, Commissioner of Education

*Learning for Life*

2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

**Concurrent Session B**

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

**Concurrent Session C**

5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**Networking**

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**Enjoy Dinner on Your Own**

**Speed Round Trivia**

8:00 – 11:00 p.m.

**Evening Social With Karaoke**

## TUESDAY, JAN. 30

6:30 – 10:00 a.m.

**Registration**

7:00 – 7:45 a.m.

**Breakfast Buffet**

7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

**Coffee Service**

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

**General Session**

Keynote Speaker: Matt Degner

*Recognize, Recalibrate, and Re-Envision Your Role in Your District*

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

**Concurrent Session D**

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**Concurrent Session E**

12:15 p.m.

**Powerful Learning Conference Adjourns**

### POST-CONFERENCE SESSION: AGENCY IN ACTION — THE POWER OF ENGAGED LEARNERS: 12:15 – 3:00 P.M.

Join us for a special afternoon session to explore competency-based learning. This add-on session will include lunch and an opportunity to network with professionals who are engaged in competency-based learning. (\$50 per person. Lunch served from 12:15-1:00 p.m.) See page 19 for additional details.



# Featured Speakers

## MARGIE VANDEVEN

**Dr. Margie Vandeven** is Missouri's Commissioner of Education. She is passionate about ensuring that each child has the opportunity to graduate prepared for success. She has more than 30 years of student-centered service in education, including seven at Missouri's top educational post. As commissioner, Dr. Vandeven works collaboratively with a diverse group of stakeholders to improve educational opportunities for Missouri's nearly 900,000 public school students. Dr. Vandeven earned a bachelor's degree in education from Missouri State University and a master's degree in educational administration and supervision from Loyola University Maryland. She also received a doctorate of philosophy in educational leadership from Saint Louis University.



## THOMAS C. MURRAY

After serving at the elementary and secondary levels as both a teacher and a principal, and also serving at the district level, **Thomas C. Murray** now serves as the director of innovation for Future Ready Schools. He has testified before the U.S. Congress and works alongside the U.S. Senate, the White House, the U.S. Department of Education, state departments of education, and school districts throughout the country to implement student-centered learning. A regular conference keynote speaker, he was named one of 20 to Watch by the National School Boards Association in 2016, the National/Global EdTech Leader of the Year in 2018 by EdTech Digest, the Education Thought Leader of the Year in 2017, and the Education Policy Person of the Year in 2015 by the Academy of Arts and Sciences.

## MATT DEGNER

**Matt Degner** has served the Iowa City Community School District since July 2013. He was principal of South East Junior High for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years. Since that time, he has served as director of secondary schools, assistant superintendent, and his current position of superintendent. Degner is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, and he received his master's degree and educational specialist degree from the University of Iowa. He is passionate about building a positive school culture in which student engagement and innovation in education lead to learning for all students. Degner has received the Iowa Technology and Education Connection Administrator of the Year Award and has been a Bammy Award nominee.



# Concurrent Sessions

## CONCURRENT SESSION A MONDAY, JAN. 29 10:00-11:15 A.M.

### ◆ AKN: The Art of Communication

The quality of your communication will make or break the quality of much of your work. From classroom instruction, to working alongside your colleagues, to collaborating with parents, the best teachers and administrators are great communicators. Join keynote speaker Thomas C. Murray for this fun and engaging session about the importance of communication. Walk away with practical ideas that you can use with students and parents to take your communication to the next level.

**Presenter:** Thomas C. Murray, Keynote Speaker

### A1: Sky-High Learning — Drones Transforming Career Technical Education

Come discover how drones are reshaping career technical education (CTE). This session will explore how drones are enhancing hands-on learning, improving technical skills, and preparing students for high-demand careers. The drone industry has experienced significant growth in recent years, and the demand for drone-related jobs also has increased. Participants will learn from real-world success stories and best practices in incorporating drones into educational settings. Participants also will gain a comprehensive understanding of how drones can reshape CTE.

**Presenters:** Linda Stinson, Skilled Technical Sciences Supervisor, DESE; Oren Barnes, Criminal Justice Instructor, Crowder College; Matt Morin, Radio/Television Instructor, Current River Career Center, Doniphan R-I School District; and Chris Edgar, Criminal Justice Instructor, Lake Career & Technical Center, Camdenton R-III School District

### ● A2: The Homesteading Classroom

Food cultivation and preservation is somewhat of a lost art that is regaining popularity. This session will provide

a realistic look at a farm-to-fork approach as applied to the classroom. This can be as simple as planting lettuce during a second grade plant science unit or as extensive as raising animals for meat. The presenter will review resources that include planning for the next school year, incorporating essential skills and workforce development, integrating the approach into existing curriculum, finding resources for information and supplies, and locating available grants.

**Presenter:** Kaylin Bade (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2024 Finalist), Agricultural Science Teacher, Washington Middle School, Washington School District

### ● A3: AI Tools for Teachers

AI is a hot topic of discussion in the world of education. This session will focus on how teachers can use AI tools to differentiate instruction, develop effective assessment items, and create meaningful learning activities for their students. Teachers will leave this session with a lesson idea they can implement immediately in their classrooms. Come learn how AI can be used to increase your efficiency and help you better meet the needs of the learners you serve.

**Presenter:** Bethany Petty (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2022 Semifinalist), Social Studies Teacher, Central High School, Central R-III School District


### A4: Rethinking Assessment in Literature Studies — Using Discussion and Differentiated Projects to Increase Learning and Engagement

Traditional methods of formative and summative assessment have proven effective. However, due to new technologies, they may have lost some of their validity. Students excel when they are able to incorporate their strengths and interests into the classroom, and differentiated processes and products lead to more authentic learning. Asking students to articulate their thoughts and analyses through the creation of differentiated projects, along with structured discussion protocols, can lead to more engagement and more learning. This session will include insights on differentiated and dialogic planning as well as

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# Concurrent Sessions

projects, protocols, and activities that have been used successfully in ELA classrooms.

**Presenters:** Laura Beamer, ELA Teacher, and Ron Steinschriber, ELA Teacher, Ritenour High School, Ritenour School District

## **A5: Painting a Picture of Growth in Gifted Education — Using the MO-GLOs and Portrait of a Gifted Learner**

This session will focus on how the Rockwood R-VI School District is using the Portrait of a Gifted Learner project and the new Missouri Gifted Learner Outcomes (MO-GLOs) in its K-12 program. Come learn how these initiatives have been utilized to reimagine existing curriculum and to write new curriculum. Rockwood R-VI also used the MO-GLOs to create new proficiency scales to better ensure consistent learning targets and expectations for all students. The presenters will talk about where they started from, where they are currently, and where they hope to go in order to have a more complete portrait of their students.

**Presenters:** Denny Rhodes, Director of Gifted/Talented Education, and Paul Husch, Assistant Principal, Center for Creative Learning, Rockwood R-VI School District

## **A6: Creating a Small-School Culture at Any Size**

If you ask the students and teachers at Gerald Elementary School what their favorite part of each week is, most of them would say “family groups!” As schools reach the advanced tiers of PBIS, they look for ways to bring the school and the community together. Gerald Elementary has created multiage groups of students to help build positive relationships with its students, their families, and the community. In this session, participants will discover what family groups look like at our building, how our groups were formed, how they have affected relationships throughout the building and the community, and what family groups could look like at participants’ schools.

**Presenters:** Jennifer Lindemeyer, Counselor, Brad Royle, Principal, Randee Schatz, Teacher, Randi Gehlert, Teacher, and Jena Hunt, Teacher, Gerald Elementary School, Gasconade County R-II School District

## **A7: Castles, Cards, and Connect 4 — Engagement Structures for All Grade Levels**

In this session, participants will have the opportunity to learn new and exciting data-driven engagement strategies. Participants will not only learn, but they will involve themselves in each of the structures and will walk away with a resource to take back to their classrooms the very next day. Come learn about five

new data-based strategies that will fit into any content area and any grade level. Discover how to collect immediate and applicable data while students are highly engaged in lessons and activities.

**Presenters:** Ashley McRoy, Second Grade Teacher, West Elementary School, and Alexandria Muzzey, Curriculum and Instructional Technology Facilitator, Wright City R-II School District

## **A8: Developing Innovative Practices to Create Lifelong Readers**

This session will address strategies for developing lifelong readers by focusing on the reluctant, the below grade level, and the second-language reader. The presenters will share action research as well as scholarly research and will provide useful and practical ways to motivate students to read. In addition, participants will be given time to share their own experiences, pose questions, and learn from one another.

**Presenters:** Karrie Krause, ELA Teacher, Grandview Middle School, Grandview C-4 School District; and Kat Nicolaus, Missouri Teacher Development Specialist, Kansas City RPDC

## **● A9: Building an Innovative Professional Learning Community for Cross-District Collaboration**

Our group of teacher leaders from various school districts has established an innovative professional learning community (PLC). By creating a platform for cross-district collaboration, we aim to elevate the quality of education and student outcomes throughout our region. By providing a space for educators to connect, share ideas, and collaborate on common challenges, this PLC provides opportunities to drive positive change in our members’ respective districts. Join us as we share our journey over the past seven years around the changes made from analyzing data, curriculum, and assessments.

**Presenters:** Sandy Humbyrd, State Grow Your Own Coordinator, Agency for Teaching, Leading, and Learning/Springfield; Jesse Baker (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2021 Semifinalist), Math Teacher, Hurley High School, Hurley R-I School District; Shannon Waldo, Music Teacher, Billings High School, Billings R-IV School District; Jean Lawson (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2019 Finalist), Special Education Teacher, Truman Elementary School, Springfield R-XII School District; Jenny Hernandez, Math Instructional Coach, Hollister R-V School District; and Allison Fleetwood (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2023 Finalist), Theatre Department Head, Nixa School District

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## **A10: Prosocial Education — Empowering Teachers and Students to Create a Positive School Climate**

In today's world, teaching students how to be kind, empathetic, and inclusive is more important than ever. Prosocial education teaches students how to behave in ways that benefit others and improve harmony. This session will explore the benefits of prosocial education including improved teacher and student well-being, increased engagement, improved classroom climate, and improved student achievement. Participants will receive practical strategies for implementing prosocial education in their classrooms and schools.

**Presenters:** Jen Foster, Instructional Consultant, eMINTS National Center, Christi Bergin, Research Professor Emerita, University of Missouri; and Kimberly Greenlee, Title I Reading Teacher, Trojan Intermediate School, Potosi R-III School District

## **A11: We Are LETRS Trained...Now What? Bringing Explicit, Systematic Phonics Instruction Into Practice**

Teaching phonics can be confusing. With so many programs and suggestions clamoring for attention, how can educators know which methods or routines will impact student learning the most? In this interactive session, participants will learn how to utilize various phonics assessments to determine a starting place for instruction. Participants also will discover the core routines of strong phonics learning and will increase their understanding of the importance of meeting students where they are at in their literacy journey. Come hear from a practitioner who has successfully used these principles to increase student growth in reading achievement.

**Presenters:** Erin Baker, Trainer, Missouri Reading Initiative; and Megan Roth, Literacy Coach, Perryville Elementary School, Perry County School District

## **A12: Building Trauma-Sensitive Classrooms and Schools — Seven Strategies for Teachers and Administrators**

The Seven Powers for Conscious Adults create a shift in the way adults see conflict so they can recognize a child's call for help, maintain their composure, and respond consciously in difficult situations. An adult's

ability to self-regulate is the precursor to teaching children social and emotional skills. The school family we build increases connections between adults and children and ensures optimal development and learning for all. In this session, participants will understand the impact of trauma on the brain and behavior, learn how to reach relationship-resistant children, and be able to create a culture of compassion.

**Presenters:** Jill Molli, Master Instructor, Conscious Discipline; and Heather Buckman, Assistant Principal, Ridgeview Elementary School, Liberty School District

## **CONCURRENT SESSION B MONDAY, JAN. 29 2:00-3:15 P.M.**

### **◆ BKN: From Research to Practice — How to Create the Learning Spaces Kids Need**

The pandemic has shifted all aspects of the school experience, including how and where students interact with the learning space. As we continue to rethink our classroom environments, what does research say about learning-space design? How can educators redesign their spaces even when budgets are limited or nonexistent? What is the purpose of such a redesign, and what role should student voice play in the process? Redesigning learning spaces is about understanding how design impacts the brain and learning, not about being pretty for Pinterest. Join keynote speaker Thomas C. Murray to discuss, learn about, and design innovative learning spaces for today's modern learners.

**Presenter:** Thomas C. Murray, Keynote Speaker

### **● B1: Increasing Student Engagement Through Differentiation and Technology in Science and ELA** 📱

Come hear how three Missouri Teacher Development System (MTDS) Teacher Academy attendees have taken the strategies learned from their action research and used them to impact student learning in the classroom. Participants will discover strategies and resources that promote engagement in science and ELA while



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# Concurrent Sessions

differentiating to meet the needs of all learners. This session will equip teachers with the practices and resources needed to instruct students, assist with feedback, integrate technology, and hold all students accountable for their learning.

**Presenters:** Ashlee Utt, Library Media Specialist, Jamestown Elementary School, Hazelwood School District; Whitney Schuenemeyer (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2023 Regional), Biology Teacher, Wright City High School, and Angela Woodson, Assistant Principal/Teacher, East Elementary School, Wright City R-II School District

## ● ■ B2: Applying the Principles of a Grit-and-Growth Mindset to School Transformation

Join a Milken Educator Award recipient and a high school principal as they share how their school transformed its climate and culture while simultaneously implementing a comprehensive competency-based instruction and assessment model. With an emphasis on student agency and a growth mindset, participants will examine a realistic framework that can be adapted to any school or district that is seeking to transform school culture, raise student outcomes, and improve the accuracy and integrity of grading and reporting practices.

**Presenters:** Mark Garascia (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2020 Regional, Milken Educator), Alternative Education and Credit Recovery Teacher, and David Williams, Principal, Hancock High School, Hancock Place School District

## ● B3: Ready, Reset, Go! Getting Innovative With Trauma-Informed Practices

Trauma and stress can influence the way a student feels, thinks, and behaves, which ultimately impacts learning. When traditional methods fall short, we must be innovative in our approach in supporting student behaviors and in helping to promote self-regulation. In this session, participants will gain insight on the basics of the neurosequential model and will use that as the foundation to implement systemic interventions such as Reset Rooms. Come learn strategies that are rooted in research and are easy to customize and implement in your own classroom or school.

**Presenters:** Darbie Valenti Huff (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2017), Professional Developer, Missouri State Teachers Association; and Makayla Mekonnen Beyene, Behavior Interventionist, Carden Park Elementary School, St. Joseph School District

## ● B4: Using Data With Intention

"I have my MAP scores...now what?" This session will guide you in breaking down MAP data into an actionable form and will teach you how to use it to improve instruction and student learning. Participants will discuss topics such as collaborative teaming, data-based decision-making, setting goals, and creating targeted-intervention groups. Participants also will receive user-friendly templates to take back to their districts for immediate use. Come explore the principles of proficient collaboration in data analysis and purposeful planning.

**Presenters:** Regina Moyers (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2022 Regional), Sixth Grade Teacher, and Sara Buckley, Sixth Grade Teacher, Trojan Intermediate School, Potosi R-III School District

## B5: Writing to Learn and Learning to Write — Implementing a Cross-Curricular Model

In 2019, our district began a grassroots effort to embed authentic writing in all classes in one of the most diverse districts per capita in Missouri. Drawing on research from Arizona State University asserting that students benefit from learning how to make claims, cite evidence, and explain their reasoning in all subjects, our work began with the core belief that writing is a vital pathway to improved academic performance. This session will focus on the *why* and *how* of our work and will include practical takeaways for schools looking to replicate our cross-curricular writing model. Come learn how writing supports learning in all subject areas.

**Presenters:** Anna Barton, Director of Instructional Effectiveness; Matt Loomis, Social Studies Teacher, and Lindsay Jovanovich, Library Media Specialist, Bayless Junior High, Bayless School District

## B6: Utilizing a Professional Therapy Dog Team to Support Students and Staff in Your School

Come learn how a professional therapy dog team can *pawsitively* impact the staff and students in your school. In this session, participants will discover how such a team can support cognitive development, student wellness, mental health, and students experiencing trauma. Participants also will receive the resources and examples needed to begin their own journey with a professional therapy dog team.

**Presenters:** Tracy Barger, Assistant Superintendent; Kaitlyn Norman, Counselor, Klarisa Norman, Teacher, Kali Collins, PBIS Coordinator, and Jeremy Barger, Principal, El Dorado Springs Elementary School, El Dorado Springs R-II School District

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## **B7: Striving for More in a PBIS Gold-Level School**

In this session, participants will hear from a team of teachers who brought forth new ideas and refreshed PBIS in a building already at the gold level. Even though our school was already at a wonderful place with its PBIS implementation, we knew there was always room for improvement. We made it our mission to freshen up PBIS schoolwide, create a better school climate and culture, form stronger relationships with students, and strengthen the bond between our school and the community. Come learn about our staff PBIS training, our schoolwide PBIS money system, the PBIS school language, student recognition, and family-group Fridays.

**Presenters:** Ciara Rooney, Second Grade Teacher, Terra Wheeler, Second Grade Teacher, and Jenee LeStarge, Third Grade Teacher, Owensville Elementary School, Gasconade County R-II School District

## **★ B8: Teacher Collaborative Learning Teams — Working Interdependently for Student Success**

This session will delve into how our teachers work in collaborative teams – from grade-level teams to cross-disciplinary teacher-leadership groups – to create student-centered learning opportunities and to ensure that all students are learning and growing. Learn how a shared vision and mission drive our commitment to excellence. Discover how these teams are organized, how they function, the work they produce, and the support they receive. Team members will share student activities that engage diverse learners and support social and emotional growth. Come learn how we collaborate to ensure academic success for all students.

**Presenters:** Gina Piccinni, Principal, Mandy Kelly, Instructional Coach, Angela Guccione, Fifth Grade Teacher, and Monica Mantler, Fifth Grade Teacher, Pierremont Elementary School, Parkway School District

## **B9: Committing to the Commitments — How to Build a Strong Team to Improve Student Learning**

Uncover the power that actionable collective commitments can be for unlocking successful teams. In this session, the presenters will unpack how to set the stage for clear communication, productive conflict, and conditions for highly effective PLCs to emerge in order to better support student learning. Learn how to identify the needs of team members and how to write collective commitments with procedures for accountability. After this session, your team will be able to identify areas of clarity that will pave the way for better adult communication to support the learning of all students.

**Presenters:** Jenny Bentz, Seventh Grade ELA Teacher, Kelli Roszell, Seventh Grade ELA Teacher, and Mary McAfee, Seventh Grade ELA Teacher, Neosho Junior High School, Neosho School District

## **B10: Achieving Student-Centered Success — Using Data to Optimize PBL, SEL, and Rtl Practices**

In this session, explore the dynamic intersection of education's three powerful pillars – project-based learning (PBL), social-emotional learning (SEL), and response to intervention (Rtl). Join us to discover how harnessing the power of data can revolutionize your educational approach. Participants will receive research-based strategies for utilizing data in order to enhance PBL, SEL, and Rtl practices. The presenters will demonstrate how data-driven insights can be applied to personalize learning, measure growth, enhance teacher decision-making, and optimize resources.

**Presenters:** Kirsten Lipari-Braman, Chief Executive Officer, Sean Klippel, Vice Principal, Michael Carroll, Executive Director of SEL and Character Development, and Jennifer Lile, Kindergarten Teacher, Gordon Parks Elementary Charter School

## **B11: Unlocking Unlimited Possibilities — Embracing the Ted Lasso Approach to Leadership**

In this captivating session, participants will delve into the leadership of Ted Lasso. Come embark on a journey to uncover the transformative *Leading Like Lasso* philosophy, and breathe new life into your school's environment. You will acquire the skills to nurture a culture where the bounds of potential are ceaselessly expanded. Are you prepared to embrace the challenge, believe unwaveringly, achieve consistently, and lead with the indomitable spirit of Lasso himself? Discover how to cultivate an unshakable self-belief, encourage others to harness their own potential, and learn actionable strategies to tackle challenges with newfound resilience.

**Presenters:** Patrick Keenoy, Principal, Rogers Elementary School, and Michael Wheeler, Assistant Principal, Bernard Middle School, Mehlville R-IX School District

## **B12: Upside-Down Teaching in Math**

Teaching math upside-down is a new and innovative concept to some teachers, and it is most certainly new to parents and families. The presenters have researched and studied in order to create a systematic K-12 approach that helps their students become critical thinkers. Come learn about the upside-down teaching

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# Concurrent Sessions

model, how all learners are supported, and how the instructional practices have grown using both research and the supports given to teachers.

**Presenters:** Susan Argotsinger, K-12 Math Curriculum Facilitator; Bailey Hiatt, Sixth Grade Math Teacher, Horizon Elementary School; and Lexi Swearingin, Second Grade Teacher, Eagle Heights Elementary School, Smithville R-II School District

## **B13: Effectively Teaching With AI — Supporting Students for the Future**

Do you have questions about how to teach with artificial intelligence? Do you have ideas for using AI that you would like to share? Come discover strategies from educators about how to incorporate AI effectively into your classroom so that your students are prepared for their future careers. In this session, participants will learn how students can demonstrate proficiency in using AI tools and technologies that are relevant to their chosen CTE or STEM fields. Participants also will understand how students can develop the ability to adapt to and harness emerging AI technologies in their careers.

**Presenters:** Lauren Hays, Associate Professor of Educational Technology, University of Central Missouri; Oren Barnes, Criminal Justice Instructor, Crowder College; and Linda Stinson, Skilled Technical Sciences Supervisor, DESE

## **B14: I Am a Literacy Coach...Now What?**

In this session, discover various ways to strengthen the literacy-coaching practices at your school. Our discussions will revolve around essential topics such as exploring coaching approaches, analyzing student data to inform instruction, building positive teacher relationships, and establishing productive student-centered team collaboration. If you want the literacy coaching work in your building to be effective, intentional, and targeted, then this session is for you.

**Presenters:** Paulette Baker, Trainer, Angela Regan, Trainer, Missouri Reading Initiative; and Jeana Wise, Instructional Coach, Spainhower Primary School, Marshall School District

## **CONCURRENT SESSION C MONDAY, JAN. 29 3:30-4:45 P.M.**

### **● C1: Secondary Small-Group Instruction That Works**

Student learning accelerates when learners feel safe, supported, and seen within the classroom. Competency-based learning promises to provide this individualized education for every student. But, how can high school educators build this environment for hundreds of students each semester? By reframing our understanding of small-group instruction at the secondary level, teachers can prioritize high-impact strategies, differentiate for all students including English learners and accelerated learners, and increase student and teacher satisfaction. After this session, you will return to your classroom with field-tested models of small-group instruction along with management strategies for confident practice.

**Presenter:** Christina Andrade Melly (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2023), English Language Arts Teacher, Ritenour High School, Ritenour School District

### **● C2: Unlocking Potential — Meeting the Needs of Gifted Students in All Classrooms**








In this session, discover strategies for teaching gifted students effectively. Participants will be able to debunk myths, avoid pitfalls, personalize learning, address social-emotional needs, and foster collaboration. Come gain a deeper understanding of the unique needs and characteristics of gifted students. Learn practical, research-based strategies for effectively teaching gifted students in general education. You will walk away from this session with practical tools and insights to empower your teaching.

**Presenters:** Rachel Hensley (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2022 Semifinalist), Gifted and Talented Educator, Carl Junction Intermediate School, and Kristi Alford, English Teacher, Carl Junction High School, Carl Junction R-I School District

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## C3: Standards-Based Grading — A Better Way to Communicate Progress

Have you ever wondered how standards-based grading actually works in a classroom? After taking their math and Spanish classrooms from traditional grading to a standards-based system, the presenters have been through it all. In this session, participants will understand how to evaluate assessments by standard rather than by question, and they also will have the opportunity to practice this skill. With standards-based grading, some students succeed who have traditionally failed due to minor errors that are not related to grade-level standards. By the end of this session, you will have the information you need to amp up your classroom grading.

**Presenters:** Kelsey Koenig, Math Teacher, and Heather Puerto, Spanish Teacher, Wydown Middle School, Clayton School District

## C4: Cutting-Edge Curriculum

Join this session and learn how our team utilizes Google Drive to create and organize a K-5 curriculum that is tied to the Missouri Learning Standards. Through our teacher-involved curriculum process, we create scope and sequences, common assessments, unit-planning documents, and proficiency scales for each grade level using our standards-based approach. Participants will walk away with templates they can adopt and utilize within their own districts.

**Presenters:** Scott Turner, Instructional Coach, Michael Henson, Director of Curriculum and Instructional Technology, Candice Sullivan, Instructional Coach, and Lisa Supancic, Instructional Coach, Waynesville R-VI School District

## C5: Leveraging MTSS and PLCs for Collective Efficacy and Increased Student Outcomes

Since the pandemic, our school has been tightening its multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) process and has reinvigorated its PLC work. This approach has led to significant student achievement growth that has surpassed pre-pandemic levels. Staff members have received PLC professional development, coaching, and learning walks focused on small-group universal and supplemental instruction. In this session, participants will receive a tool to help grade-level and interventionist teams self-assess their data-based decision-making processes and how they respond to data. Learn how to build collective efficacy as students become *our* students rather than *my* students.

**Presenters:** Angeline O'Neal-Hogrefe, Principal, Catherine Whitt, Literacy Coach, Ken Peacock, Primary Teacher, and Amanda Boxx, Fourth Grade Teacher, Robinson Elementary School, Kirkwood R-VII School District

## C6: Writing for the Win — One School's Journey Toward Writing Proficiency

Writing is one of the most powerful skills for students to acquire, yet it is the most difficult for many educators to teach. Our school's semester-long journey outlines the strategies we used to successfully move learners through the writing continuum. This includes identifying writing proficiency at each grade level, collecting writing samples, scoring writing collaboratively, creating SMART goals to track progress, and implementing high-yield strategies to improve instruction. Educator excitement and collective efficacy have grown as more and more students become confident writers. Leave this session with steps to transform your students' writing today!

**Presenters:** Karen Snider, Principal, Natalie Blanck, Instructional Coach, Center Elementary School, Center School District; and Sue Herrera, Retired Principal, Hickman Mills School District

## C7: Innovative Instruction — Updating the Classroom for Today's Learners

In this session, participants will learn how Pirate Academy applies personalized learning and competency-based grading specific to math and science to impact the academic and social-emotional growth of students. Discover strategies used for instruction and assessment and for building and maintaining a healthy classroom culture. While the presenters will focus on math and science, many of the same strategies can be used in other subject areas. Participants will engage in thoughtful conversations and will walk away with ideas on how to adopt strategies that work in both traditional and nontraditional learning settings.

**Presenters:** Sarah Moran, Principal, Emily Difani, Math/Science Teacher, and Natalie Walker, Science Teacher, Holman Middle School, Pattonville R-III School District

## C8: Unlocking Student Mastery — Utilizing Proficiency Scales

In this session, participants will learn how to harness the world of proficiency scales to foster deeper understanding and skill mastery. Come explore how proficiency scales provide clear benchmarks that enable students to track their progress and take ownership of



# Concurrent Sessions

their learning. Through practical demonstrations and hands-on activities, participants will learn to create and implement proficiency scales tailored to specific subject areas and grade levels. Discover how proficiency scales level the playing field by removing teacher bias and clarifying expectations for all students using standards-based learning targets.

**Presenters:** Melisa Dodd, Instructional Coach, Ozark Junior High School, and Katherine Morrison, Instructional Coach, Ozark High School, Ozark R-VI School District

## C9: Maximizing Tech in the Classroom

When used purposefully, technology is a powerful tool for promoting learning. Technology should be utilized to increase engagement and to support the individual needs of all students. It also allows for instant feedback and assessment results. Come discover the research behind using technology in the classroom and ways to infuse technology to enhance student learning. Effective teachers know that technology tools do not drive pedagogy decisions – outcomes drive pedagogy decisions. Participants in this session will learn the difference between a learning standard and a learning intention and will understand which strategies help us best meet our learning outcomes.

**Presenters:** Heather DeLaurent, Library/Media Specialist, Camdenton Middle School, Camdenton R-III School District; and Shayla Viele, Adult and Community Education/Afterschool Services Coordinator, Lake Career and Technical Center

## C10: Building Your District's Instructional Playbook – A Tool for Coaching High-Impact Instructional Strategies

In this session, participants will explore the concept of an instructional playbook and will learn why it is a game-changer for improving teaching practices. Discover what goes into creating your own playbook filled with high-yield instructional strategies that make a difference in the classroom. Also, understand how to use this playbook as a coaching and collaboration tool to provide focus and elevate the quality of your instruction. By the end of this session, you will have the foundation to start building a playbook that can transform teaching and learning in your school and district.

**Presenters:** Tyler Bruns, Instructional Coach, Jessica Young, Instructional Coach, Crystal Monath, Instructional Coach, and Melissa Brixey, Instructional Coach, Pleasant Hill R-III School District

## C11: PD Playmakers

In this session, learn how to facilitate professional development (PD) like a pro, and walk away with dozens of new engagement strategies for adult learners. Participants will receive the contents of the presenter's playbook – icebreakers, energizers, activities, brain breaks, strategies, and more ideas that will take their PD planning to the next level. Come to this session ready to understand the key components of adult learning, implement new tools that will improve the quality of PD in your district, and learn with colleagues.

**Presenter:** Staci Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Gasconade County R-II School District

## C12: Project-Based Learning for Success-Ready Learners – Competency-Based Learning for All

Are you curious about PBL? Attend this session to learn the *why*, *how*, and *what* of PBL. Come take an inside look at both elementary and middle school PBL, and discover the components of high-quality PBL while meeting state standards in an engaging and meaningful way. This session is for all educators who are interested in creating PBL environments at their schools. You will walk away from this session with a wealth of resources to continue on your PBL journey.

**Presenters:** Stephanie Clippard, Gifted Education Teacher, Walden Middle School; Jen Muchow, Professional Studies Facilitator; Kelly Konrad, Gifted Education Teacher, Hopewell Elementary School; Jana Holt, Gifted Education Teacher, Chinn Elementary School; and Ashley McWhinnie, Gifted Education Teacher, English Landing Elementary School, Park Hill School District

## ★ C13: Missouri Purple Star Designation – Connecting With and Supporting Your Community

Join this session to discuss one district's journey toward becoming a Missouri Purple Star designated school district. Come hear how it opened our eyes to the unique needs of students and families connected to our nation's military. Participants will discuss the specifics for becoming a designated district; but more importantly, they will discover how this action can support the students and families who need our help the most. This eye-opening session will touch your heart, and it will also give you the tools you need to become the next Missouri Purple Star designated school district.

**Presenters:** Ron Farrow, Assistant Superintendent; Joshua Phipps, Principal, and Patrick Minner, Social Studies Teacher, De Soto Junior High School, De Soto School District

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# Concurrent Sessions

## **C14: Learning Blade — Bring STEM, CS, CTE, and Career Exploration to Life in the Classroom**

Learning Blade is a free STEM/CS/CTE and career-exploration resource available to Missouri's teachers. This system of interactive online lessons, lesson plans, and an intro to coding course is aligned to the academic and computer science (CS) standards of grades 5-9. Students learn about high-demand careers and technology while applying their math, science, ELA, and social studies skills to real-world scenarios. In this session, participants will learn how to make the best use of more than 400 online lessons, more than 100 hours of PBL activities, and the intro to coding course. (For the best experience, request your free account before the session at [www.learningblade.com/mo](http://www.learningblade.com/mo).)

**Presenters:** Michele Linch, State Director, Learning Blade; and Marissa Cochran, STEM Gifted and Talented Teacher, Knob Noster R-VIII School District

## **CONCURRENT SESSION D TUESDAY, JAN. 30 9:30-10:45 A.M.**

### ◆ **DKN: Eliminating Your Average**

As we enter the second semester and deal with winter weather, some days we (and our organizations) are not operating at our very best. How can we overcome our average? In this session, participants will learn a tuning protocol to assist them in leveraging the collective efficacy of educator teams to move from average to excellence in their organizations. As we know, teams that believe in the ability to make a difference can make innovative education happen.

**Presenter:** Matt Degner, Keynote Speaker

### ● **D1: Writing About Hometown Heroes for an Authentic Purpose and Audience**

Using history is ideal for reading instruction as it introduces students to historical topics and allows them to build knowledge, expand their vocabulary, and experience different perspectives about an event from our past. In this session, the presenters will discuss their journey to find and interview people from their community who served in America's wars. These interviews became two published books that told the stories of some members of our greatest generation. Participants will learn how writing for an authentic purpose and audience inspires student commitment and increases literacy learning.

**Presenters:** Greg Kester (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2024), Social Studies Teacher, and Melissa Cordia, ELA Teacher, Potosi High School, Potosi R-III School District

### **D2: Exploring Summer Experiences — Intervention and Enrichment**

Come explore how to use the summer months to engage all learners. In this session, participants will learn about two summer programs meant to address unique learning needs – Park Hill Summer Explorers and STEAM Summer Enrichment. The Summer Explorers program was developed to close gaps and build student confidence in foundational reading and math skills. STEAM Summer Enrichment is an interest-based experience focused on science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) and is meant to grow future thinkers and leaders. Through structured brainstorming, participants will dream big and will leave with implementable ideas for future summer programs of their own.

**Presenters:** Christina Courtney, Director of Online and Educational Programs; Katie Betts, Math Interventionist, Tiffany Ridge Elementary School; Angela Doss, Principal, English Landing Elementary School; and Jennifer Wiley, Instructional Coach, Park Hill School District

### ● ■ **D3: Leader Metamorphosis — Adapting Leadership Roles for a Bigger Impact**

In this session, participants will learn about a cohort of MTDS teachers who saw a need for creating a larger support system for educators in communities throughout the St. Louis region. The presenters will discuss their initial goals, experiences, adaptive leadership styles, strategies, and the impact so far. This session is for anyone who wants to broaden their learning community. Participants will be able to utilize program skill sets to create collaborative teams across districts and regions in order to develop best practices. Come join us as we dive into the practice and reflection of our program's first year.

**Presenters:** Whitney Schuenemeyer (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2023 Regional), Biology Teacher, Wright City High School, Wright City R-II School District; Mark Garascia (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2020 Regional, Milken Educator), Alternative Education and Credit Recovery Teacher, Hancock High School, Hancock Place School District; Rebecca Durbin, Eighth Grade ELA Teacher, Selvidge Middle School, Rockwood R-VI School District; Erin Graves (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2021 Semifinalist), Science Teacher, Herculanum High School, Dunklin R-V School District; Tim Levine, Math

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# Concurrent Sessions

Teacher, Webster Groves High School, Webster Groves School District; Diane Gillaspie, MTDS Facilitator, EducationPlus/St. Louis RPDC

## ■ D4: Implementing Proficiency Scales With Students to Improve Achievement

In this session, participants will learn about a Milken Educator Award recipient's journey over the past four years of implementing proficiency scales and standards-referenced grading (SRG) in order to improve student achievement. Discover core strategies including the creation of student-friendly scales, the integration of SRG terminology into daily lessons, the development and utilization of assessments aligned with proficiency scales, and the active involvement of students in monitoring their progress and in goal-setting.

**Presenter:** Melissa Fike, Secondary Mathematics Coordinator, Columbia Public Schools

## ● D5: I Made It Five Years — How Can I Make Another 25?

After this session, participants will walk away with ideas to help them reach retirement. As teachers struggle with mental health and different expectations from districts, parents, students, and administrators, it is important for them to take care of themselves. In this engaging session, the presenter will share different activities and will then allow participants to offer what they do to survive in order to *get to 25*.

**Presenter:** Albert Sanders (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2019 Semifinalist), PK Teacher, Adams Elementary School, St. Louis School District

## ► D6: Whole-District Sustainability — Leading With Equity, Joy, and Well-Being

Come learn about strategies implemented throughout the University City School District that have led to demonstrable positive gains in health and wellness, environmental impact, and sustainability literacy. A recognized national leader in the implementation of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model and a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools honoree, the University City district shows what can happen when a commitment to equity, joy, and well-being drives decisions. Come learn what well-being and joy really mean in the context of school climate.

**Presenters:** Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, Superintendent, University City School District; and Lesli Moylan, Executive Director, Missouri Environmental Education Association

## D7: Supporting, Helping, and Inspiring New Educators — Helping New Teachers S.H.I.N.E. 📱

Helping new teachers get started in a school district takes planning. Supporting beginning teachers in the profession takes a village. Come learn how the Moberly School District has implemented its Supporting, Helping, and Inspiring New Educators (S.H.I.N.E.) program and how the district helps its newest professionals find support during the challenges of launching their career. Participants will walk away from this session with district- and building-level strategies for supporting beginning teachers.

**Presenter:** Tara Link, New Teacher Induction Coordinator/ Instructional Coach, Moberly School District

## D8: SPED Specially Designed Instruction — How Do You Know It Is Being Delivered to Your Student?

In this session, come learn what to look for, what questions to ask, and how to understand and utilize the principles of specially designed instruction (SDI) in general and special education classrooms. Participants will discover the importance of knowing what good SDI looks like in the general education environment and the special education environment. Participants also will walk away with resources to use when observing SDI in classrooms, as well as strategies for providing feedback to teachers as a result of these observations.

**Presenters:** Karla Arnold, Director of Innovation and Learning, Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education; Elizabeth Smith, Director of Special Services/ Federal Programs, Reeds Spring R-IV School District; and Jeanne Rothermel, Special Education Compliance Consultant, EducationPlus/St. Louis RPDC

## D9: Surviving to Thriving — Trauma Support Teams

Trauma responsive, trauma aware, trauma informed, trauma sensitive – what do all of these terms mean? More importantly, how can we develop the foundational knowledge of what trauma is in order to develop innovative and responsive systems that support all students? In this session, participants will take a journey with a rural school and an urban school that took trauma-informed knowledge and designed building-specific systems to create safe, inclusive environments where students are able to go from surviving to thriving.

**Presenters:** Carolyn Hall, SW-PBS Consultant, Northwest RPDC; Amanda Durbin, Behavior Interventionist, Edison Elementary School, St. Joseph School District; and Emily Petersen, Elementary and Middle School Principal, Mound City R-II School District

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# Concurrent Sessions

## D10: Maslow Before Bloom — How Collaborative Cultures Lead to Positive Changes

Representatives from the McMillan Early Learning Center will share their multiyear journey of restructuring building processes to meet the social and emotional (as well as academic) needs of their students. Through a restructuring of counseling and intervention practices, all students had access to social and emotional support, which resulted in huge gains in academic achievement. Using outside-the-box practices and data collection, more students were supported socially and emotionally, leading to positive and successful classroom-learning experiences. Participants will walk away from this session with ideas to implement in their own buildings.

**Presenters:** Casey Echelmeier, Assistant Principal, Anne Billington, Principal, and Misty Werkmeister, School Counselor, McMillan Early Learning Center, Mexico School District

## D11: Care and Feeding of the Brain

As learning scientists, teachers are in a unique position to truly change the brain of each student. Research in the field of mind, brain, and education offers a multitude of practical strategies that can be applied in almost any learning situation to promote learning, enhance memory, advance critical thinking, develop a brain-friendly physical environment, and build greater confidence. As educators, it is incumbent upon us to use this information to improve every learning situation for our students. This session will offer a multitude of research-based practical strategies that teachers can use immediately in the classroom to ensure that every student's brain is being nurtured.

**Presenter:** Denise Ford, Gifted Specialist, North Kirkwood Middle School, Kirkwood R-VII School District

## D12: Cortical Visual Impairment — Red Flags and the BRITE Act

With the passage of the BRITE Act, many school districts feel lost regarding how to complete the required evaluations for students with visual impairments. This session will provide participants with a basic knowledge of neurological visual impairments and will offer techniques to assist with building successful programming for affected students. Receive proven strategies using data collected

through observation and instruction. Come learn how to recognize visual-processing concerns and how to address requirements of the BRITE Act for your students with visual impairments.

**Presenters:** Alex Olson, Director of Vision Services, and Danielle Schulte, Director of Therapy and Early Intervention Services, Children's Center for the Visually Impaired

## D13: Creating a Collaborative Literacy Culture With TeachingBooks

Empower students, teachers, reading and literacy coaches, and families with resources that directly enrich the literacy work performed at your school. Attend this session to experience how the TeachingBooks resource perpetuates leadership, builds schoolwide collaboration, and promotes reading. Learn how to engage all readers and preview titles with author videos, discussion guides, book trailers, and vocabulary lists. TeachingBooks is provided for free by the Missouri State Library to all residents, educators, and libraries in our state.


**Presenters:** Kym Davick, Manager of Implementation and Training, TeachingBooks; and Lysha Thompson, Youth Services Consultant, Missouri State Library

## CONCURRENT SESSION E TUESDAY, JAN. 30 11:00 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

### E1: Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

Join the leadership team from the Fulton Early Childhood Center to learn how a balance of high expectations and developmentally appropriate practices can raise achievement and readiness skills in young children. Watch as we pull together all of the pieces into a cohesive system that will become a natural part of what you do every day for students. In this session, participants will gain strategies to develop assessment-capable learners in the early childhood setting and beyond.

**Presenters:** Jen Meyerhoff, Principal, Abby Quick, Preschool Teacher, Shannon Fisher, Preschool Teacher, and Liz Hess, ECSE Teacher, Fulton Early Childhood Center, Fulton School District

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# Concurrent Sessions

## **E2: Taking on Team Dysfunction in PLCs — Building and Sustaining Functioning Teams**

Over time, has your PLC been through leadership changes and challenges? Has it been overshadowed by other priorities? This can happen to any team given time and circumstances. Come hear how Windsor High School has addressed collaborative culture, accountability, and results-oriented teams. After reading *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* by Patrick Lencioni, our leadership team made the commitment to take on each dysfunction with intentionality and action research. By isolating team dysfunctions using this theoretical model, participants will see how strategies to repair and rebuild become evident and reusable in sustaining highly functioning PLCs.

**Presenters:** Alex DeMatteis, Assistant Principal, Windsor High School, and Julie Schubert, Curriculum Director, Windsor School District

## **★ E3: Earning the Missouri Purple Star Designation for Your School or District**

Come learn how to support the military children in your school or district and be recognized for your efforts. The Missouri Purple Star designation is earned by military-friendly school districts or buildings that demonstrate a significant commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Districts or individual buildings that earn this designation receive a special Purple Star recognition to display on-site (and on their website). This session will walk participants step-by-step through how to provide military children and their families with the resources they need.

**Presenters:** Melinda Aholt, Principal, Tyler Schimpf, Teacher, Blair Oaks Middle School; and Amanda Yoder, District Data and PowerSchool Coordinator, Blair Oaks R-II School District

## **● E4: Teacher Truths — A Discussion With Teachers for Teachers**

Missouri Teacher of the Year representatives will discuss successful classroom strategies, the climate and culture of schools, and the state of the teaching profession. This interactive session will allow participants to ask questions of a panel of expert educators. Discover how to develop successful, research-based classroom strategies for student learning and classroom management; and learn about advocacy for students and for the teaching profession as a whole on both the local and state levels.

**Presenters:** Melissa Grandel (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2020), Language Arts Teacher, Fordland High School, Fordland R-III School District; Darrion Cockrell (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2021), Physical Education Teacher, Crestwood Elementary School, Lindbergh School District; James Young (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2022), Director of Education, First Christian Church of Florissant; and Christina Andrade Melly (Missouri Teacher of the Year 2023), English Language Arts Teacher, Ritenour High School, Ritenour School District

## **E5: Teaching the Holocaust in Missouri Schools — The Missouri Holocaust Education and Awareness Act**


Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, all Missouri districts will be required to teach about the Holocaust in grades 6-12. The Missouri Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission has worked closely with DESE to create a curriculum framework of instruction with suggested resources for teaching the Holocaust. This framework is being piloted currently by Missouri teachers. In this session, participants will receive details about the legislation, information on the pilot program, background on effective Holocaust education pedagogy, and resources to help implement Holocaust education in their curriculum.

**Presenters:** Dana Humphrey, Member, Dee Dee Simon, Chair, Missouri Holocaust Education and Awareness Commission; Helen Turner, Director of Education, St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum; and Laura Patton, Program Associate, Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

## **E6: Aspiring Innovators — Solving Real-World Problems**

This session will introduce an innovative incubator course that engages students in creating their own design and research problems. This course empowers students to work collaboratively with organizations and businesses in their community in order to find real solutions to problems. In this session, participants will brainstorm and plan for possible businesses and organizations in their own communities that they might be able to leverage for student partnerships. Participants also will plan for ways in which they can replicate and implement the incubator curriculum in their own schools or districts.

**Presenters:** Niki Scott, Community Partnerships Facilitator; and Brett Blanton, Aspiring Innovators Facilitator, LEAD Innovation Studio, Park Hill School District

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## E7: Using Online Interventions to Address Summer Learning Loss in Science and Math

Following the remote learning implemented in 2020, more students than ever were impacted by summer learning loss. To fight this trend, weekly online math and science review lessons were provided to rising seventh graders over the 10-week summer break. A test group, a summer computer-based intervention group, and a control group completed spring semester pre-assessments and fall semester post-assessments to measure the change in math and science knowledge. Because of this intervention, the summer slide was reduced and even reversed for many in this four-year study. Come learn how summer learning loss impacts populations differently, and receive strategies to address this issue across all populations in math and science.

**Presenter:** Robert Shaw, Seventh Grade Science Teacher, STEAM Academy Middle School, Ferguson-Florissant R-II School District

## E8: Charting New Horizons to Cultivate a Positive School Culture

Join administrators from Horizon Elementary School and learn about building a strong climate and culture for your staff, students, parents, and community. Discover positive ways you can make small changes that have a huge impact on student growth and staff morale. Over the past two years, our school has implemented peer coaching, strong visible leadership, a proactive focus on positive behavior, and meaningful learning opportunities for staff. And, most importantly, we have fun! Come learn how to build stronger staff relationships and grow from one another.

**Presenters:** Kristi Mellon, Principal, and Taylor Jahn, Assistant Principal, Horizon Elementary School, Smithville R-II School District

## E9: Transition Skill Development for Successful Employment

Come learn how the collaborative relationship between the University of Missouri's Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) program and Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation prepares students with disabilities for individual success. In this session, participants will explore methods of teaching employability skills in the areas of work-based learning, work readiness, self-advocacy, job exploration, and postsecondary

enrollment. Discover how these services and resources have helped students in their successful transition from school to work.

**Presenters:** Amy Siekerman, Director, Amy Bowen, Manager, Youth Services, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, DESE; and Kimberly Gee, Director, Pre-Employment Transition Services, University of Missouri

## E10: Elevating Your Expertise — Customized Professional Development


This session will help school leaders learn how to implement customized professional development opportunities for all staff. During the 2023-24 school year, Mehlville High School has implemented customized professional development strands in partnership with EducationPlus consultants and Special School District coaches. These strands allow teachers to select areas of study they are passionate about. By empowering our teachers to choose their own professional development path, our school has fostered a culture of continuous learning, which has led to an overall positive impact on student learning.

**Presenters:** Abby Makowsky, Assistant Principal, Mehlville High School, Mehlville R-IX School District; Erin Lawson, Professional Learning Specialist, Rob Greenhaw, MELL Instructional Specialist, Tanya Garcia, District Continuous Improvement Consultant, and Renee Trotier, Missouri Leadership Development Specialist, EducationPlus/St. Louis RPDC

## E11: Just Not My Vibe — What to Do When Kids Don't Connect With the Content

Students walk into our classrooms with beliefs about the content we teach and their relationship with it. As teachers, we must find ways to engage and promote learning even when our students hold preconceived ideas about their abilities or the intrinsic value of the material. This session will explore the research behind student perceptions and will reveal practiced and evidence-based ways to elicit a learning investment by building classroom culture and utilizing engagement strategies. These data-proven practices can be replicated in any grade 6-12 classroom.

**Presenters:** Kelli Nicholson, MTDS Specialist, Southeast RPDC; and Joseph Garrity, Instructional Coach, Fredericktown High School, Fredericktown R-I School District

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## E12: Teacher Advocacy in Missouri

MTDS Teacher Leader Advocates is a model for teacher leadership that helps develop teacher leaders who can advocate for and support their vocation through professional learning and experience. This networking group allows teachers to expand their influence in instruction, diversity, policy, and community leadership. An MTDS Teacher Leader Advocate will support communities and governmental bodies in the framing and revision of policies and procedures that promote the well-being of school districts in Missouri. Come learn about this program and discuss the various issues that impact the teaching profession.

**Presenters:** Terri Steffes, Teacher Development Specialist, Heart of Missouri RPDC; Ashley Angle, Kindergarten Teacher, Pioneer Trail Elementary School, Jefferson City School District; Sarah Worth, Special Education Teacher, Rebecca Boone Elementary School, Warren County R-III School District; and Clara Gravett, Science Teacher, Camdenton High School, Camdenton R-III School District



## POST-CONFERENCE TUESDAY, JAN. 30 12:15-3:00 P.M.

### POST: Agency in Action — The Power of Engaged Learners

Personalized competency-based learning is a mindset that students and adults use to engage in meaningful learning. Research informs thoughtful system design that supports student agency in mastering important learning. Competency-based learning also promotes teacher agency in the instructional process. Come engage with the Success-Ready Students Network facilitation team and educators from districts throughout Missouri on how they are using this mindset to support every student in being ready for high school, college, career, and the workplace. (\$50 per person. Lunch served from 12:15-1:00 p.m.)

**Facilitators:** Mike Fulton, Lead Facilitator, Pam Hedgpeth, Facilitator, and Charles Pearson, Facilitator, Success-Ready Students Network



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