

Mid-Atlantic

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Christian Schools Association



“WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A CHILD?”

ISAIAH 48:17

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

KEYNOTE: Jeff Keaton, *President, Renewation*

- “Battling for Hearts and Minds” (Morning)
- “Characteristics of a Vibrant Christian School” (Afternoon)

SESSIONS:

Jeff Keaton **FOR ADMINISTRATORS**

President, Renewation

- **Developing Dynamic Donor Relationships** - Jeff will give administrators a crash course in effective donor development. He will share lessons learned through formal training and hard knocks. You will leave with a greater hope for successful fund raising as you grow your Christian school.

Dr. Roger Erdvig

Director of Worldview Education, Author – Summit Ministries

- **A Vision for Biblical Worldview Immersion in the Classroom and School** - This workshop casts the vision for moving beyond Biblical Integration and briefly reviews the //four Central Teaching Commitments of Biblical worldview immersion.
- **Spiritual Formation and Biblical Worldview Formation** - Christian school personnel often struggle to determine and communicate how the different facets of Christian spiritual formation relate to the school. The purpose of this workshop is to help clarify this issue so that leaders can align their school’s efforts with the most impactful roles that Christian schools can have in the spiritual formation of their students.

Jonathan Nazigian

Head of School – Wilmington Christian School

- **Teaching Identity: A Biblical Approach to a Cultural Crossroads (Part 1 of 2)** - Who am I really? And who are my students? Identity is more than pronouns, politics, & public bathrooms. These questions have far-ranging repercussions in our world and on the social and emotional well-being of our students. This 2-part will examine a biblical understanding of how God has designed each person, and practical ways to train our students, of all ages, to, not only live out their identity, but also how to articulate a biblically bold and Christlike compassionate response to this hot button cultural issue.
- **Teaching Identity: A Biblical Approach to a Cultural Crossroads (Part 2 of 2)**

Tyrone Williams

Crisis Community Liaison and Trainer – Access Services

- **Too Much at Once: Maintaining Wellness During Times of Crisis** - This training will equip participants around strategies for maintaining mental wellness for themselves and others (students) during difficult circumstances. Concepts from within both the mental health field and faith community will be synthesized to provide an integrated approach to wellness.
- **The Key to Covering the Heart** - This training will serve as an introduction to the intense practice being a disciple. Participants will examine the ministry of Jesus Christ and use his teachings to learn practical ways of engagement through discipling relationships.

2024 SESSIONS & SPEAKERS

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SESSIONS (CONT.):

Dr. Mark Coté

Director – Safe Place Ministry, LLC

- **Helping Students Make Meaning in a World of Grief** - Resilience, grit, and endurance as concepts have their basis in research, experience, and biblical wisdom. This seminar will similarly consider spiritual fortitude as both a complementary and distinct focus for teaching children how to make meaning in a world of grief.
- **Keeping Safe Pasture for Personhood in the Classroom** - Safety protocols dominate public life, including school communities. It's a human longing of both design and destiny in the biblical narrative. In particular, the kingdom of God prioritizes safety protocols for personhood. This seminar will explore teachers' responsibility to steward safety for each student's personhood, by name, beginning with themselves.

Barbara Cooper

Chair, Special Education Dept. – Cairn University

- **Reading Strategies for Struggling Learners** - While we know that reading skills are essential to any student, we often feel overwhelmed with how to teach our struggling learners. In this seminar, designed for any age group, we will examine some important tips for teaching and reinforcing reading skills.
- **ADHD** - Our students with ADHD bring challenges when they enter our door. In this workshop, we will consider how Christ looks at these students as we learn various strategies and teacher tips to create relationship bonds and provide supportive classrooms for everyone.

Dr. Marti MacCullough

Distinguished Professor of Education, Emeritus – Cairn University

Flourishing in the Classroom: Classroom Management & Student Discipline Informed by a Christian Worldview (All Age/Grade Levels): Parts 1 & 2

- **Session 1** - In this first session we briefly address the difference between classroom management and student discipline, explore a philosophy of student discipline informed by a biblical worldview, and determine the keys to classroom management and student discipline that promotes human flourishing and a positive learning community.
- **Session 2** - In part two of this seminar, we will develop principles and practices that flow out of a biblical approach to class management and discipline. Both are learning events and as such should be informed by human learning theory that fits well with a biblical view of the human & how humans learn. We will address why attention to both outside and inside factors is a must for effective discipline; provide practical help for discerning three potential reasons/motives for behaviors; and address strategies for effective handling discipline. The place for rules will also be addressed.

Jess Von der Mehden

International Program Coordinator, Global Vision Christian School

- **Supporting International Students in Your Classroom** - As Christian schools enroll more and more international student, it can be a challenge for teachers to meet the new language and cultural needs present in the classroom. This session will give practical ways teachers can help with language development. We will learn tips and tricks, plus practice implementing right away! This will be applicable to all age groups.

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SESSIONS (CONT.):

Dr. Dan Spanjer

Principal – Veritas Academy

- **Faith and Reason** - Our students face a very modern dilemma when they interact with culture through media or when they go off to college. They are taught to see a tension between faith and reason in the pursuit of truth. Whereas reason helps people learn truth, faith is personal at best and purely superstitious at worst. As teachers, we need to help students to understand the real wonder and power of reason as well as its natural limits. In this session, a model will be discussed to help students see how faith and reason relate in their academic work, both now and in college.
- **Discipline is Discipleship** - In an era of gentle parenting and safetyism, it is becoming more difficult to apply biblical discipline. Many parents are becoming increasingly anxious about their children and afraid of negative experiences. Many now see discipline as harmful while giving unlimited access to the internet and social media. In this session, I will look at some of the new research that is shedding light on the dangers of modern trends in parenting and counseling. We will also look at the Bible's view of discipline as we discuss how to talk and partner with our children.

Josh Beers

President, OneLife Institute

- **Transforming Lives by Leading Yourself** - What students need most are leaders and mentors. Your life example brings deeper meaning to what you teach and is the platform to leave a lasting impact on students' lives. Let's ask ourselves hard questions together to better equip ourselves to transforming the next generation.
- **The Christian “Advantage”** - As Christians, we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We receive spiritual gifts at salvation. We have the only hope for a lost world. We understand what really matters most in life. These are just several of the “advantages” that should set our teaching and our school apart from our counterparts. In this session, we will lean into why Christians should be setting the standard in education, with courage and excellence to bring glory to God, and shape this generation in Christlikeness.

Dr. Gary Schnittjer

Professor of Old Testament (School of Divinity), Cairn University

- **Problems with Getting Rid of the “Bad Parts” of Scripture** - What is at stake when our modern culture gets rid of the teachings of the Bible that seem to contradict the values of our day? The problem is that these biblical teachings provide protections for the vulnerable from predators. This session will explore case studies and emphasize moral instruction of difficult passages.
- **Why Do We Need the Difficult Parts of the Bible?** - The recent move by a scholar to strike through all the Bible passages that are considered “immoral” requires pushback...dominion over the earth, slavery, sexual standards, women's rights, and the like. Our students need help to navigate and understand Scripture, even the unpopular parts. This session features case studies on biblical teachings and emphasizes the moral instruction of these difficulties.

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KEYNOTE: Jeff Keaton, *President, Renewanation*

- “Battling for Hearts and Minds” (Morning)
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SESSIONS:

Donna Furrey

Teacher, Eastern Christian School (NJ), Former Christian School Head

- **Dealing with Difficult People** - Even in a Christian School, everything doesn't always run smoothly! Inevitably, we share life/work with individuals who are not easy to relate with, or impossible to reason with. As a Christian, we know that we must respond in a Christ-like fashion...but HOW?
- **Productive Parent /Teacher Conferences** - Parent and teacher conferences are a regular part of the school calendar. Why do we have them? What do we hope to gain? How can we make them more effective...even enjoyable?

Amanda Albright

Director of Learning for Teaching for Transformation – CACE (Dordt College)

- **Leading Change** - This session is designed for schools who are considering embarking, or who have begun already, on a journey in which they would like to transform current classroom practices into deeper learning practices. By hearing stories of schools who have embarked on 4-year journeys into the Teaching for Transformation framework for deeper learning, schools can begin to imagine the structures and leadership frameworks required for their school journey. While this session will specifically focus on the Teaching for Transformation approach to deeper learning implementation, the ideas and principles are applicable to any school change journey. The deep hope of this session that schools will feel empowered to begin or continue their journey into deeper learning.
- **People of God's Story** - Teaching for Transformation is a journey deeper into God's story. God's unfolding story: a story of intimacy and things good and beautiful; and also, a story of rebellion and brokenness. However, this story includes an invitation through the work of the cross to participate, to co-create with our creator, in the restoration of a broken world, in the making of all things new. Deeper learning is deeper into this story – our curriculum finds meaning and purpose within this story and we, people of God's story, have a role to play in this unfolding story. This workshop is designed for educators who wish to explore THE STORY we are part of and to identify the many stories that exist within our schools that compete within THE STORY. The deep hope of this session is that you will leave with a heightened awareness of the stories that shape your school, and an increased desire to design deeper learning that empowers the people of God's story to play their part within THE STORY.
- **Real, Real, Real** - This session is designed for K-12 teachers to explore what it means to design deeper learning experiences that invite, nurture, and empower students to participate in real work that meets a real need for real people. Workshop participants will interact with each other and K-12 stories from the Teaching for Transformation framework that illustrate the design principles behind creating REAL learning experiences with your students. The deep hope for this session is that you will begin to imagine learning experiences for that fully invites your students to play their role in God's story.

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Dr. Mayowa Fawole

Teacher Coaching & Mentoring, Pillar College (NJ)

- **Best Practices for Inclusive Settings** - This workshop is aimed at educators in grades K-12. General and special educators will explore strategies for co-planning in inclusive settings, emphasizing effective collaboration, accommodations, and modifications for students' success.
- **Accommodations and Modifications of Instruction** - Educators in grades K-12 will explore a variety of strategies for creating instructional modifications to aid teaching and learning.

Kelly Raudenbush

Executive Director/Family Therapist, The Sparrow Fund-empowering relationships in and between families (PA)

- **Trauma Matters** - By the time your students reach 18, more than half of them will have experienced trauma. In this session, we will consider what trauma is, and how it can be expressed, so that you can be more “trauma responsive in your varied roles.
- **Foundations of Healing Relationships** - Hurts experienced in the context of relationships are healed in the context of relationships. This session will have us explore the power of human relations for learning, growing and healing, plus how we can be better instruments of healing for the children God places around us.
- **Practice of Healing Relationships** - While we are created for relationship, our experience of broken people in a broken world creates fractures that often are expressed through behaviors that confuse and challenge us in all sorts of ways! Here, we will explore practical ways to respond to challenges inside and outside the classroom, and best support families as we learn and grow ourselves.

David Eckert

Director, Intersect / Access Services (PA)

- **What Teachers Should Know About Mental Health** - This workshop will equip educators to have a better understanding of mental health issues affecting teachers, students, and the educational process. Practices and resources will be explored for fostering mental wellness in the school and classroom.
- **Too Much at Once** - This training will equip participants around strategies for maintaining mental wellness for themselves and others during times of crisis. Concepts from Scripture, and within the mental health field will be synthesized to provide an integrated approach.

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SESSIONS (CONT.):

Barbara Cooper

Chair of Special Education at Cairn U.

- **Universal Design for Learning** - We will explore this educational framework, based upon the scientific insights of how students learn. Participants in this seminar will learn how to encourage all students to take in, digest, and express information in a way that is best for them. These principles will help you build a flexible classroom that anticipates the needs of everyone.
- **Executive Functioning in the Classroom** - Executive Functioning is considered the “management system of the brain.” Without realizing it, we daily draw on this system to help us regulate working memory, self-control, setting goals, and our ability to attend. In this workshop, we will explore how EF works, how it impacts our classrooms, and how we can best support our students.

Todd Mitchell

Head of School, Hawthorne Christian Academy (NJ)

- **Alphabet Soup: Making sense of the acronyms and abbreviations in the world of struggling learners** - This session will provide an overview of the many facets related to programming for struggling learners. We will discuss how a student is classified, accommodations vs. modifications, as well as a few of the most common learning challenges you find in your classroom.
- **Biblical Inclusion and Worldview Integration** - The idea of Biblical integration is a puzzle to many, especially those who are new to Christian education. This session will begin with a brief discussion of biblical worldview, followed by a focus on integration, including what it is and isn't, with the goal of an intentional, effective process of integration.

Dr. Bridget Turner

Assistant Professor of Education & Education Program Coordinator, Essex County College (NJ); Mentor/Coach for teachers at Kean U.

- **Empowering Young Minds: Nurturing Positive Behavior in Preschoolers** - We will explore how to foster positive behavior through a lens of faith & biblical principles, drawing upon timeless wisdom from Scripture. Participants will discover practical strategies to nurture young children's character development, emotional intelligence, and social skills.
- **“Tailored Teaching”: Meeting the Unique Needs of Every Preschooler** - Through interactive discussion and storytelling, rooted in Scripture, we will delve into the foundational principles of a faith-based education and its transformational potential in the preschool classroom. Key topics include – Child-centered Faith, Spiritual Nurturing, Biblical Integration, Service, & Reflection.

Christopher DeSanctis

Head of School, Gateway Academy (Staten Island, NY)

- **Who Will Be God? Why Should We Care?** - This seminar will explore the concept of worldview and emphasize the significance of persuading young people to embrace a biblical perspective.
- **God's Wisdom in a Post-Modern World** - The workshop will highlight the superiority of God's wisdom over all others, showing it to be the ultimate source for answering life's big question. In so providing for these foundational questions, our Christian schools must have an apologetics curriculum at the heart and soul of its curriculum!

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Deborah Fucci

Director of School Counseling, Hawthorne Christian Academy

- **Anxiety in the Classroom** - In today's educational environment, understanding and managing student anxiety is crucial for fostering a supportive and effective classroom. This professional development session aims to equip teachers with insights and practical strategies to address the normal anxieties students experience. Participants will leave with a clearer understanding of normal range anxiety and practical tools for creating a supportive learning environment. They will also gain an understanding of how to recognize anxiety outside the normal range and resources they can utilize to partner with parents to provide additional support.
- **Supporting Struggling Learners – Strategies for Effective Intervention** - Teachers are often faced with the challenge of helping students who struggle academically or behaviorally. This professional development session is designed to provide teachers with actionable strategies and tools to effectively support and enhance the learning experience for struggling learners. The focus will be on identifying challenges, implementing targeted interventions, and fostering an inclusive environment that promotes growth and success for all students.

Suzanne Bruno

ACSI Field Rep, (NJ), MACSA Board, Interim Lower School Principal - Hawthorne Christian Academy

- **Assessment & Grades** - Teachers assess every day in both formative and summative ways but when it comes time to document there can be a desire to know how to document more of those assessments. Then there is the desire to know how to set up the categories and weights in a manner that assures equitable grading is happening. This session is a very helpful time to discuss assessment in the most practical way and support teachers who are required to document and calculate grades to show accuracy in learning for their students.
- ****FOR ADMINISTRATORS** Educational Leadership-A Focus on the Next Rung of Leaders** - Retirement alone is opening up opportunities for the next generation of Christian School Leaders to step up into roles that are necessary for our Christian Schools to operate and succeed. But there is often a leadership gap that is making it harder and harder to develop and mentor those who have the potential. Let's discuss ways to identify and train leaders who are ready to take on the leadership to sustain our movement and ministry of Christian Education.

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