# **SACS** Educators' Convention

# What an Opportunity!

September 25, 2020





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Welcome to the 2020 SACS Virtual Educators' Convention. This year's theme is *What an Opportunity!* There has never been a greater opportunity for us to impact the next generation than now. I truly believe that God led the leaders of the generation before us to establish Christian schools for "such a time as this." They say that light shines the brightest in the darkest part of the night. What an Opportunity for us to shine the light of the gospel to a world full of darkness and fear. What an Opportunity to be beacons of God's love. What an Opportunity to show our students, school families, and communities the value of Christian education.

This year's convention offers more than 50 virtual workshops packed with information plus two inspirational general sessions. We are very thankful for our workshop leaders and their efforts in converting to virtual workshops. We are also very thankful for Luke Clayton, Must Increase, Inc., for directing the technology side of the virtual convention.

Please visit the Virtual Exhibit Hall and express interest in the exhibitors' organizations and products.

The virtual format provides great flexibility for your schedule. On behalf of the SACS officers, we encourage you to take advantage of this full day of instruction and inspiration. What an Opportunity!

Randy Scallions SACS President

Convention Theme





### **Cooperating Associations**

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Officers

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### **General Sessions Speaker**



Dr. Jim Schettler West Coast Baptist College Lancaster, CA

### Workshop Speakers

Philip Alsup Angie Ashworth Josh Astor Kristin Booher Rusty Campbell Jennifer Chambers Olivia Clayton Jamison Coppola Rachel Cuendet Cathy Dodson David Fisher Brooklyn Fuhrwerk Mark Fuller Beth Grinder Christy Hand Joey Harmon Jason Lindsey David Lovegrove Michael Mann KariAn McElhaney Charles Mickles

Tanda Pliska Brandon Roysden Patti Scalf Jim Schettler Anita Sedivy Kevin Templeton Sean Vinaja Gary Voorhies Kristy Walker Rebecca Walker Melody Yates

# 2020 Educators' Convention

#### Session 1

#### Education at Its Best: The Face-to-Face Nature of Learning

Philip Alsup, Maranatha Baptist University, Watertown, WI

In the coronavirus shutdown, schools and teachers rose to the occasion and transitioned quickly to virtual learning. Yet the shutdown has also given schools and teachers an opportunity to think about aspects of face-toface education we may have taken for granted. The banter, interaction, and non-verbal communication of school make education an inherently in-person undertaking, and these non-verbal aspects of teaching are some of the most influential. This session will encourage teachers to consider how they are perceived in the classroom so that learning and influence can be maximized.

#### Federal Issues Update

Jamison Coppola, AACS, Chattanooga, TN

This session gives an "inside look" into current issues that affect Christians with an emphasis on federal actions that impact private Christian schools, churches, and families.

#### Setting Up Your School for Distance Learning

Brandon Roysden, Pleasant View Christian School, Pleasant View, TN

Learn how one school adjusted communication and instruction for both "on-campus" and "at-home" students. This workshop will focus primarily on the big picture of how we use G Suite (Google Classroom, Drive, Docs, etc.) to stay connected to our students. We will also discuss affordable ways to stream classroom lectures along with other strategies and digital tools that may be helpful for schools wanting to move forward with technology and distance learning.

#### Let's Play a Game

Kevin Templeton, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL

Basketball preparation from preseason to the off season. Special emphasis will be given to in-game and halftime adjustments. This workshop is specifically for basketball coaches, but coaches from other sports can benefit from these ideas.

#### **Teaching History with a Purpose**

David Fisher, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC

Everyone teaches history with some purpose or goal in mind. This workshop provides helpful suggestions as to the goal and purpose of the Christian teaching of history.

#### **Just Stop Talking!**

Olivia Clayton, Temple Baptist Academy, Powell, TN

Engaging your students is more than a colorful PowerPoint or perfectly memorized lecture. Get your kids involved in their own learning by seamlessly incorporating group work into every subject matter. Let's talk about simple, practical ways to integrate student-led projects into your daily agenda.

#### "If Only I Could Teach in an Orphanage!"

Charles Mickles, Lighthouse Christian School, Antioch, TN.

Parents can be our best friends or our worst nightmares. How often have we thought, "Teaching would be wonderful if not for the parents." In this workshop, we will look at ways to better understand our parents, relate to them, deal with difficulties, and win them over.

#### General

General/Administrator

#### Middle School/High School

**Upper Elementary/Middle School** 

Middle School/High School

**Elementary** 



#### General

#### Creating Your Dream Classroom

Rachel Cuendet, Pensacola Christian Academy (Abeka), Pensacola, FL

An adaptable, fun environment and attentive students—these are qualities that teachers dream of having in their classrooms. But they do not just have to be a dream; you can have these qualities in your classroom. This session will focus on the importance of establishing habits and procedures to create consistency in the classroom so that you feel empowered to successfully manage your class.

#### Session 2

#### Nice or Needed? The Question of Technology at School

#### Philip Alsup, Maranatha Baptist University, Watertown, WI

Educational technology is poised and ready to take over our schools, our classrooms, and our students' lives. The kids are happy about it, schools love to market it, and many teachers are getting on board with it. Yet there remain several objections worth addressing: Is technology disruptive? Does technology create shallow thinkers? Can we digital immigrants really keep up with the digital natives? In this session, these concerns are addressed and research-based evidence is presented to support the benefits and practical applications of educational technology.

#### **Teenage Rebellion: Battling for Their Hearts**

Jim Schettler, West Coast Baptist Bible College, Lancaster, CA

Rebellion is a formidable wall to deal with in teenagers lives. In this workshop, you will learn critical reasons why teenagers rebel and how you can implement biblical solutions to battle for their hearts.

#### **Becoming a Customer Service Superhero**

Rusty Campbell, Pleasant View Christian School, Pleasant View, TN

Finding time to think beyond the next lesson or decision can be tough. Building a quality customer service culture in your school isn't something you can hope to achieve overnight, but with the right amount of leadership and hard work, your school can put itself on the path to turning everyday interactions with students, parents, teachers, and staff into memorable and exceptional experiences.

# Make Learning Interesting: Science Projects Worth Doing

Sean Vinaja, Pensacola Christian College (Abeka), Pensacola, FL

Science projects can be a lot of work for students and teachers. In this session, we will turn that work towards play by discussing choosing a topic, choosing a problem, and performing the experiments.

#### **Engineering Is Elementary!**

#### Cathy Dodson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC

Practically from birth, children are fascinated with how things are made and how they work. Unfortunately, schools have fallen short in developing their students' engineering skills. In order to address students' creative needs, teachers must incorporate activities into the classroom that will foster engineering. We will study blueprints for adding engineering into your traditional classroom setting.

#### Mr. Rogers and Me

#### Charles Mickles, Lighthouse Christian School, Antioch, TN

Many of us grew up as part of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. In his interactions with adults and children, we saw many examples of what a great teacher looks like. In this workshop, we will explore some of the things that Mr. Rogers taught us about teaching and impacting children, and how that can help us become better teachers to the students who are part of our neighborhood.

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#### Preschool/Kindergarten

#### General/Administrator

Middle School/High School

#### Elementary

Elementary

#### General

General

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# 2020 Educators' Convention

#### Fun Facts about Preschool

#### KariAn McElhaney, Athens, TN

Fun is the most important word of the day for preschoolers. Teachers either develop or squash children's desire to learn and enjoy school. This session will review facts about preschools, preschoolers, and preschool teachers that will express why being a preschool teacher should be fun. We will also address issues and give ideas to create an exciting environment that helps instill a love for school. Come see the "funny" notions that we sometimes take for granted.

#### It All Begins with A to Z

#### Rachel Cuendet, Pensacola Christian Academy (Abeka), Pensacola, FL

In his introduction to the dictionary, Noah Webster writes, "Language, as well as the faculty of speech, is the immediate gift of God." Teaching our students about the language that God has given us begins with phonics. Starting with the basics of phonics, this session will provide you with helpful and engaging strategies for teaching sounds, words, and beginning reading skills.

Session 3

#### **Communicating from the Heart**

Kristy Walker, Berean Academy, Hixson, TN

Would your students say that you care about them? Often a teacher thinks a caring spirit is being communicated in the classroom, but students have a different perception. Taking a closer look at the basis of classroom communication may change your heart as well as the hearts of your students.

#### The Nature of Politics

Jamison Coppola, AACS, Chattanooga, TN

An introduction to political involvement including how a Christian should view politics and with special emphasis on the necessity of political engagement in the American system of governance.

#### Marketing Principles: Advertising

David Lovegrove, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC

Everyone knows marketing includes advertising. This session will explain where to invest, how to maximize your advertising dollars, and how to make the greatest impact with your ads.

#### Teach with Video Using Loom

#### Anita Sedivy, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC

Learn how to utilize a screencasting tool that allows you to record your screen and share it quickly and easily with your students. Sharing your photo or video along with your screen is an easy option. Teachers can record anything from a short set of directions to an entire lesson. The possibilities are endless, but include flipped classroom uses, remote learning, and prerecorded lessons for a substitute teacher. Students can utilize Loom to present book reports or other presentations.

#### 2020: The Year We Taught Choir Without Singing a Note

#### Jennifer Chambers, Berean Academy, Hixson, TN

Many of us have found ourselves in 2020 challenged with coaching a team from the stands or "directing" a choir through a screen. What has this year taught us as teachers, directors, or leaders in general? Are we afraid of change, or are we finding new ways to implement change to keep up with the times? Bring your ideas and let's grow together.

#### **Preschool/Kindergarten**

#### **General/Administrator**

#### General/Administrator

### Middle School/High School

#### • 6 •

General

General

#### Preschool/Kindergarten

#### **Physical Education During the Pandemic**

Kim Mickles, Lighthouse Christian School, Antioch, TN

COVID-19 has presented unique challenges to physical education teachers. In this session, we will explore exciting COVID-friendly games that students enjoy.

# How Can I Engage My Students' Brains When I Am Married to Worksheets?

Cathy Dodson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC

God made students with different brains; therefore, they learn differently. It is up to us to find ways to boost our students' brain power. Once we know how the brain learns, we can teach our students in ways that build their brains, instead of simply teaching them to memorize facts. Brain games will teach students to think. Mastering thinking skills leads to understanding. Understanding is a hallmark of an active brain—one that is able to handle complex realities of life.

#### Will You Be "the One"?

#### Charles Mickles, Lighthouse Christian School, Antioch, TN.

Will I make a difference? What will students remember about me? Will I be the one they remember? We all ask questions like these. In this workshop, we will explore good and bad practices in education. We will discuss how we can impact our students in a positive and meaningful way and ensure we are remembered by them.

#### Teaching Is a Dream with a Theme

#### KariAn McElhaney, Athens, TN

A theme is an exciting, innovative way to engage the students' minds and to encourage the idea that learning is fun. Thematic teaching is also an effective tool to aid the teacher in unifying her entire day, week, or month. It also simplifies student learning with common ideas. This session gives clear and concise tips and tools to make themes work in your classroom with great success.

Session 4

**Three to Thrive as Parents** 

Jim Schettler, West Coast Baptist Bible College, Lancaster, CA Every Christian parent desires to raise godly children. In this lesson, you ca

Every Christian parent desires to raise godly children. In this lesson, you can learn three biblical actions to lead your children after the Lord.

#### The Right Worldview Makes a World of Difference

#### Jamison Coppola, AACS, Chattanooga, TN

This workshop includes practical observations for administrators and teachers on properly defining a Christian worldview, thinking in a distinctly Christian perspective, and addresses practical ways to incorporate a Christian worldview into school operations and classroom instruction.

#### Helping Children with Disabilities in a Christian School

#### Gary Voorhies, Pleasant View Christian School, Pleasant View, TN

Can your school open its doors to children who have learning challenges? Where do you start with this initiative? How do you find the tools you need to help children with disabilities? Can we make a place in our schools for the students who learn differently? This workshop will offer a plan from a school that has successfully launched such a program.

#### Preschool—Lower Elementary

#### Upper Elementary/Middle School

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#### General/Administrator

#### General

General



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Elementary

#### Elementary

#### Classroom Techniques: Design on a Dime

Cathy Dodson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC

Is your instructional style a fixer upper? Do your teaching methods need an extreme makeover? When you try a new classroom technique, do you flip or flop? Equipped with a few new educational strategies in your didactic tool belt, you can begin to look like Chip and Joanna Gaines of the classroom.

#### After the Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic

#### Angie Ashworth, Landmark Christian Academy, Louisville, KY

As a teacher, the core of what we teach is the basics of reading, writing, and numbers. After those important topics are covered, there is so much that the young mind is eager to learn. This session will go beyond the basics to incorporating history, science, community helpers, and drama into your classroom.

Session 5

#### **Trends in Student Assessment**

#### Joey Harmon, Berean Academy, Hixson, TN

Both the COVID-19 pandemic and social currents are influencing how educators view student assessments. Questions concerning fairness and appropriateness are at the heart of the issue, and responses to those criteria will vary based on one's philosophy of education and personal values. This workshop will present current trends in K-12 assessment and will challenge attendees to reflect on traditional approaches to grading with the hope that we are always purposeful in our assessment practices.

#### The Tyranny of Technology

#### Brandon Roysden, Pleasant View Christian School, Pleasant View, TN

We all feel the alluring pull of our devices and are intuitively aware how they are impacting our students and families. At this workshop, you will hear more clearly about the challenges facing today's families related to modern technology as well as learn practical tips for how we can respond as parents and educators to help students (and ourselves) manage these devices without allowing them to manage us.

#### Technology Hacks to Support the Secondary **Classroom—Part One**

#### Christy Hand, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC

Don't be afraid to be friend technology! Learn tools that can easily be implemented to support your classroom on a daily basis, even if students do not have access to a lot of technology in the classroom. These are tools that can be applied to all subjects and can help both students and parents when you are not with them.

# 2020 Educators' Convention

#### Mindset of the Active Shooter

#### Michael Mann, Masada Consulting, Brentwood, TN

Is your school or ministry subscribing to the Run/Hide/Fight active shooter strategy? Why? Physically protecting any asset requires preventing the attack from occurring, not responding to the attack after it occurs. This webinar will provide ministries with the basic concepts of understanding how active shooters plan attacks, and what it takes to prevent such undesirable attacks from occurring.

#### Bring the Heat with Harkness

#### Brooklyn Fuhrwerk, Christian Heritage School, Dalton, GA

Want to promote critical thinking and analytical discussion while encouraging students to take ownership of their own learning? This workshop will give you a general understanding of how to implement Harkness, which is a discussion-based learning method, into any of your humanities classes.

Middle School/High School

Middle School/High School

#### **Preschool/Kindergarten**

#### General

Elementary

#### General

### General/Administrator

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## Behavior and Threat Detection for Faith-Based Environments

#### Michael Mann, Masada Consulting, Brentwood, TN

The risk of a violent event occurring at a private school is low. But in a world that continues to accept violence as the norm, having the ability to detect these events early is a necessity. This workshop will cover the basic elements of early threat detection and prevention. Topics include defining situational awareness, the history of behavioral threat detection: an overview, conducting snapshot threat assessments in the classrooms and in your personal life, and the decision-making process during critical events.

#### From Sage on the Stage to Guide on the Side

#### Cathy Dodson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC

The pandemic has been the most disruptive chapter in the educational history of our country. Teachers immediately transitioned to facilitators . . . parents to proctors. Pandemic pedagogy was the instructional method used during the emergency remote learning time. How can we train our students to be better independent learners? How can we be better facilitators of learning? How can students creatively demonstrate their understanding?

#### Technology Hacks to Reinforce the Secondary Classroom—Part Two

Christy Hand, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC

Do you have the ability to use technology in your classroom, but you are too afraid to try? Many tech tools that can reinforce your lessons are easy to use. We will discuss tools that can be used with one-to-many devices.

#### Virtually Beyond the Science Lab

#### Jason Lindsey, Hooked on Science, Paducah, KY

Discover ways to use hands-on science to teach God's amazing Word virtually and in-person. Experiments encourage students to connect with their Creator through the wonders of science.

#### "I Love Reading"

#### KariAn McElhaney, Athens, TN

Although it can be awesome to hear a child say, "I love to read," such words are rarely heard today by teachers. This session will give helpful and fun ideas using preschool books to instill a love of reading—even before the child learns how to read.

#### Session 6

#### Personality Clash: A Love for Teaching in a Burnout Industry

Philip Alsup, Maranatha Baptist University, Watertown, WI

It's no secret that our country faces a national teacher shortage. Being a teacher means long hours and low pay, and yet surprisingly, these are rarely the reasons behind turnover in our industry. Influential educators have a unique type of personality, yet it's one that rarely comes naturally and one that must be developed purposefully. With this approach in mind, we can equip ourselves to be long-term influencers who burn *bright*, not out.

#### **School Choice**

#### Jamison Coppola, AACS, Chattanooga, TN

An introductory discussion of school choice including a brief history of education in America, types of schooling, political and cultural trends in education, and methods of implementing parental school choice in our educational system.

#### **General/Administrator**

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Middle School/High School

**Preschool/Kindergarten** 

#### Elementary

General

#### General

#### General/Administrator

#### • 9 •

# 2020 Educators' Convention

#### **Developing Site Emergency Plans**

Michael Mann, Masada Consulting, Brentwood, TN

With limited resources and time, most private schools find it difficult to identify, document, and address all relevant threats and hazards. This workshop will cover the most simple and effective method for developing a school site emergency plan. Topics include threat and hazard identification, basic assessment process, required resources, case study: early hazard identification, and plan validation: drills and exercises.

#### Navigating Google Classroom

#### Kristin Booher, Temple Baptist Academy, Powell, TN

Learn the ins and outs of Google Classroom and see how it can not only enable online learning but also enhance in-class instruction through group projects and differentiation. Grading assignments and communicating with students are also made easier through this incredible online learning platform that serves both the elementary and secondary classrooms.

#### Solving the Problem of Problem-Solving

#### in the Classroom

Beth Grinder, Pleasant View Christian School, Pleasant View, TN and Rebecca Walker, Brighton High School, Brighton, TN

Teaching students to think beyond printed words and problems begins with teachers thinking beyond printed words and problems. Can a solution be justified? Can it be expanded beyond the "correct" answer? When we stop at a solution to a problem, we stunt the opportunity for growth. Teachers will participate in a hands-on problem and be encouraged to teach beyond the solution.

#### Thinking Outside the Box . . . What Does Your Box Look Like?

Cathy Dodson, Wilmington Christian Academy, Wilmington, NC

Thinking outside the box means using an alternate approach. Teaching students to think outside the box begins with teaching them to recognize their own thought limitations. How do you encourage creative and critical thinking? Our classrooms should be cultures of thinking that nurture the next generation of independent thinkers and innovators.

#### 2, 4, 6, 8—Let's Make Numbers Really Great!

Rachel Cuendet, Pensacola Christian Academy (Abeka), Pensacola, FL

Counting by twos is just one of many skills that students will acquire after learning the basics in numbers class. In this session, you will learn ways to make learning numbers, combinations, and even coins enjoyable for both you and your students.

#### **Technology in the Preschool and Early Elementary Classroom**

#### Patti Scalf, Franklin Road Christian School, Murfreesboro, TN

In the digital age, questions revolve around how and if young children should use technology. This workshop will explore some of the concerns that teachers have and hopefully answer some questions. Participants will also learn how to use technology safely and in a developmentally appropriate manner that supports literacy while providing young children with positive, interactive experiences.

#### General/Administrator

Middle School/High School

### **Elementary**

Preschool/Kindergarten

### **Preschool—Lower Elementary**



#### General

# 2020 Educators' Convention

#### Session 7

#### Educating in an Entertainment Society

#### Jamison Coppola, AACS, Chattanooga, TN

Our culture is driven largely by the entertainment industry. How should a Christian view our entertainment culture, and to what extent can a good Christian engage our society and entertainment? Is there a way for good Christians to be socially relevant without becoming worldly? This discussion presents biblical observations related to entertainment and practical ways to help our students know how to be "in the world but not of the world."

#### **Google Chrome Tools for Teachers**

Joey Harmon, Berean Academy, Hixson, TN

The Google Chrome browser offers users much more than a gateway to the world-wide web. This workshop will present several free tools and Chrome extensions that can help teachers engage students and contribute to their own effectiveness.

#### **Graphic Design Principles: Social Media**

Mark Fuller, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC

Apply design principles to your school's use of social media. Learn how to design posts that grab attention, generate interaction, and get shared with a broader audience.

#### It Shouldn't Be This Hard to Teach Kids Their Own First Language!

#### Tanda Pliska, Landmark Christian Academy, Louisville, KY

Unfortunately, teaching English grammar becomes increasingly more difficult as the grade level increases. Fortunately, nearly three decades of teaching secondary English has provided more than a few teaching tips for some of the concepts students find most difficult: verbal phrases, distinguishing phrases and clauses, transitive/ intransitive verbs, active/passive voice, perfect tenses, and subjunctive mood. This workshop will provide tips and tools to help clarify these concepts for the teacher and make them easier for students to understand and apply.

#### "But I Can't Draw or Sing"

Josh Astor, North Hardin Christian School, Radcliff, KY

Sound familiar? This workshop will include tips, activities, and methods on creating music and art lessons so that even your most reluctant students will want to participate. We will also address managing limited time, finances, and resources.

#### **Redeeming the Time**

Melody Yates, Crown College, Powell, TN

Practical ideas for the elementary classroom to organize yourself, your classroom, and your students while making every moment count.

#### Hello, My Name Is Mrs. Ashworth!

Angie Ashworth, Landmark Christian Academy, Louisville, KY

First impressions are lasting impressions. As teachers, we want to have good working relationships with our students' parents. This session will discuss topics to help establish healthy relationships with parents.

### **Upper Elementary/Middle School**

Middle School/High School

#### Elementary

# General

General

#### General/Administrator

#### Elementary





for Reading Success

# 2020 Educators' Convention

#### **Emergent Literacy: Preparing Toddlers and Preschoolers**

#### Preschool/Kindergarten

Patti Scalf, Franklin Road Christian School, Murfreesboro, TN

Over the last several decades, the pressure on teachers of preschoolers and toddlers to prepare their young students for the challenges of learning to read has grown exponentially. This workshop will discuss the five emergent literacy skills that all children need to develop before learning to read and how to identify and incorporate those skills into the daily routine of a toddler or preschool program.

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