

Educators Conference August 8, 2024

Beth Eden Baptist School

9:00-9:20 Opening

9:20 – 10:00 General Session - Dr. Jeff Walton, AACCS

The Marks of a Thriving School

10:10 - 11:00 Breakout Session 1

Reading Between the Lines – Judylynn Walton (Elementary/Middle School)

On the Iowa Assessments the lowest scores for AACCS schools have consistently been in reading comprehension and math concepts (3rd-8th grades). In this workshop we will look at techniques you can employ in your classroom to advance your students' reading comprehension and literacy skills.

The Teaching Cycle: Science Edition – Jennifer Miller (Secondary)

The teaching cycle provides a framework for teachers to guide and train their students to navigate the vast and amazing world of science! In this session you will gain insights into how to keep students moving and learning through strategies incorporated during each step of the teaching cycle.

The Wonder of Boys – Dr. Holly Varnum (General)

In our society and in education, boys are often challenged and expected to learn in ways that directly oppose how our Creator God wired their brains. In this session, we will uncover what brain research in recent decades has revealed to us about the minds of boys and how we can best facilitate their education and development to ignite within them a love for learning and attaining goals.

Fluency, the Forgotten Skill – Anna Hamrick (General)

If comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading, why is fluency so important? Learn the answer to that question along with strategies you can use to help improve your students' reading fluency.

Harnessing the Power of LLM Technology, Cindy Quinlan (General)

With the ability to mimic the way humans communicate, solve problems, and answer questions, Large-Language Models like ChatGPT continue to prove themselves a challenge for classroom teachers striving to help students develop into their own abilities to think, write, and solve. Still, with careful incorporation, clear instruction, and ample practice, we teachers can foster our students' discernment and skills with this technology that has taken up permanent residence in their world.

11:00 - 11:10 Break

11:10 - 12:00 Breakout Session 2

Getting Students to Get it Done – Judylynn Walton (Secondary)

Do you have students who just can't seem to get things done? Do they lose homework, fail to start (or finish) projects, or fail to contribute to group tasks? Cultivate executive functioning skills in your students so they learn to plan, organize, start, focus, decide, persist, and finish. In short, teach them how to get it done.

Raising Rigor with the 2 R's – Cindy Quinlan (Secondary)

Technically every secondary student can read and write, but does he read and write well? No matter the subject you teach, you can help your students in improving these essential skills. This session—which particularly benefits English, Science, History, and Bible teachers—presents simple strategies to incorporate into your reading assignments and class discussions that will help students read with greater comprehension and express themselves with greater clarity.

Making Vocabulary Meaningful – Anna Hamrick (General)

Do your students forget the definitions right after the quiz? Would you like to make vocabulary words more meaningful? Learn strategies for enhancing your vocabulary instruction.

Dyslexia: 10 Things Parents Want Teachers to Know – Jennifer Miller (General)

Come hear from a mom of 3 dyslexic learners about the ways that teachers can help bridge the gap for these unique students. We will cover signs, parent frustrations, minor accommodations that can make a major impact, and how to handle undiagnosed processing disorders.

Personality Matters When it Comes to Learning – Dr. Holly Varnum (General)

If you have more than one child, you know first-hand that they come to us uniquely “crafted” by our Heavenly Father--no two are alike! This fact is especially challenging when giving instruction and trying to plan what to teach. This session will address the imperative given to us in Proverbs 22:6 to “Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent]” (Amplified Bible), include several “personality” test options to help you understand your students and how they learn best. (I will also present the cautions with personality tests and how we as believers should approach them.) and provide teaching/learning strategies to help you utilize this information to inform your educational efforts.

12:00 - 1:00

Lunch, sponsored by Precept Marketing

1:00 - 1:50

Breakout Session 3

Think Like a Proton: Stay Positive about Teaching Science – Jennifer Miller (Elementary)

Science can be scary! From creepy crawlies to explosions, if science isn't your "thing" it can seem like an overwhelming and daunting task to fit it into your day. If that describes you, or if you're just looking for a few simple refresher ideas for elementary science, please join us for this session on philosophy, mindset and ways to simply (and safely) embed a love of science in your students!

The Power of Literature: Developing Articulate Thinkers – Cindy Quinlan (Secondary)

The study of literature is more than merely acquainting our students with great works and authors. Rather, literary study should challenge students not only to think but to articulate and defend those thoughts. Understanding the power and promise to be found in literature can help the teacher prepare and present the material as he skillfully leads his students in reading, analyzing, and discussing literature.

Enablers – Jeff Walton (General)

Sometimes teacher behaviors enable students to continue negative or destructive behaviors in their classrooms. This workshop examines how teachers can alter their behaviors to affect student conduct.

Teaching with the Brain in Mind (God's Design is Amazing!) – Dr. Holly Varnum (General)

In recent decades, with the development of technology capable of scanning the human brain, neurologists have been enlightened about how learning occurs and how we can optimize new knowledge. This session will address some of the principles of brain-based learning, best practices in engaging students for optimal learning, and how God's Word teaches us to think for learning retention.

Comprehension Strategies for Any Content Area – Anna Hamrick (General)

Are your students struggling to comprehend? Would you like to improve their ability to comprehend informational texts? Learn strategies that you can use before, during or after your students read.

1:50 - 2:00 Break

2:00 - 2:50

Breakout Session 4

Digging Deeper into Phonics – Anna Hamrick (Elementary)

Most teachers agree that students need phonics instruction, but do the teachers themselves grasp the many phonics rules? Come for a quick review of the basics and a deeper look at some concepts you might have never considered. Learn how to balance phonics instruction to make it more beneficial for your students.

Raising the Bar, Lowering the Resistance – Cindy Quinlan (Secondary)

“Have high expectations” is a familiar—and excellent—piece of advice for teachers. Yet, it’s one thing to say “have high expectations” and another thing to actually do it. This session dives into the nitty-gritty of expectations to help teachers walk away with the necessary mindset and strategy to incorporate the right expectations into their classrooms.

Science That Makes “Sense” – Jennifer Miller (Secondary)

Take a deep dive into how students learn and how multisensory, differentiated instruction can create a vibrant learning environment in the science classroom for all types of learners.

Multi-grade Classrooms – Judylynn Walton (General)

Conquering the challenges inherent in multi-grade classrooms will provide distinct advantages to the entire school family—students, parents, teachers, and administrators. This workshop includes valuable research and helpful strategies for anyone considering, implementing, and/or teaching multi-grade classrooms.

The Mystery of Girls – Dr. Holly Varnum (General)

Looking at the brain scientifically shows us that God designed the female brain uniquely and specifically with intention, reinforcing what we read in Genesis 5:2, “Male and female created he them.” This session aims to clarify our understanding of how the female brain is wired, considerations for teaching girls according to their bent, and emphasizing the importance of biblical womanhood to empower our girls to be leaders in the roles God has for them.

3:00 – 3:40 General Session - Dr. Jeff Walton, AACCS

Confronting Cultural Issues: Gravity or Speed Limits?

3:40 - 4:00 Closing & Dismissal