

Lutheran School Administrators Conference Program Information



Saturday, March 20, 2021

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Golf Outing

Sunday, March 21, 2021

8:30 a.m.-Noon Early Childhood Consultant Meeting

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Registration

10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Exhibit Area Open

1:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Opening Devotion; Community Building; Donna Orem Keynote "The Third Education Revolution"

Enter the Third Education Revolution, a world of continuous learning. This revolution is fueled by a new "smart machine" age and an emerging workplace that is not bound by geography nor driven by traditional "careers." We'll explore how these two forces will impact the education landscape—both K-12 and higher ed—and change the nature of how we conceive of education, prepare our students, and recruit and retain an educational workforce.

3:45 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Exhibit Area Open

4:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m. Sectional A

A1 Best Practices in Educator Health and Wellness by Megan Miessler and Rick Armstrong

Megan and Rick will discuss self-care for educators, coping skills for leaders, signs and symptoms of burnout, and how to support staff that are struggling in times of crisis. Join them for an interactive presentation, and walk away with practical tools to assist in your own health and wellness as well as ways to promote mental health within your staff.

A2 Standing Out in a Crowd by Shirley Geiss and Sue Starck

Being unique can be a struggle. Communicating those unique qualities can be a harder struggle. How do you tell the community about your ability to meet the emotional needs of students, prepare each student for the next step in their journey, design and implement a program of differentiation that targets the needs of every student and convey this with exceptional marketing? Come and find out.

A3 Nature Based Enrichment by Jessica Gade

Cultivating a love of nature with educational components allows children to learn in a natural environment. Learn how to begin, implement, and thrive in a nature-based enrichment program for your students and families.

A4 Solving Design Challenges with Young Children by Cheryl Haun

Quality early childhood programs include project-based learning, hands-on experimentation, and experiences that support natural inquiry. These concepts are central to the implementation of a STEM or STEAM curriculum. Topical teaching and learning from the STEM prospective challenges children to use

everyday items to solve problems in an integrated, developmentally appropriate manner. Our session will include a look at design challenges with literacy connections found in NAEYC's "Making & Tinkering with STEM" by Kate Heroman.

A5 Strong Vision, Strong School by Thomas Wrege

Providing a vision is a shared responsibility. Those who lead create a case for the future—one understood, grasped, and blessed by those who serve together. Having a preferred future and specific outcomes are the goal. Strategically plan it out, implement it, and make it an active, living plan, framed with prayer and confidence. Push your Lutheran school to thrive with a dynamic vision for all to embrace.

A6 Design Thinking for School Leaders by Mike Schiemann

Discuss five ways to ignite positive change and mindsets within your school.

A7 Building Guardrails for Children's Online Lives by David Walsh

Learn how technology is changing the ways that children and youth live, learn, and socialize. Topics will include multi-tasking, digital citizenship, addiction, social networking, and more. More importantly Dr. Walsh will identify the three major strategies to build the guardrails to assure that children and youth maximize the digital benefits while avoiding the risks.

A8 ALSS Meeting (Secondary attendees only)

5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Reception in Exhibit Area

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Banquet

8:30 p.m. Hospitality

Monday, March 22, 2021

8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Breakfast Session; Jim Sanft Keynote "Leading Together...with Social Distancing, of Course"

When COVID-19 hit, Concordia Plans quickly embraced two key goals: keep our team healthy and safe, and get the work done. Today CPS is navigating the road ahead with two foundational principles: moving forward in faith and doing business as unusual. In addition to COVID-19, we will either be at the start of the second term under President Trump or the first term of President Biden. Join a discussion of leadership during uncertain and socially distanced times.

9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. EdCamp

9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Exhibit Area Open

10:45 a.m.-Noon David Walsh and Erin Walsh Keynote "It's Complicated: Children, Social Media, and Mental Health"

In this interactive and energizing presentation, Dr. Dave and Erin Walsh will use brain science, stories, and humor to explain how technology is changing the ways that children grow up, socialize, and forge their identities. They will help participants understand the key ingredients for wellness in the digital age and provide practical tools and strategies that help children and youth build on their strengths.

12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Lunch in Exhibit Area (open until 3:45 p.m.)

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Sectional B

B1 Diversity and College Prep by John Nunes, Tim Brackman, and James Mitchell

Preparing students for higher education has become more complicated than ever. The relative homogeneity of most Lutheran schools tends not to be the case at most colleges and universities in the United States of America. This panel discussion will focus on practical wisdom grounded in Christian realism. How can Lutheran learning environments socialize students in anticipation of the expectations of this world's demographic diversity?

B2 A New Lens on Governance and Leadership by Donna Orem

Dealing with change can leave school leaders in a constant state of catch-up, resulting in unintended consequences or missed opportunities. Inability to effectively lead through rapid change can destabilize a school community and erode trust. When leadership and governance work effectively together, these pitfalls can be avoided. We'll discuss how to stay ahead of market forces; create alignment around structures, processes, and programs; and develop strategies for success.

B3 Succeeding with Spectrum Kids by Kim Marxhausen

Learn about adaptive behaviors, sensory processing, models for thinking strategies, problem-solving, and solutions for disruptive behavior for children on the Autism Spectrum. Children on the spectrum are not typically disabled; they have different ways of processing information. A better understanding will lead to more effective learning and classroom interaction.

B4 Special Education Virtual Considerations by Kara Bratton

Adapting instruction for students with disabilities in a distance learning setting has challenged schools and teachers over the last year. During this sectional, specific strategies and overall guidelines for providing special education virtually will be discussed. There will also be a time for Q&A about this topic.

B5 Come On In! Sort Of! By Sue Stark

Getting people to see your campus now can be difficult, but it's virtually possible. This session will provide ideas for promoting your school online. Through video, Facebook, and Zoom, you can still promote your school even if you can't get people in the door.

B6 School Safety Best Practices by Julian Petzold

Enhance and supplement your existing emergency plans with simple processes. Learn to teach yourself and all staff to use techniques that will stimulate the frontal cortex of the brain amidst stress. Understand the facts vs. myths surrounding most school safety emergencies. Learn basic triage in the event of mass casualties.

B7 Employee Personality Testing to Improve Your Hiring by Dan Gehrke

Hiring the right people is the most important job of any school leader. Learn how to incorporate candidate personality testing into the HR process to find rockstar employees.

B8 Building Healthy Habits for Faculty and Staff by Jeremy Lowe

Encourage and lead your faculty and staff to utilize the benefits received through Concordia Plans to engage in and celebrate wellness for the benefit of our students, our workers, and their families.

2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Sectional C

C1 Church Worker Recruitment and Retention by Ben Stellwagen and Jim Pingel

Discuss new ways to address an old problem: the church worker shortage. Despite a decline in number of church work candidates, educational ministries continue to expand along with opportunities for mission, so demand for laborers in the field remains high! People throughout Lutheran education are committed to the matter, from the classroom teacher and administrator to the university faculty and leaders in LCMS services—how can we coordinate their efforts?

C2 Thinking Thankfully About Diversity by John Nunes

The rising awareness of racial justice provides a leadership opportunity in school settings. Christian institutions possess unique pathways to cultivate dialogue, build interculturality, and foster reconciliation. Nunes will explore some of the administrative dynamics involved in shaping both neighborliness and life together across differences in communities of learning.

C3 Supporting Parents in an Online Environment by Megan Miessler

Parent anxiety is at an all-time high and administrators are feeling that pressure more than ever. Join Megan as she shares ways to respond to parents who attack, are anxious, and ultimately feel like a failure every day. Find ways to recognize your own anxiety and how it impacts your conversations with parents. Discover ways to encourage your staff to reduce anxiety in conversations with parents.

C4 Teamwork in Outreach With a Thriving ECC by Amy Dierks and James Rockey

This session will help participants address several key components in creating and sustaining a strong partnership in outreach that engages not only the pastor and director, but also the congregation in creating a thriving early childhood center. The presenters will discuss strategies intentionally incorporated to create one church, one ministry, one mission—to connect people to Jesus.

C5 Using Servant Learning to Build Healthy Schools by Pat Klekamp and Scott Fogo

Come experience how the relationships formed between the students at Faith Lutheran High School and the children of Bandaptai, Kenya sparked the transformation of both sets of kids, all while changing our definition of Christ-centered service learning. After our pilot year together, World Vision, a passionately Christian NGO, created the “Ignite” program to partner with other high schools to provide life changing learning and relationships between those in extreme poverty and the students in Christian schools in the U.S.

C6 Blended Learning—An Instructional Solution by Lisa Myers

Explore the blended learning model and its application to remote learning, the hybrid model, and face-to-face instruction. Experience how this paradigm shift in instructional planning addresses the needs of the 21st-century learner, providing quality instruction regardless of format, and also quite possibly saves the sanity of a teacher trying to meet the needs of students in class and at home. Designed for instructional leaders to share with their teachers.

C7 Understanding and Preventing Teacher Burnout by Dan Moyers

Learn how to understand burnout, what it is, the impact of it, how to identify it, and practical ways to prevent it. The stresses of this life due to sin can make us cry out like King David in Psalm 18, “The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me.” We call this “burnout,” a state of exhaustion caused by excessive and prolonged stress.

C8 Financials—Always a Revenue Problem by Cole Braun

Explore the # 1 reason schools are struggling, failing, and closing. It’s not because the school is bad at

delivering math, English, or Jesus. Financial health and financial challenges limit the success of our schools, and it's always a revenue problem. Gain practical tips on how to make your school thrive through financial success.

3:45 p.m. Dismissal/Evening On Own

7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Hospitality

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Breakfast Session; Joe Sweeney Keynote – “After Further Review”

A pep talk for anyone in the locker room of life about to head back onto the playing field. Joe will teach you how to pause and reflect on your life, form a game plan for the future, see the big picture, find wisdom in others, ask the right questions, discover the life you were meant to live, and realize that life has an expiration date.

9:45 a.m.- 10:45 a.m. Sectional D

D1 Funding - Advancement Best Practices Moderated Discussion by Cole Braun and Steve Buuck

Join a moderated, round-table discussion about school funding and advancement best practices. Bring your best practices to the discussion. Explore annual funding, planned gifts, grants, events, donor relations, and how to sustain schools through alternative revenue generation.

D2 Healthy Board/Leader Relationships by Mychal Thom, Scott Ernstmeyer, and Jim Pingel

Do you ever struggle with your relationship with your board? How much more effective could you be if this relationship was improved? This sectional involves a panel of current leaders, discussing practical ways to create a healthy relationship between the school leader and the board.

D3 Marketing an ECC in Extraordinary Times by Amy Dierks

Helping early childhood centers more effectively deliver and adapt marketing strategies is critical to sustaining and growing enrollment during these unprecedented times. Learn how to successfully overcome common barriers and employ simple strategies.

D4 Faith-Based Art in Early Childhood by Annette Anschutz

Use children's experiences in art and exploration of the world around them as an opportunity to nurture their faith. The gift of God's love for His children is expressed in the beautiful mark-making and material-shaping found in children's art when their words or vocabulary are too few. How will you use paint, wire, clay, and paper when you go back into the classroom on Monday?

D5 Team Communications Principles by Thomas Wrege

Experiencing a culture of effective communication can be “a breath of fresh air.” All leaders have had a variety of experiences to help form opinions of what works best—and what does not. Within Christian school systems, positive communication practices move teams towards healthy dynamics to serve communities well. When such practices are in place, the organization tends to be a much happier place.

D6 Teaching the Faith Builds Emotional Muscle by Kim Marxhausen

Now, more than ever, our children need emotional strength. Teaching the faith is our best tool for building emotionally healthy children. Let's look at the basic theory behind this idea and see how God's

plan for integrating the faith results in many blessings for children. This presentation is an introduction to discussion materials in "Seeking the Faith Quotient", available for free at <http://freesources.marxhausen.net/seeking.html>.

D7 Developing a Healthy Circle of Support by Scott Ernstmeyer

The task of leadership is not easy. It can't and shouldn't be done alone or in isolation. Healthy leadership requires a strong network of support: spiritually, personally, and professionally. This breakout will highlight strategies and ideas for maximizing leadership through relationships and an intentional growth mindset.

D8 Building Your School's Endowment Through Planned Giving by Dave Fiedler and Dave Hahn

Learn the essentials of using planned giving to build your school's endowment and financial strength.

11:00 a.m.-Noon Closing Worship