



Final Program

**National Catholic Educational Association
2026 Convention & Expo | April 7-9 | Minneapolis, MN
Minneapolis Convention Center**

www.NCEA.org/NCEA2026

#NCEA2026



NCEATalk



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THE MOST REVEREND
GREGORY J. HARTMAYER, OFM Conv.

April 7, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With great joy, I welcome you to the National Catholic Educational Association NCEA 2026 Convention & Expo, gathered this year in Minneapolis. It is a blessing to come together as a community of faith, united in our shared mission to form minds, shape hearts, and proclaim the Gospel through Catholic education.

Our theme, "Believe," invites us to reflect on the very foundation of our hope. In his First Letter, St. John asks, "Who [indeed] is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:5). These words remind us that belief is not merely an assent of the mind, but a conviction lived each day in the light of the risen Christ. This is especially true in our schools, where faith is nurtured, challenged, and strengthened.

As Catholic school educators and leaders, you are entrusted with the sacred work of helping young people encounter Christ and come to know the truth of who He is. Your witness of faith, perseverance, and hope boldly proclaims that Christ has conquered sin and death. He has, indeed, already overcome the world.

I express my sincere gratitude to Archbishop Bernard Hebda and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for their generous hospitality and for their steadfast commitment to Catholic education. I am also deeply thankful to the NCEA staff for their dedication in preparing for this Convention. Your service supports and strengthens Catholic school communities across the nation.

As we gather in prayer, dialogue, and fellowship over these days, may this Convention be a time of renewal and encouragement. May the Holy Spirit deepen your faith, sustain your vocation, and strengthen your resolve to lead others to believe that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God.

May the Lord bless our time together and grant you His peace!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ 

Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv.
Archbishop of Atlanta
Chair of the Board of NCEA



THE OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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Dear Friends in Catholic Education,

It is with great joy and gratitude that I welcome you to NCEA 2026: *Believe*, held April 7-9, 2026, in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. This annual gathering, one of the largest convenings of Catholic school educators in the country, is a vibrant expression of our shared belief in the promise of Catholic education.

As we come together for this event, we do so with the recognition that on August 27, 2025, the lives of so many were forever impacted. That horrific event left many in a state of shock and sadness. At the same time, we saw heroes emerge and we saw a community of faith come together to offer an outpouring of support. It is in these times of sorrow that we are reminded of our sacred duty to stand together, to pray for healing, and to accompany one another as a community of hope. As we gather for NCEA 2026, let us do so with renewed conviction in the shared belief that our Lord walks with us. Let us work to make sure that our time together is not just a time for learning and networking, but also an opportunity to support our friends and colleagues as they heal, believing in the unshakable strength of our Catholic faith.

To believe is to see with the eyes of faith. It is to trust that in every classroom, every lesson, and every act of care that you are doing more than teaching. You are forming the future and educating for eternity. Catholic schools have always been up to the task of this sacred mission. As Pope Leo XIV reminded the Christian Brothers in May 2025:

“These are demanding challenges, but we too, like Saint John Baptist de La Salle, can turn them into springboards to explore ways, develop tools and adopt new languages to continue to touch the hearts of pupils, helping them and spurring them on to face every obstacle with courage in order to give the best of themselves in life, according to God’s plans.”

We believe that we exist to bring glory to God. We believe in the future of Catholic schools. We believe in the children and families we serve. And we believe in you.

May God bless each of you and may Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, under whose patronage our host archdiocesan schools are placed, shower our Catholic school community with Her blessings.

I look forward to spending this time with you in Minneapolis at NCEA 2026.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman
President/CEO
National Catholic Educational Association





ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

April 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

In this year in which our Archdiocese celebrates its 175th jubilee, we feel particularly honored to be hosting the National Catholic Educational Association Convention. We are blessed by your presence and by your inspiring witness to the Risen Christ and to the value of Catholic education. Thank you.

I hope that you will have the opportunity while you are here to visit our Cathedral, the National Shrine of the Apostle Paul. Inscribed on its facade is the great commission that the Risen Christ gave to his disciples: “go and teach all nations.” Your presence at NCEA in such great number reflects both your generous response to that call and your desire to make our Catholic schools enriching learning environments where Jesus is encountered and the faith is truly lived and experienced.

As you gather with so many of your fellow laborers in the Lord’s vineyard, I urge you to reflect upon the encouragement that Pope Leo XIV offered in his apostolic letter, “Drawing New Maps of Hope,” which commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on Catholic Education:

“The Catholic school is an environment in which faith, culture, and life intertwine. It is not simply an institution, but rather a living environment in which the Christian vision permeates every discipline and every interaction. Educators are called to a responsibility that goes beyond the work contract: their witness has the same value as their lessons” (5.2, October 28, 2025).

In this Eastertide, I hasten to commend you to Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, patroness of our Archdiocesan Catholic school system. May she lead all of us to rejoice with her as we share the good news about her Son: *Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia!*

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis



Catholic Schools
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

Forming our future. Educating for life.

Dear fellow Catholic school educators,

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

On behalf of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and together with the superintendents of the other five dioceses in Minnesota, I am delighted to welcome you to NCEA 2026! Catholic schools of the Archdiocese partner with parents to serve more than 31,000 students across 12 counties and are supported by thousands of dedicated teachers and staff.

This year's NCEA Convention theme, "Believe," is an invitation to reflect on how we center our lives and shared work in Catholic education on the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church recognizes that, cooperating with God's grace, the success of Catholic education depends on the quality and witness of teachers — those who generously share their love of knowledge and of Jesus with every student. Thank you for generously placing your gifts at the service of those served by Catholic schools.

It is your belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, notable especially as we celebrate this Easter Octave, that allows Catholic education to flourish across the United States. It is an honor to be among you working together with parents to help form and educate our young people for this life and the Life to come.

We hope you leave NCEA 2026 with renewed hope and enthusiasm for your vocation in Catholic schools. Throughout the convention and beyond, please know that you are in our prayers as you help students encounter Jesus Christ each day.

We commend you to the care of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, patroness of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Please persevere.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Jason E. Slattery

Director of Catholic Education and Superintendent of Schools

OFFICE FOR THE MISSION OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION
777 Forest Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106 | 651.291.4500 | catholicsschools@archspm.org
spmccatholicsschools.org

On behalf of the City of Minneapolis, I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the 2026 National Catholic Educational Association Convention & Expo. We are thrilled you've selected us as your host, and I hope that you make time to get out and explore everything we have to offer.

In Minneapolis, we're known for our state-of-the-art venues, world-class performing arts, a lively downtown filled with sports, food, and entertainment, and beautiful lakes and parks right in the heart of the city. Every Minneapolis neighborhood is home to unique local businesses, restaurants that reflect our diverse communities, and music and art you won't find anywhere else. Plus, you'll always be welcomed with that famous Minnesota hospitality.

Whether they're here for conventions, meetings, sporting events, or to just see what all the hype is about, visitors to Minneapolis are thrilled by all we have to offer. Our bona fides include James Beard Award-winning restaurants, one of the best park systems in the country, internationally acclaimed museums, and activities for the whole family.

The City of Minneapolis, Meet Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Convention Center, our hotels, and countless other partners are committed to helping you host and enjoy an incredibly successful event.

Please make yourself at home, and welcome to Minneapolis!

Warmest regards,



Jacob Frey
Mayor, City of Minneapolis

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Convention Information & Assistance

Welcome to NCEA 2026! All events take place at the Minneapolis Convention Center (MCC), unless otherwise indicated.



Please check the mobile app for the latest information.

Don't forget about Real ID. Starting May 2025, U.S. travelers must be REAL ID compliant to board domestic flights and access certain federal facilities.



Cancellations

NCEA will do its best to alert attendees of last-minute session cancellations. Please check the mobile app for the latest information.

CEU's

At NCEA 2026, show your commitment to lifelong learning and excellence in Catholic education. By attending keynote and professional learning sessions, attendees can be eligible to earn one CEU (ten hours) of professional development credit. To earn CEU credit, participants must attend at least eight of the nine eligible session time slots (a minimum of 10 hours), which include the Opening Keynote, Closing Keynote, and the professional learning sessions. Sessions must be attended in full, and participants must scan in at each session to verify attendance. All required session evaluations, the overall convention evaluation, and the reflection assignment must be completed.

Participants should check with their diocese or their state to ensure National Catholic Education Association CEUs are recognized.

City Information

There is so much to see and do in Minneapolis. Visit NCEA 2026 Assistance for information about the area and attractions or check out Meet Minneapolis page just for NCEA 2026 attendees: www.minneapolis.org/ncea/

Convention Assistance

If you require special assistance while attending NCEA 2026, visit the NCEA 2026 Information booth in Lobby D.

Courtesy Request

Attendees are asked to remain seated until sessions conclude. If you must leave early, please sit at the back of the session room. Early departures disturb the speaker and other attendees. Please silence all mobile devices during all programs.

Endorsements

An appearance by a speaker and/or an exhibitor at NCEA 2026 does not imply an NCEA endorsement. Official endorsements are granted only by NCEA management.

Evaluate Sessions

Your feedback is essential to our work! Complete session evaluations and the NCEA 2026 post conference survey through the mobile app.

First Aid & Security at NCEA 2026

NCEA 2026 Credentials

All attendees, participants, speakers, and exhibitors are required to wear their NCEA 2026 badges for all NCEA 2026 activities. Only people with official NCEA 2026 credentials will be admitted to general sessions, liturgies, professional development sessions, and the Expo Hall. This policy will be strictly enforced.

If you feel that Show Management needs to be made aware of an event, situation, or individual acting strangely or inappropriately at NCEA 2026, please visit the NCEA 2026 Show Management Office located in Room 103 B.

First Aid

The First Aid Station is located on MCC's ground level in Lobby C, near Dunn Bros Coffee. In the event of an emergency please find the nearest house phone and call 201 to be connected to the Command Center. Tell the operator the person's name and location, the nature of the emergency, and if he or she is conscious. The Command Center will immediately dispatch a uniformed patrol officer and/or an EMT to respond. Automated External Defibrillators (AED'S) are located throughout MCC in our public lobbies on each level, and at each exhibit hall drive-through located in the back of the halls. An AED can be used in case of a life-threatening cardiac event. Please contact the Command Center if this occurs.

Food and Beverage

The MCC has a variety of retail food and beverage outlets to fit all pallets and budgets. Please check the NCEA 2026 app for specific hours and locations.

Stay connected with the FREE NCEA Events app!

- Download the free **NCEA Events** app from your device's app store.
- Search for "NCEA 2026" to access this year's content.
- Enter your email address and access key to log in. These login credentials have been sent to each attendee at the email address used to register for the Convention.
- Once logged in, use the **NCEA 2026** app to view the most up-to-date session details, speakers, sponsors, and more.
- Turn on notifications to receive push notifications from NCEA during the Convention!



Housing

The official housing vendor for NCEA 2026 is Connections Housing. If you have questions regarding your hotel reservation, please call 702-605-4355. or via email at ncea@connectionshousing.com.

Lost and Found

The lost and found is in Room 103 BC.

Mobile App

Download the free NCEA Events app from your device's app store. Search for "NCEA 2026" to access this year's content. Login credentials have been sent to each attendee at the email address used to register for NCEA 2026. Once logged in, use the "NCEA 2026" app to view the most up-to-date session details, speakers, sponsors, and more. Make sure you're using the latest version to access new features and receive important notifications at login.

NCEA 2027 Information Booth

NCEA 2027 Convention & Expo will take place in Indianapolis, IN, March 30–April 1, 2027. Representatives from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and Visit Indy will be present at registration to answer any questions and introduce you to Indianapolis!

Nursing Mother's Room

Nursing mother's room is located on the second floor near elevators 16 and 17. The room does not need to be reserved; there is a sign on the door that the user can use to show that the room is occupied.

Photography

By participating in NCEA Conventions, attendees grant NCEA the right to use and reproduce photographs for NCEA educational, news or promotional material, whether in print, electronic or other media, including the NCEA website. Event photography is brought to you by Lifetouch, NCEA platinum partner.

Session Overcrowding

As seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, attendees are encouraged to arrive early and preselect alternative sessions. Safety and fire regulations must be followed. Once meeting rooms reach maximum capacity, attendees will be restricted. Standing in the aisle ways and blocking doors will not be permitted. We ask all attendees to be patient and courteous to the local volunteers as they enforce the convention center safety regulations.

Social Media

Join us online! Use hashtag #NCEA2026 and tag us in your posts: @NCEATalk on X and Instagram; National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Wireless Internet

The MCC offers complimentary Wi-Fi (wireless internet service) in all public lobby and meeting room areas, Open Wi-Fi settings on your device and select "Free Internet". First time users will be asked to create an account and verify their email address to get connected.



NCEA 2026 Schedule at a Glance

April
7 - 9

Please check the mobile app for the latest information. All events take place at the MCC or Hilton Minneapolis, as indicated.

MONDAY APRIL 6

9 AM - 4 PM
Registration and Badge Pick Up
HALL D LOBBY, MCC, LEVEL ONE

12 PM - 6 PM
Exhibitor Set Up
EXPO HALL D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

6 - 8 PM
President's Reception and Dinner
By Invitation only
Reception Sponsored by
Friendzy and Lands' End
Dinner Sponsored by
FACTS and Blackbaud
HILTON MINNEAPOLIS

TUESDAY APRIL 7

7 - 9 AM
Exhibitor Set Up
EXPO HALL D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

7 AM - 3:15 PM
Registration and Badge Pickup
HALL D LOBBY, MCC, LEVEL ONE

8 AM - 5 PM
Chapel
Rosary begins at 1 PM
102 B, MCC, LEVEL ONE

8 - 8:30 AM
Pre-Opening Ceremonies
and Pep Rally
HALL C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

8:30 - 10 AM
Opening Ceremonies & Keynote
HALL C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

10:30 - 11:45 AM
Professional Learning Session 1
MCC, LEVEL ONE & TWO

11:45 AM - 6 PM
Expo Hall / NCEA Central Open
EXPO HALL D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

12 - 1 PM
Opening Expo Hall Reception

12 - 1 PM
Lunch Available for Purchase
EXPO HALL D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

12 - 1:30 PM
Catholic Higher Education
Supporting Catholic Schools
(CHESCS) Lunch and Meeting
By Invitation only
103 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

12:15 - 1:15 PM
Lunch and Learns
By Invitation only
MCC, LEVEL TWO,
LOUNGE A, B, & SEASONS

1:30 - 2:45 PM
Professional Learning Session 2
MCC, LEVEL ONE & TWO

3:15 - 4:45 PM
Opening Eucharistic Liturgy*
HALL C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

5 - 6 PM
Expo Hall Reception
Reception Sponsored by AIM
Higher Foundation and Catholic
Schools of the Archdiocese of
St. Paul and Minneapolis
EXPO HALL D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

***Please note:**
Registration and
Badge Pickup will be
closed during Mass
on Tuesday afternoon.
Badges must be
worn to gain entry
to all events. Please
plan accordingly.



Puppy Love: Believe Together
Tuesday, April 7: 12 - 1:30 PM, 4:30 - 6 PM
Wednesday, April 8: 11:30 AM - 1 PM, 4:30 - 6 PM
Expo Hall D, MCC, Level One



WEDNESDAY APRIL 8

8 AM – 5 PM

Chapel

Rosary begins at 8:15 AM

HALL B, MCC, LEVEL ONE

8:30 AM – 6 PM

Registration and Badge Pickup

HALL D LOBBY, MCC, LEVEL ONE

9 – 10 AM

Morning Liturgy

HALL C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

10 AM – 6 PM

Expo Hall / NCEA Central Open

EXPO HALL D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

10:30 – 11:45 AM

Professional Learning Session 3

MCC, LEVEL ONE & TWO

12 – 1 PM

Reception in the Expo Hall

EXPO HALL D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

12 – 1:30 PM

Lunch Available for Purchase

EXPO HALL D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

12 – 1:30 PM

Superintendents Lunch

By Invitation only

Sponsored by Reniassance

BALLROOM B, MCC, LEVEL ONE

12 – 4 PM

Specialty Coffee Bar

Sponsored by Clarity

MCC, LEVEL TWO, LOUNGE A

12:15 – 1:15 PM

Lunch and Learns

By Invitation only

MCC, LEVEL TWO, LOUNGE A & B

1:30 – 2:45 PM

Professional Learning Session 4

MCC, LEVEL ONE & TWO

3:15 – 4:30 PM

Professional Learning Session 5

MCC, LEVEL ONE & TWO

5 – 6 PM

Expo Hall Reception

EXPO HALL D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

THURSDAY APRIL 9

7:30 – 11:30 AM

Registration and Badge Pickup

HALL D LOBBY, MCC, LEVEL ONE

8 – 9:15 AM

Professional Learning Session 6

MCC, LEVEL ONE & TWO

8 – 11:30 AM

Chapel

Rosary begins at 9:15 AM

102 B, MCC, LEVEL ONE

8 – 11:30 AM

Expo Hall / NCEA Central Open

EXPO HALL D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

9:45 – 11 AM

Professional Learning Session 7

MCC, LEVEL ONE & TWO

11:20 – 12:30 PM

Keynote & Closing Ceremonies

HALL C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Closing Eucharistic Liturgy

HALL C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

2:15 – 3:45 PM

2025 Blue Ribbon Reception

By Invitation only

Sponsored by 1st Day School Supplies

HILTON MINNEAPOLIS

Exclusive Studio 3:16 Private Screening
Wednesday, April 8: 10:30 – 11:45 AM,
1:30 – 2:45 PM, 3:15 – 4:30 PM
102 D, MCC, Level One



NCEA 2026 *Main Stage Events*

Main Stage events will take place in Hall C in the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Opening Ceremonies

Tuesday, April 7, 8:30 – 10 AM

HALL C, MCC, LEVEL ONE



Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman

President/CEO

National Catholic Educational Association



Dr. Jason Slattery

Director of Catholic Education
and Superintendent of Schools

Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis



The Heart's Need for Beauty: In Defense of a Catholic Education

Bishop Cozzens will explore the importance of literature, art, music, and poetry in the communication of the eternal truths which make life worth living. He will show that the Catholic instinct in education which uses beauty to help students encounter the truth about themselves and God is precisely what is needed to counteract the modern tendency of looking to technology and efficiency to solve our greatest problems. Those who let their hearts be touched by the transcendent beauty of God discover both a hope and a force that allows them to bring new life to our world.

Bishop Andrew Cozzens, S.T.D., D.D.

Keynote Speaker

Bishop Andrew Cozzens, S.T.D., D.D., a graduate of Benedictine College in Atchison, KS, served as a missionary for young people with both Twin Cities based NET Ministries and the national college ministry Saint Paul's Outreach before entering seminary. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in 1997 and after serving in two parishes was sent to Rome for doctoral studies, where he completed a doctorate degree in sacramental theology focusing on Saint John Paul II's theology of the Priest as the Bridegroom of the Church. His book *A Living Image of the Bridegroom: The Priesthood and the Evangelical Counsels* was published in 2020 through the Institute for Priestly Formation out of Omaha, an organization for which he also serves as president. After teaching in seminary formation for 8 years, Bishop Cozzens was ordained to the episcopacy in 2013 as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. On December 6, 2021, he was installed as the 8th bishop of the Diocese of Crookston. He was tasked by the U.S. Bishops with leading a three-year National Eucharistic Revival which began in 2022 and has impacted the U.S. Church at every level seeking to strengthen Eucharistic belief and practice and help the U.S. Church make a missionary conversion. As part of the Revival, he founded and is the first president of the National Eucharistic Congress Corporation and he oversaw the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis where over 60,000 Catholics gathered to worship the Eucharistic Lord and be sent on mission across the country. This was the first National Eucharistic Congress in the United States in almost 50 years.

Closing Ceremonies

Thursday, April 9, 11:20 AM – 12:30 PM

HALL C, MCC, LEVEL ONE



Dr. Steven F. Cheeseman
President/CEO
National Catholic Educational Association



Dr. Brian R. Disney
Superintendent
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Interim Executive Director
Mother Theodore Catholic Academies



Believe in Better Days

When the first followers brought their fears, dilemmas, and doubts to Jesus, He didn't dismiss them. He didn't tell them to 'toughen up', 'try harder,' or 'get over it.' Jesus asked for one thing; "believe in me." Suffering, setbacks, and sin do not define us or determine our future. What he said to his friends, He says to us today; "do not fear, just believe." Because Jesus didn't simply lay in a tomb for three days, he went into hell and rose right out of it, so that you and I may have life and have it to the full. Join us as we look to Christ and place our trust in Him who makes all things new.

Sr. Mary Grace, SV

Keynote Speaker

Sr. Mary Grace, SV, grew up on the shores of Sydney, Australia, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame Australia with a degree in theology. After meeting the Sisters of Life during World Youth Day Sydney, she was captivated by the beauty of every human life and feeling compelled to lay down her life to protect it. She worked for the campus ministry team before entering the Sisters of Life in the Bronx NY in 2013. Sr. Mary Grace made her first vows in 2018 and professed her final vows in 2023. She was first missioned for three years in Toronto, Canada, serving vulnerable pregnant women and their unborn children, inviting those wounded by abortion into the healing mercy of Jesus, and offering retreats. She currently serves as the Evangelization Mission Coordinator for the Community in Denver, where she currently resides. The Evangelization Mission coordinates the sharing of the charism of life and fostering a culture of life throughout the US and worldwide, through in-person mission trips, media and online outreach. She is also the co-host of the Sisters of Life Podcast 'Let Love' and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in theology.



LUNCH AND LEARNS

Join a Lunch and Learn for a hands on learning experience. These sessions provide practical insights, new ideas, and collaborative dialogue in a relaxed setting—making it easy to grow professionally without adding extra time to the workday. Lunch is provided with every session. Invitation Only and Registration required.



TUESDAY APRIL 7

12:15-1:15 PM

LL1 Believe in Belonging: Strengthening Catholic School Communities Across the Enrollment Lifecycle

Rachael Cramond
VenturEd Solutions

LOUNGE A, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Participants will gain insight into how Catholic schools can strengthen belonging across the enrollment lifecycle. They will identify common challenges, such as fragmented communication and disconnected systems, and explore practical ways to improve alignment, clarity, and the family experience, reframing enrollment as an ongoing ministry of welcome that supports retention and reinforces the Catholic mission.

12:15-1:15 PM

LL2 Love That Moves: Creating Classrooms of Disciples

Melissa Kaufenberg; Fr. Nathan LaLiberte
Cross Catholic Outreach

LOUNGE B, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Are you seeking meaningful classroom programs to inspire your students to live their faith beyond the classroom walls? In this session, we will focus on tangible ways to form disciples in the classroom—where love moves beyond sentiment into concrete action. Together, we'll discuss how faith-in-action programs can transform students, families, and communities through the ministries of Cross Catholic Outreach.



WEDNESDAY APRIL 8

12:15-1:15 PM

LL3 Supporting New Catholic School Principals: How to Build Targeted Support Plans

Denis Jarvinen, Ph.D.

Strategic Measurement

SEASONS, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Catholic school principals play a vital role in shaping the culture, direction, and success of the schools they lead. They are responsible for creating environments that foster both spiritual growth and academic excellence. They are leaders and role-models for the staff and students. For many Catholic schools, the effort to recruit and hire principals represents a significant investment of time and resources. To protect that investment, it's important to identify how best to support the new principal as they start their new leadership journey. Failure to provide targeted support can lead to lower productivity, increased stress and higher turn-over. This Lunch and Learn will focus on defining what it means to provide "support" to new principals and outline concrete steps a parish or diocese can take to build impactful support plans. Specific tools and procedures for identifying how to best support new principals will be presented and discussed

12:15-1:15 PM

LL4 Bringing Leadership to Your Campus

Kevin Lewis; Jason Lee

Apex Leadership

LOUNGE B, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Inspiring today's students to embrace gratitude, kindness, and leadership can be more challenging than ever. Today's cluttered digital world is constantly clamoring for attention. Apex Leadership is focused on building leaders for today and tomorrow. Join us to learn about our 2 week leadership program and the impact that it is having on campuses around the country every year.

12:15-1:15 PM

LL5 Building Operational and Financial Readiness for Vouchers and State Tax Credits

Drew Cocco

Clarity

LOUNGE A, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Recent years have seen a dramatic increase in the number of avenues through which families can access outside funds to put towards education. These include state voucher and tax credit programs as well as federal dollars made available through the Education Choice for Children Act (ECCA). Many schools want to find ways to strategically incorporate these funds into their overall financial aid and discounting, but it can feel overwhelming especially for schools just beginning to explore ways to identify and utilize available funding. In this session, we'll workshop some general strategies for identifying resources and building your operational and financial readiness to incorporate these types of outside funding.

All liturgical celebrations will take place in Hall C of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Tuesday, April 7

Opening Eucharistic Liturgy

3:15 – 4:45 PM



**Most Reverend
Bernard A. Hebda**

*Archbishop of Saint Paul
and Minneapolis*

The son of the late Bernard and Helen Clark Hebda, the Most Reverend Bernard Anthony Hebda was born on September 3, 1959, in Pittsburgh, PA. Bernard Hebda attended Resurrection Elementary School in Brookline, PA, and then graduated from South Hills Catholic High School in Pittsburgh in 1977. He continued his education at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980 followed by a juris doctorate from the Columbia University School of Law in 1983. He was admitted to the Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1983 and worked in Pittsburgh as an associate in the law firm of Reed, Smith, Shaw and McClay.

He was named fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Gaylord in Michigan on October 7, 2009, by Pope Benedict XVI. On September 24, 2013, Pope Francis named him Coadjutor Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Newark. On June 15, 2015, Pope Francis named him Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, in addition to his responsibilities in Newark. On March 24, 2016, Pope Francis named him Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. He was installed on May 13, 2016, in the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

Wednesday, April 8

Morning Liturgy

9 – 10 AM



**Most Reverend Gregory J.
Hartmayer, OFM Conv.**

*Archbishop of Atlanta
Chair of the Board of NCEA*

Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv., is chair of the NCEA Board of Directors. He is the seventh Archbishop of Atlanta, installed on May 6, 2020. Before his installation in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Archbishop Hartmayer was the fourteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, appointed by Pope Benedict XVI on July 19, 2011, and consecrated and installed on October 18, 2011.

He joined the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, commonly known as the Conventual Franciscan Friars, and took his simple vows in 1970 at the St. Joseph Cupertino Friary in Ellicott City, MD, before making his solemn profession in 1973.

He received a Master of Education in secondary Catholic school administration from Boston College. Archbishop Hartmayer also has been a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Administrative Committee, the Committee on Priorities and Plans. He currently serves as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Catholic Communication Campaign and is on the board of directors of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

Thursday, April 9

Closing Eucharistic Liturgy

12:30 – 1:30 PM



**Most Reverend Thomas R.
Zinkula, DD, J.D., J.C.L.**

*Archbishop of Dubuque
NCEA Board Member*

Most Reverend Thomas R. Zinkula, DD, J.D., J.C.L., is an American prelate of the Catholic Church who has served as Metropolitan Archbishop of Dubuque in Iowa since 2023, where he first served as a priest. He served as Bishop of Davenport in Iowa from 2017 to 2023. The eldest of nine siblings, he was inducted into the Cornell College Athletic Hall of Fame for football. After college, he worked as an actuary before earning his juris doctorate, then practiced law in Iowa. He received a Master of Theology from The Catholic University of America and a licentiate in canon law from St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada. Throughout his vocation, he has served as pastor, parochial vicar, sacramental priest, judge for the Archdiocesan Tribunal, judicial vicar, rector of the archdiocesan college seminary, and episcopal vicar. Archbishop Zinkula's episcopal motto is *Fiat voluntas tua*, Latin for 'Thy will be done.'

102 B

Rosary in the Chapel | Tuesday, April 7, 1 PM
Wednesday, April 8, 8:15 AM | Thursday, April 9, 9:15 AM



NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL RECOGNITION

NCEA celebrates the 2025 National Blue Ribbon Schools that have achieved the highest levels of academic excellence in the United States. These schools share a joyful witness of gospel-centered learning supported by a demonstrated dedication to student success, rigorous academic quality, and an unwavering commitment to forming students in wisdom, character, and purpose.

Archdiocese of Atlanta

St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, Hapeville

Archdiocese of Baltimore

St. Louis School, Clarksville

Archdiocese of Chicago

Ascension Catholic School, Oak Park
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Academy, Chicago
Regina Dominican High School, Wilmette
St. Anne Catholic School, Barrington
St. Giles School, Oak Park
St. John of the Cross Parish School,
Western Springs
St. Matthias School, Chicago
St. Norbert School, Northbrook
St. Therese Chinese Catholic School, Chicago
The Academy of Saint Joan of Arc, Evanston
Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart,
Lake Forest

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School,
Dayton

Archdiocese of Detroit

All Saints Catholic School, Canton
Bishop Foley Catholic High School,
Madison Heights

Archdiocese of Hartford

Saint James School, Manchester
Saint Thomas & Saint Timothy School,
West Hartford

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Indianapolis
St. Mary's Catholic School, North Vernon

Archdiocese of Miami

Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School,
Southwest Ranches

Archdiocese of New Orleans

Saint Dominic School, New Orleans

Archdiocese of Newark

Our Lady of Czestochowa, Jersey City

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School,
Oklahoma City

Archdiocese of Omaha

Mary Our Queen Catholic School, Omaha
Mount Michael Benedictine School, Elkhorn
St. Isidore Catholic Elementary School, Columbus

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

St. Elizabeth Parish School, Chester Springs

Archdiocese of San Francisco

Ecole Notre Dame Des Victoires, San Francisco

Archdiocese of Washington

Holy Trinity School, Washington, DC
Little Flower School, Bethesda

Diocese of Albany

St. Pius X School, Loudonville

Diocese of Arlington

St. Mark Catholic School, Vienna

Diocese of Baton Rouge

St. Jude the Apostle School, Baton Rouge

Diocese of Charleston

Prince of Peace Catholic School, Taylors

Diocese of Covington

Newport Central Catholic High School, Newport
Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills

Diocese of Dallas

St. Rita Catholic School, Dallas

Diocese of Evansville

St. Philip School, Mt. Vernon

Diocese of Gary

St. John the Evangelist School, St. John

Diocese of Grand Rapids

Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic School,
Grand Rapids

Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

St. Louis de Montfort School, Fishers

Diocese of Phoenix

Saint John Bosco Catholic School, Phoenix

Diocese of Reno

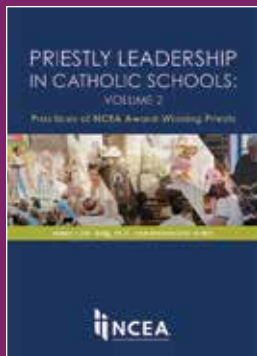
Little Flower Catholic School, Reno



PUBLICATIONS

Add these must-have titles to your library!

NEW RELEASES



Priestly Leadership in Catholic Schools: Volume 2

James "Jim" King, Ph.D., and Melissa Link, D.Min.

This book will benefit new pastors assigned to a parish with a parish or regional school to understand what a pastor needs to succeed.

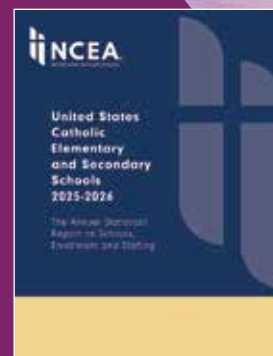
Member \$15 / Non-Member \$23
Product code: ADM-31-1662
ISBN: 978-1-55833-810-4



Monograph Series: Academic Excellence

Catholic school educators are asked to "unpack" their curriculum to ensure a coherent, unified, guaranteed, and viable curriculum, making the "Spirit of Catholicism" evident across the whole program of studies.

*Member \$20 / Non-Member \$30
Product code: ADM-31-1663
ISBN: 978-1-55833-812-8



U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2025-2026

This annual statistical report is a high-level overview of Catholic education in the U.S.

*Member \$25 / Non-Member \$38
Product code: RES-31-1664
ISBN: 978-1-55833-815-9



The Curriculum Development Roadmap
Kaitlin Reichart, Ed.D. and Michelle Lia, Ed.D.

This is a roadmap and a unique tool for Catholic schools to use to write an academically excellent curriculum integrated with our Catholic faith.

Member \$25 / Non-Member \$38
Product code: CUR-31-1657
ISBN: 978-1-55833-798-5



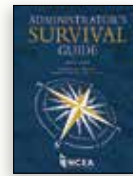
Dearest Leader: Letters for Catholic School Leaders

Edited by Kathy Power Mears
 In the sacred work of Catholic education, no leader walks alone. This collection of letters offers a rare blend of inspiration, practical wisdom, and spiritual encouragement.
Member \$12 / Non-Member \$18
Product code: ADM-31-1660
ISBN: 978-1-55833-807-4



The Principal's Pen: Prayers for Every Season

Kathy Power Mears
 This heartfelt collection of prayers offers inspiration and encouragement for the seasons of the Church year—and the seasons of a teacher's vocation. A must-read for anyone serving in Catholic education.
Member \$12 / Non-Member \$18
Product code: SDV-31-1658
ISBN: 978-1-55833-802-9



Administrator's Survival Guide – Second Edition
Annette Marie Jones, Ed.D. and Thomas J. Kiely, M.A., M.A.L.S., D.H.L.

This second edition is a challenge to new Catholic school leaders to become initiators and participants in high-quality conversations with faculty, staff, families, and stakeholders.
Member \$30 / Non-Member \$45
Product code: ADM-31-1659
ISBN: 978-1-55833-806-7



The Cadence of Catholic School Development/Advancement
Frank Donaldson

The future of Catholic education depends on the strength of the village we build today.

Member \$20 / Non-Member \$30
Product code: DEV-31-1656
ISBN: 978-1-55833-796-1



Monograph Series: Catholic School Identity and Mission

A sourcebook for practitioners for NSBECS Standards 1 and 2.
***Member \$20 / Non-Member \$30**
Product code: ADM-31-1648
ISBN: 978-1-55833-793-0



Monograph Series: Faith Formation for the Catholic School Community

A sourcebook for practitioners for NSBECS Standards 3 and 4.
***Member \$20 / Non-Member \$30**
Product code: ADM-31-1649
ISBN: 978-1-55833-794-7



Monograph Series: Governance and Leadership

A sourcebook for practitioners for NSBECS Standards 5 and 6.
***Member \$20 / Non-Member \$30**
Product code: ADM-31-1646
ISBN: 978-1-55833-791-6

Place Your Order Today
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A Brighter Future for Catholic Schools: Innovation & Opportunity

Edited by Timothy Uhl, Ph.D.
 This collection of essays challenges us to understand the mission of Catholic schools more expansively.
Member \$25 / Non-Member \$38
Product code: ADM-31-1654
ISBN: 978-1-55833-790-9



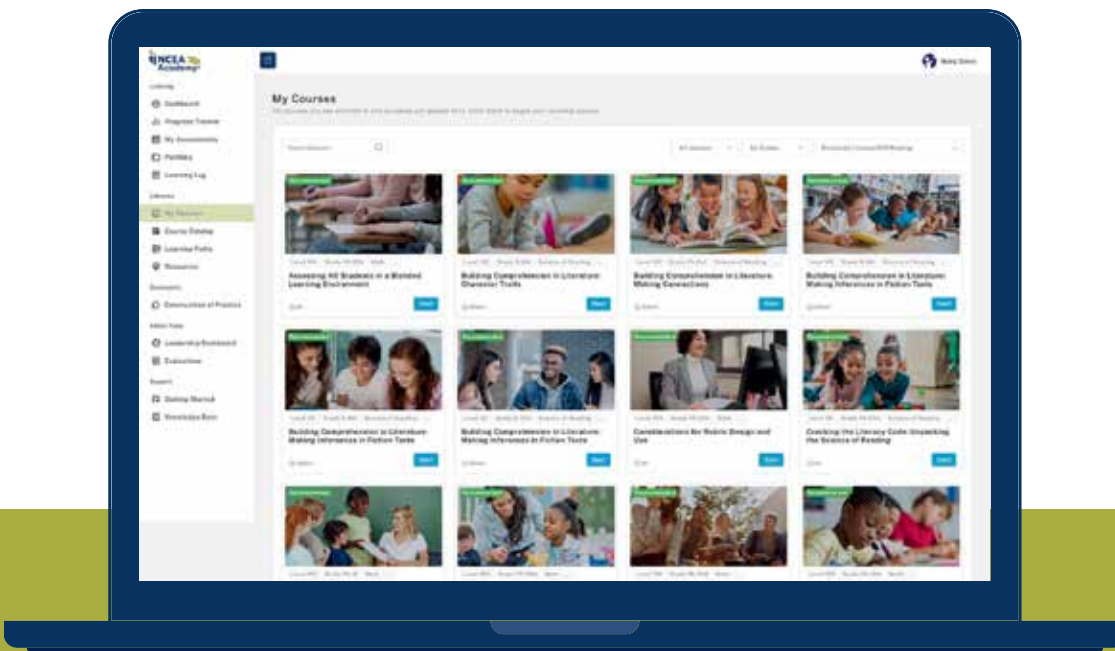
The Playbook for Whole-Child Education in U.S. Catholic Schools

This playbook offers operational guidelines for practitioners implementing a whole-child approach to education.
Member \$20 / Non-Member \$30
Product code: ADM-31-1653
ISBN: 978-1-55833-788-6



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*Empowering Catholic
School Educators*



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www.NCEAAcademy.org

TUESDAY

10:30 – 11:45 AM

127 When The Board Missteps, Fire the Head: How High Performing Boards Avoid This Trap

James Hickey, Ph.D.

ROOM 200 F, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session has three objectives:

- Analyze the board’s role in fostering a strong partnership between the board and the head, which supports long-term headships.
- Gain insight into building trust, understanding, and respect between the board/pastor and the head to ensure a collaborative approach to pursuing strategic initiatives. Explore the practices of a mature board--the kind that prevents external influences from eroding incremental and dynamic growth.
- Reaffirm the board’s crucial role in establishing a strong partnership with the head to achieve strategic objectives and illustrate how boards influence institutional stability, particularly during challenging times, by securing the head’s long-term tenure.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
BOA, PAS, ADM

WEDNESDAY

10:30 – 11:45 AM

304 Build Your Board to Build Your School

Christopher Martin, M.A.

ROOM 102 E, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Using a sample board matrix tool, participants will assess needs aligned with their school’s goals, identify and vet prospects, and develop a plan to engage new board members.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
BOA, PAS, ADM

328 Transforming Catholic School Leadership: A Mission Retreat for Board Members

Todd Sweda, Ed.D.; Andrew Kremer, Ph.D.; Daryl Hagan, Ed.D.

ROOM 103 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Explore a mission-focused retreat framework designed to strengthen Catholic identity and leadership from the top down.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
BOA, DIO, ADM

WEDNESDAY

1:30 – 2:45 PM

409 Enhancing Board Engagement - From Passive Participants to Active Problem Solvers

John James, Ed.D.

ROOM 102 E, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Develop a one-year plan for board engagement nested within a multi-year plan for board growth and development, beginning with a focus on operational vitality.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
ADM, BOA, DIO

427 Visionary Leadership Unleashed: Strategic Planning for Catholic Secondary Schools

Marco Clark, Ed.D.

ROOM 103 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Visionary strategic planning involves creating a bold, long-term vision that aligns with your school’s mission, inspires a broad array of stakeholders, and is rooted in Catholic identity.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
ADM, BOA, DIO

WEDNESDAY

3:15 – 4:30 PM

518 I Am the Vine, You are the Branches: The Spiritual Core of Catholic School Governance

Ronald Fussell, Jr., Ed.D; Max Engel, Ph.D.

ROOM 102 E, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Explore the spiritual foundations of board service, how board members support mission, and how effective formation strengthens Catholic identity.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
BOA, ADM, DIO

526 Setting the Standard - Utilizing the NSBECS to Cultivate a Standards-Driven Culture

Kevin Baxter, Ed.D.

ROOM 103 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Discover how a standards-driven approach empowers the board to provide grace, guidance, and a clear vision, ultimately leading to sustained success and a vibrant Catholic school community.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
BOA, ADM, DIO

BOARDS SERIES AT NCEA 2026

Offering targeted programming for Catholic school system leaders, site administrators, pastors, and anyone who works closely with their school board.



Expo Hall Highlights

Expo Hall D,
MCC,
Level One

Visit and get your Prize Card stamped by participating booths for a chance to win exciting raffle items! Once you have 11 stamps, drop your card off at NCEA Central, located in the Expo Hall.

Expo Hall & NCEA Central Hours

Tuesday, April 7 11:45 AM – 6 PM

Wednesday, April 8 10 AM – 6 PM

Thursday, April 9 9 AM – 1:30 PM

Believe and Connect:

Partners in Catholic Education

Expo Hall Reception

Tuesday, April 7 12 – 1 PM

The mission of Catholic education is strengthened through collaboration. At the Believe & Connect Reception, spend time in the Expo Hall meeting the partners and organizations dedicated to supporting your work. Engage with exhibitors, explore helpful resources, and build connections with those who share your commitment to forming students in faith and knowledge.

Step Right Up to the State Fair Expo Reception!

Tuesday, April 7 5 – 6 PM

Sponsored by the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and the Aim Higher Foundation

Experience the fun and flavors of the Minnesota State Fair right in the heart of the Expo Hall! Explore amazing vendors who support Catholic education while enjoying fair-inspired treats and games. Visit our butter sculptor and be sure to stop by and visit our reception sponsors, the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and the Aim Higher Foundation. Discover the latest resources to bring back to your classroom and sample tasty bites along the way.

Believe & Explore: Expo Hall Gathering

Wednesday, April 8 12 – 1 PM

Take time to explore the Expo Hall and experience the many resources available to Catholic schools. The Believe & Explore Gathering is an opportunity to visit exhibitors, learn about new programs and services, and discover tools that can make an impact in your classrooms. Join fellow educators for refreshments and conversation as you explore all the ways our partners support Catholic education. PS: Don't forget to get your passport stamped for a chance to win some amazing raffle prizes.

Believe & Be Amazed: The Expo Experience

Wednesday, April 8 5 – 6 PM

Step into the Expo Hall and prepare to be amazed! At Believe & Be Amazed, you'll discover creative resources, innovative tools, and inspiring partners who support Catholic schools. Meet vendors, gather new ideas, and explore solutions designed to help your students grow in faith and knowledge.

NCEA CENTRAL

Expo Hall, Booth 422

Make NCEA Central your go-to stop during Convention to browse the latest publications, pick up exclusive merch, and explore the latest NCEA programs and resources. Learn more about your member benefits, NCEA Academy, ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education), NCEA Catholic School of Distinction Program, and more. Attend NCEA Central Chats for a glimpse into what's going on with your association. NCEA Central also provides opportunities to meet NCEA authors, catch up with NCEA staff, and see the latest visits from the Bright Lights of Catholic Education tour!



Butter Sculpture

Tuesday, April 7 12 – 6 PM

Wednesday, April 8 9 AM – 6 PM

Expo Hall Stage

Sponsored by *VenturEd*

Step into a true Minnesota tradition—our live butter sculptor brings artistry and whimsy to life right before your eyes! Watch as creamy butter transforms into an intricate masterpiece, celebrating the creativity and craftsmanship that make the State Fair—and Catholic education—so special. Don't miss this unique, hands-on experience that's sure to delight your senses and spark conversation!

About the Artist

Gerry Kulzer grew up on a farm where his mother made bread from wheat ground in her flour mill and butter from the cream of whole milk. His father, a creative genius in his own right, taught Gerry how to fix nearly anything on the farm.

This upbringing where "making" was of paramount importance helped shape Gerry's creative spirit and desire to design, draw, build, and sculpt.

A sculptor and art teacher with decades of experience, Mr. Kulzer brings his love of making to organizations across the state. His live sculpture performances are fascinating and engaging. Enjoyed by people of all ages, his performances illustrate the importance of working with one's hands, the therapeutic nature of clay, and the love of creation.

A beloved teacher, Kulzer's students have often expressed how he brought a love of art and joy to their school experience.



Expo Hall Highlights

Expo Hall D,
 MCC,
 Level One

Visit and get your Prize Card stamped by participating booths for a chance to win exciting raffle items! Once you have 11 stamps, drop your card off at NCEA Central, located in the Expo Hall.



Puppy Love: Believe Together

Tuesday, April 7 12 – 1:30 PM, 4:30 – 6 PM
Wednesday, April 8 11:30 AM – 1 PM, 4:30 – 6 PM

Step inside the Partner Pavilion and let our puppies remind you to slow down, smile, and believe in the joy and love around you. These furry companions are here to brighten your day and bring a little lighthearted fun to the Expo Hall. Explore the many vendors supporting Catholic education, engage with their resources, and experience the warmth and energy that comes from both human and four-legged connections. Special thanks to Safe Hands Rescue and Healing Hearts Rescue.



Exclusive Studio 3:16 Private Screening

Wednesday, April 8 10:30 – 11:45 AM,
 1:30 – 2:45 PM, 3:15 – 4:30 PM

ROOM 102 D

Get an insider look at a brand new episode of Studio 3:16. This NCEA exclusive screening is more than a viewing – it's an invitation to see how we're reimagining Catholic education through high-quality storytelling and humor. Join us to preview the new season and discover how to spark genuine excitement for the Gospel in your students.

Meet the NCEA AUTHORS

TUESDAY APRIL 7

12 – 1 PM

Cynthia Ryals, Ed.D.

Crisis Planning for Catholic School Leaders: Protecting Schools in the 21st Century and Beyond

3 – 4 PM

Michael Boyle, Ph.D.

Unique and Unrepeatable: Serving All of God's Children and many other titles on inclusion, including upcoming NCEA book *Journey of St. Brendan: A Path to Inclusive Schools*

Annette Jones, Ph.D. and

Thomas J. Kiely, M.A., M.A.L.S., D.H.L.

The Administrator's Survival Guide, Second Edition

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8

12 – 1 PM

Jodee Blanco

NCEA Briefs: A Primer on Handling Challenging Parents and many other titles

3 – 4 PM

Kaitlin Reichart, Ed.D. and Michelle Lia, Ed.D.

The Curriculum Development Roadmap

4:45 – 5:15 PM

Frank Donaldson

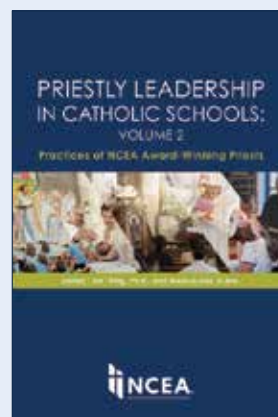
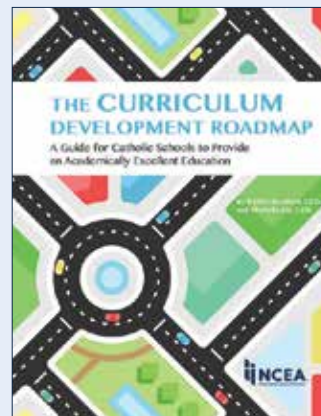
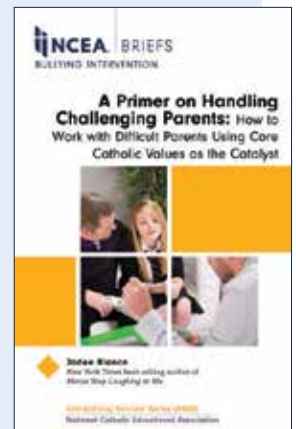
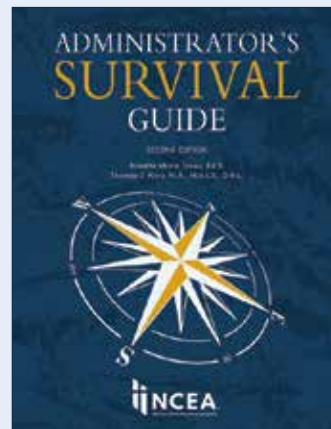
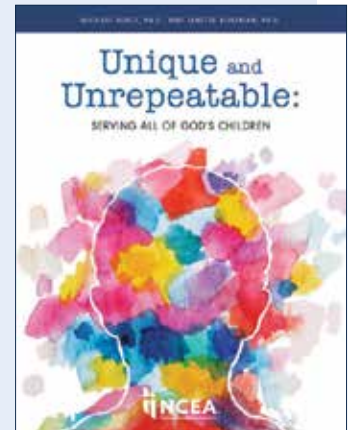
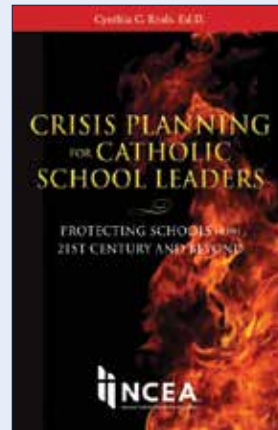
The Cadence of Catholic School Development/ Advancement: Connecting the Dots and many other titles on Advancement and Development

THURSDAY APRIL 9

9:30 – 10 AM

Jim King, Ph.D. and Melissa Link, D.Min.

Priestly Leadership in Catholic Schools Vol. 2: Reflections from NCEA Distinguished Pastors



NCEA 2026

Lead. Learn. Proclaim.

Awards

NCEA has a longstanding tradition of honoring and recognizing excellence and distinguished service in Catholic school education. Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Awards recognize the outstanding efforts, contributions, and achievements on behalf of Catholic school education. To learn more visit [NCEA.org/LLP](https://www.ncea.org/LLP).



Ryan Dilag, M.A.

*Teacher, Director of Campus Ministry
Bishop O'Dowd High School
Diocese of Oakland
Oakland, CA*



Dr. John Flanery

*President
Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools
Sioux City, IA*



Tricia Menzhuber, Ed.S.

*Principal
St. John Paul II and Immaculate
Conception Catholic Schools
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN*



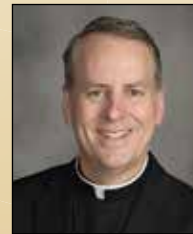
Father Mark Peacock

*Pastor
Holy Spirit Parish and School
Diocese of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids, MI*



Shaileen Riginos, M.A.

*Associate Superintendent
Diocese of Charleston
Charleston, SC*



Father Geoffrey N. Rose, OSFS

*President
St. Francis de Sales School
Diocese of Toledo
Toledo, OH*



Catherine Thompson, M.Ed.

*Superintendent
Archdiocese of Las Vegas
Las Vegas, NV*



**Sister Danielle Bernadette
Truex, IHM**

*Principal
Saint Peter the Apostle School
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA*

NCEA 2026 President's Awards

The President's Awards are presented in the names of past NCEA presidents to individuals and organizations who model the characteristics that advance the mission of Catholic school education and display the significant virtues of faith, support, leadership, and development that impact Catholic school education across the country. The NCEA Lifetime Commitment to Catholic Education Award recognizes individuals who over a career have advanced the mission of Catholic education.

To learn more visit [NCEA.org/PresidentsAwards](https://www.ncea.org/PresidentsAwards).

C. Albert Koob Merit Award

This award recognizes an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to Catholic education at any level—early childhood, elementary, secondary, higher education—or in any educational setting.



Maureen Dowling, Ed.D.

*Director
Office of Non-Public Education
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, D.C.*

Leonard F. DeFiore Parental Choice Advocate Award

This award recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional leadership in advancing equitable and comprehensive parental choice in education.



Bruce Hermie, M.Ed.

*Vice President
American Federation for Children*

Msgr. John F. Meyers Award

This award recognizes an individual who has significantly supported Catholic education through contributions in development, public relations, scholarship programs, financial management, or government relations.



Father Mark Beran

*Executive Director and Pastor
Saint Augustine Indian Mission
Archdiocese of Omaha
Winnebago, NE*

Dr. Karen M. Ristau Innovations Award

This award recognizes an individual, school, or program that has advanced the mission of Catholic education through an innovative program or approach.



The Roche Center for Catholic Education at Boston College

*Boston College
Boston, MA*

Catherine T. McNamee, CSJ Award

This award recognizes an individual or institution that demonstrates outstanding leadership in advancing a vision of Catholic education that embraces and supports cultural and economic diversity or effectively serves students with diverse needs.



Jan Breen

*President
Saint Joseph's Academy
Diocese of Baton Rouge
Baton Rouge, LA*

Lifetime Commitment to Catholic Education Award



Sister Joan Carberry, OSF

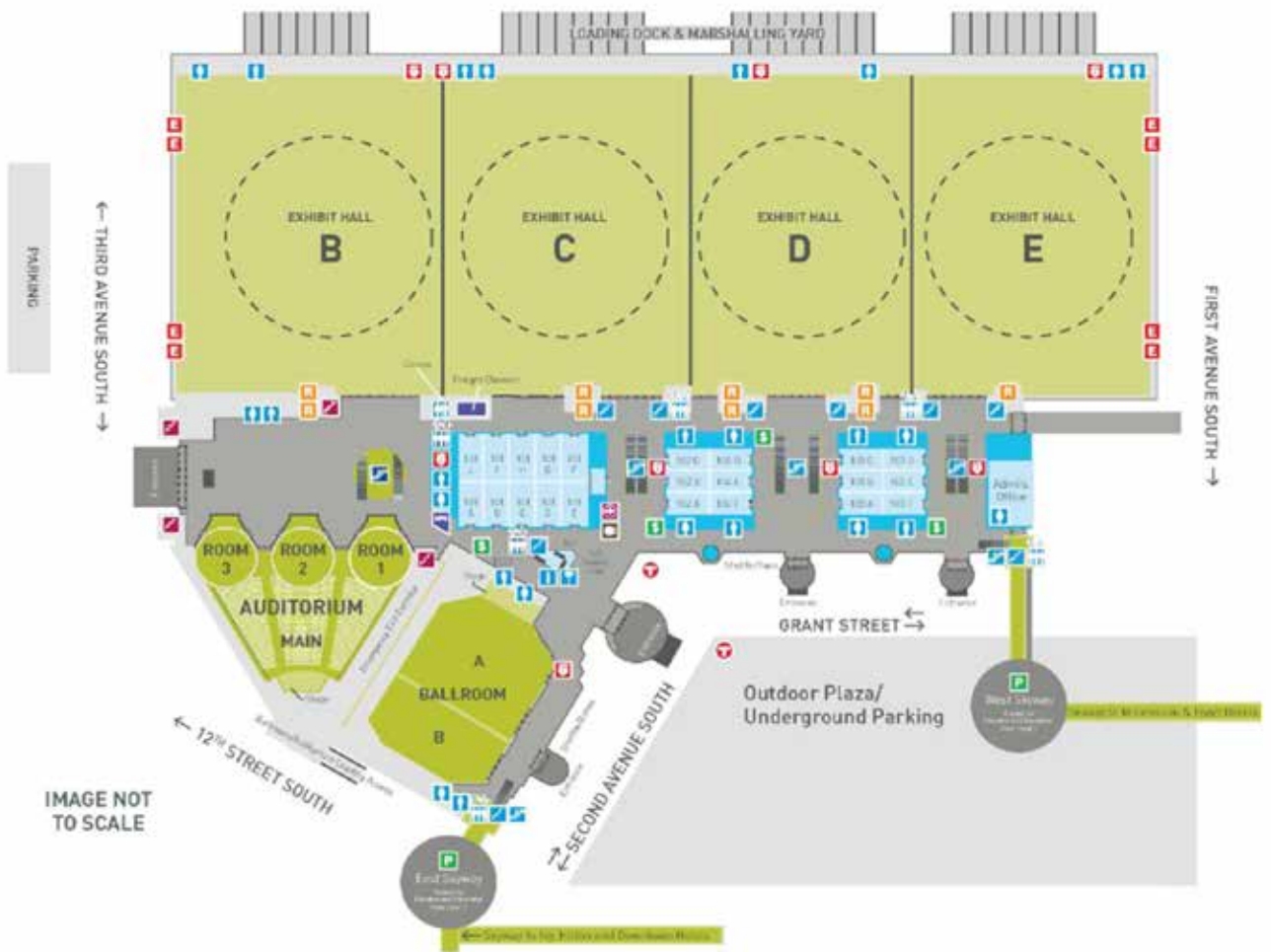
*Assistant Principal
St. Paul
Catholic School
Diocese of
Saint Petersburg
St. Petersburg, FL*



Donald L. Edwards, Ed.D.

*Associate
Superintendent
Archdiocese of Miami
Miami, FL*

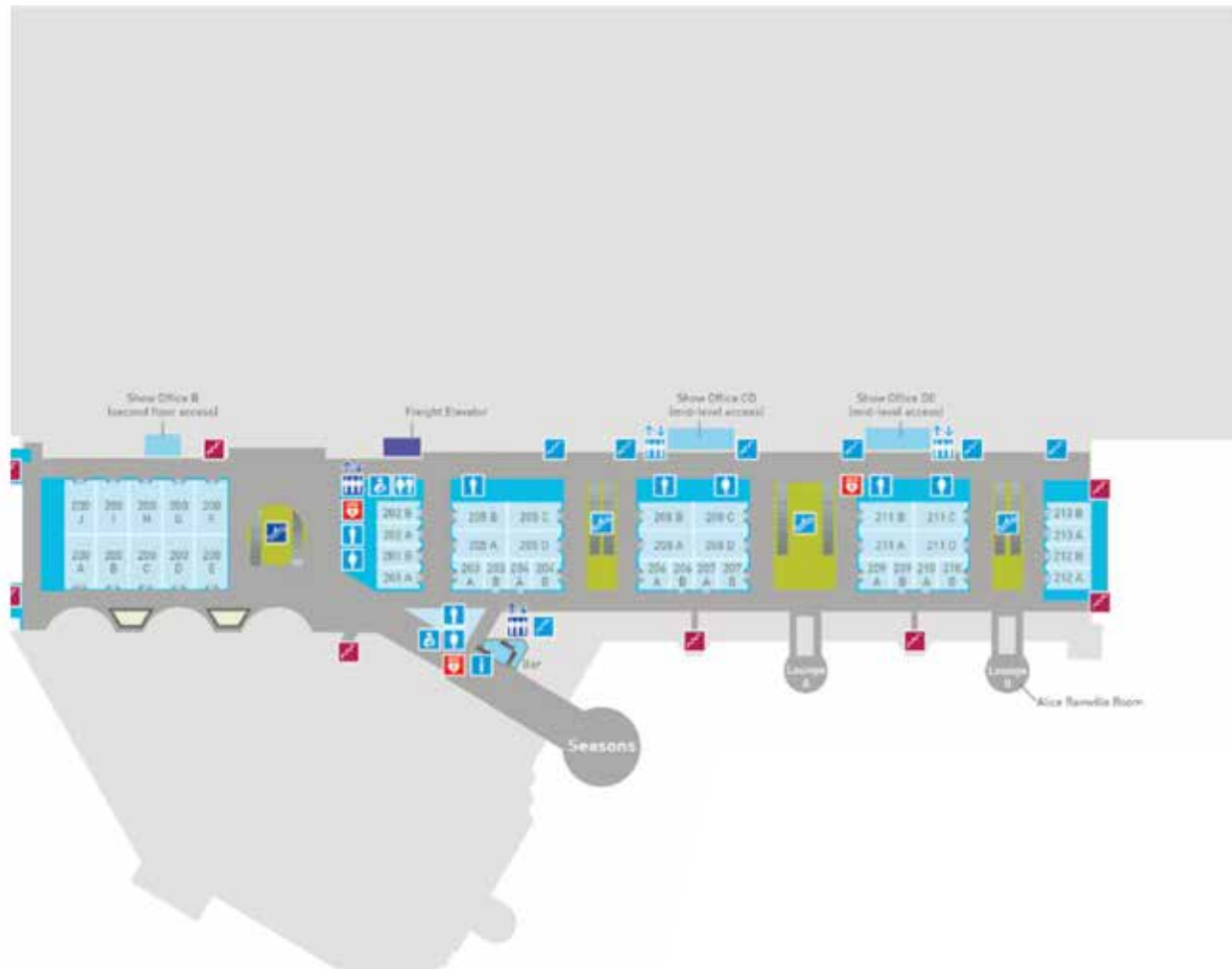
LEVEL ONE








LEGEND

- Restrooms
- Escalators (Levels 1 & 2)
- Escalators (All Levels)
- Elevators (Levels 1 & 2)
- Elevators (All Levels)
- Stairs (Levels 1 & 2)
- Emergency Stairs
- Automated External Defibrillator
- Business Center
- Coffee Shop / Cafe
- Visitor Information Center
- Refreshments
- Emergency Exit

LEVEL TWO

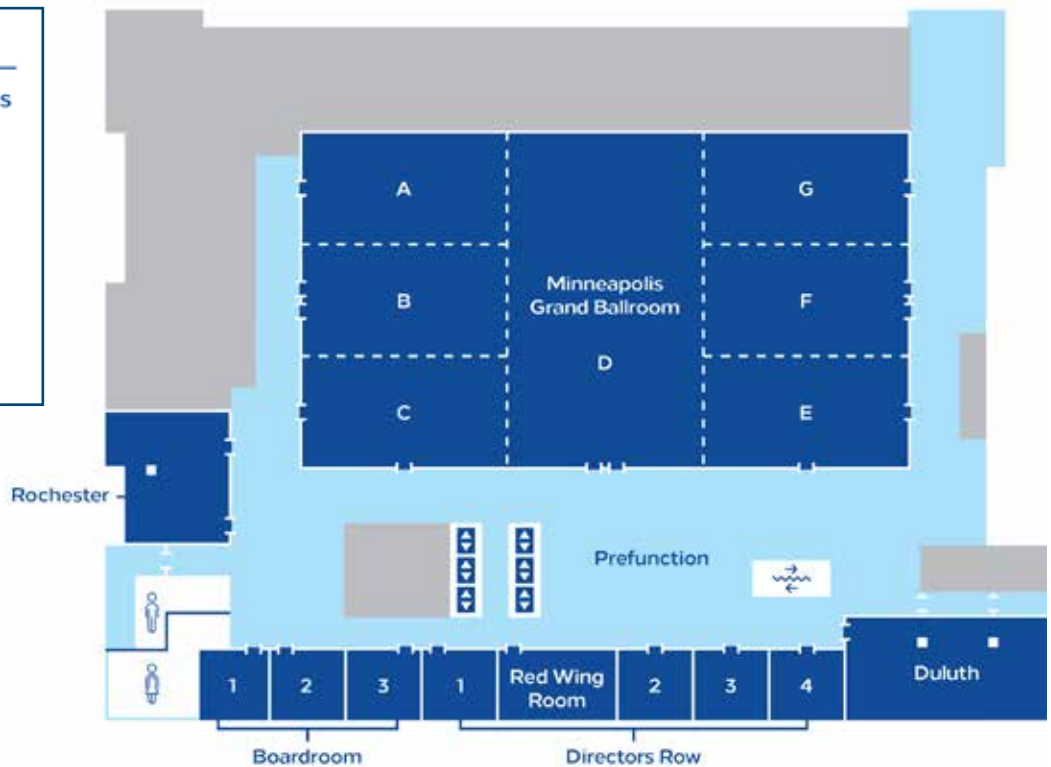


-  ATM
-  Wi-Fi Available in Public Lobbies
-  Parking
-  First Aid
-  Nicollet Mall
FREE Shuttle
Bus Stop

Second Level



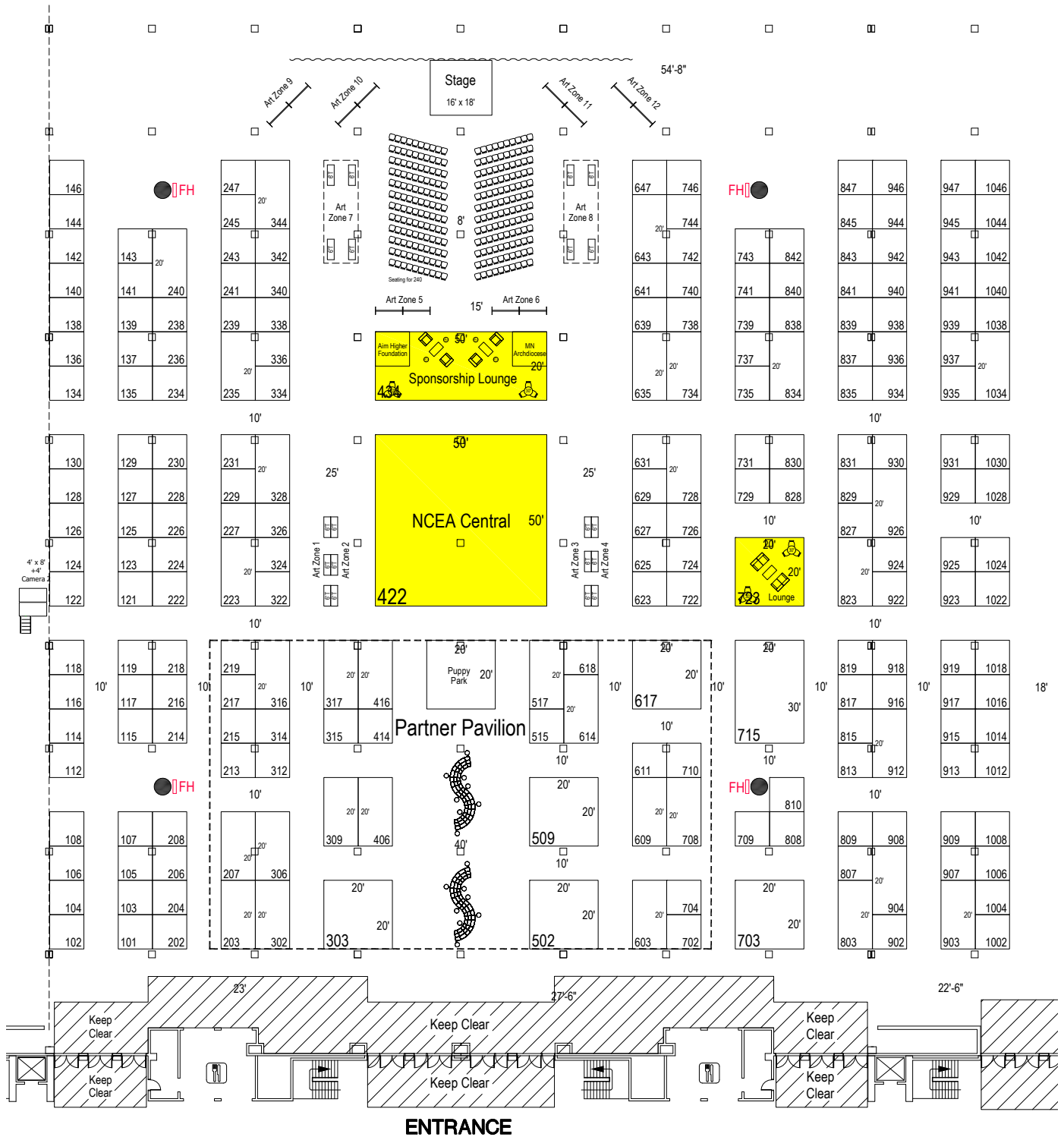
Third Level



FLOOR MAP KEY

- Meeting/Conference Rooms
- Amenities
- Public Space
- Private
- Outdoor Space
- Skywalk
- Stairs and Escalators
- Elevators

EXPO HALL D (MCC)



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<https://goo.gle/ncea26>

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

ROOM 102C

Time	Session title
10:30 - 11:45	What's New with Google for Education
1:30 - 2:34	Reclaim Your Day: Admin Tasks in Minutes with Google Gemini and NotebookLM

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

ROOM 102C

Time	Session title
10:30 - 11:45	AI literacy for tomorrow: Preparing High School Students for the AI-Driven Future with Google Gemini
1:30 - 2:45	Gemini 101: Introduction to learn how you can get the most out of Google's AI tool
3:15 - 4:30	The Future of Differentiation: Simple, High-Impact Individualized Learning with Gemini in Google Classroom

Thursday, April 9, 2026

ROOM 102C

Time	Session title
8:00 - 9:15	The Differentiated Classroom, Accelerated by AI and supported with Google for Education
9:45 - 11:00	Reading Reimagined: Using Read Along in Google Classroom for Literacy Success

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NCEATalk



NCEAorg



TUESDAY

10:30 – 11:45 AM

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSION 1

101 Abundant Blessings Through Nature and Play in Preschool

Jessica DeGroot

ROOM 207 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Attendees will learn about educating young students about nature as part of God's creation, fostering awe, gratitude, and stewardship. They will learn how to use outdoor settings for simple prayers, moments of quiet reflection, or songs of praise related to nature. They will gain knowledge of how to incorporate literacy, math, art, and science through activities grounded in Catholic values in an outdoor classroom setting.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ECT, ELM

102 Academic Excellence: Collaboration and Teacher Agency for Effective Catholic Schools

Kevin Baxter, Ed.D.; Betsy Okello, Ph.D.; Sandria Morten, Ed.D.; April Garcia, Ed.D.

ROOM 205 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session will focus on the importance of nurturing and sustaining a collaborative faculty culture in order for effective student learning to flourish. It will explore the importance of teacher agency and collaboration across grade levels and disciplines and address both structure and protocols for that collaboration. The session will address the importance of setting and monitoring of learning goals through the use of data as part of the interdisciplinary and collaborative process.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, SEC



103 Believe in Every Learner: Using AI to Foster Inclusion in Classrooms

Kerwin Molina; Shannon Tabaldo, Ed.D.

ROOM 200 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Catholic schools are called to believe in the God-given dignity and potential of every learner. Yet educators often face challenges in meeting diverse needs with limited resources. This session explores how artificial intelligence—when guided by Catholic values—can support inclusion by helping teachers differentiate instruction and support executive functioning. Designed for K-12 educators and administrators, the session offers adaptable tools and strategies that foster equity and student growth. Emphasizing that AI can augment, not replace, teacher expertise, this session empowers educators to serve all learners with compassion, creativity, and faith.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

MID, SEC

104 Catholicism Across the Curriculum

Brett Salkeld, Ph.D.

Our Sunday Visitor

ROOM 211 C, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Every subject is always taught from some point of view or other. In a Catholic school, that point of view should be Catholic. But what does this look like in practice? How can we integrate faith across in the curriculum in ways that are authentic, compelling, and respect the integrity of each subject? While adding Catholic content can be a valuable step, it is more important to think about how a Catholic worldview shapes our approach to all knowledge and learning. When we come to see this clearly, we realize that no content is untouched by our faith.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

SEC, MID

105 Community Service through Civics Class

Leigh Lewis, M.L.A.

ROOM 203 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, attendees will learn:

- How to guide students in identifying meaningful community needs through research and reflection.
- Strategies for designing effective, creative solutions that address real-world issues.
- Best practices for supporting student teamwork, planning, and project management.
- Techniques for organizing and implementing successful community events.
- Ways to assess student learning and civic engagement throughout the project.
- How to foster student ownership, leadership, and civic responsibility in project-based learning.
- Inspiring examples of student-led initiatives that have made a positive impact in their communities.

NSBECS Domain: *Mission and Catholic Identity*

SEC, CAM

106 Crisis Planning Preparedness:**From the Binder to Implementation**

Cynthia Ryals, Ed.D.

ROOM 200 GH, MCC, LEVEL TWO

To meet requirements for comprehensive crisis plans, Catholic school leaders need to include intricate responses to various emergencies and critical incidents. Training faculty, staff, and students to follow these protocols has unique differences and similarities from school to school. This presentation will illuminate best practices for training on the crisis plan and conducting drills with faculty, staff, and students. These best practices will allow school leaders and crisis response teams to proactively adjust procedures accordingly and identify areas for improvement before an actual incident occurs.

NSBECS Domain: *Operational Vitality*

DIO, ADM

**107 Cultivating the Virtue of Friendship**

Sr. John Dominic Rasmussen

*Openlight Media | Education in Virtue*ROOM 200 CDE, MCC, LEVEL TWO

As Catholic school educators, we want the children in our care to walk in friendship with Christ and carry this relational template into all their other friendships. Findings in interpersonal neurobiology reveal to us that the developing brain is first and foremost a relational organ, suggesting the crucial role of friendship in the gradual unfolding of healthy childhood brain development. The neurosequential model of brain development and information processing directly reveals that children cannot learn, and we don't have access to their cortical learning centers unless they feel emotionally safe in their environment and they have a sense of belonging in their relationships. This session will focus on the importance of nurturing the virtue of friendship.

NSBECS Domain: *Mission and Catholic Identity*

ELM, SEC

108 Engineering Faith: Designing Interdisciplinary Student Projects with Purpose and Catholic Identity

Elizabeth Bierly, M.Ed.; Therese Montesi;

Martha Robert, M.A.

ROOM 101 FG, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Walk away from this session with lessons that demonstrate that God is present in your school! We will provide a roadmap linking Catholic Identity to STREAM and cross-curricular lessons that enhance student learning, elevate faith formation, and enrich the lives of your school community.

NSBECS Domain: *Academic Excellence*

ELM, MID

109 Faith and Reason as Two Wings: Teaching Psychology as a Gateway to Catholic Faith

Kevin Tye

ROOM 209 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Psychology education presents a distinct opportunity to blend Catholic thought with secular academic study, thereby promoting intellectual rigor and spiritual growth. This presentation will show how to harness students' natural curiosity about themselves and their world to explore deeper questions of Catholic anthropology. Modern students naturally grapple with a wide range of questions like "Can AI ever become conscious?" "Why memorize anything when we have the internet?" or "What's wrong with living together before marriage?" We'll explore practical strategies for guiding these conversations toward meaningful encounters which highlight the convergence between psychology research and Catholic teachings.

NSBECS Domain: *Academic Excellence*

SEC, CNS

110 From Mission to Metrics: Practical, Research-Driven Marketing Tactics for Growing School Enrollment

Christopher Schulteis, M.Ed.

ROOM 206 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Learn how to align Catholic school mission with modern marketing practices by applying practical, research-driven strategies to boost enrollment. Through real-world examples, data insights, and proven digital tools, participants will explore how to connect with young millennial and Gen X parents while staying rooted in Catholic identity. Attendees will leave with actionable recruitment and retention tactics for improving outreach, tracking results, and making informed decisions that support sustainable school growth.

NSBECS Domain: [Operational Vitality](#)

MKT, ADM

111 Heart Speaks to Heart: How Leaders Use Rhetoric to Form School Culture

Christopher Fisher, M.A.

ROOM 205 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, attendees will learn how to use rhetoric to shape and strengthen Catholic culture in their schools. Drawing on classical and Catholic sources—from Aristotle to St. John Henry Newman—we will explore how a school leader’s voice not only reflects but also forms belief: belief in the school’s mission, its people, and its future. Participants will gain practical strategies for developing a leadership voice that motivates for mission, inspires trust, and builds a vibrant Catholic culture. Whether speaking to parents, faculty, or students, attendees will discover how intentional communication can move both hearts and minds—and why rhetoric is a vital tool for every Catholic school leader.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

ADM, DIO

112 I Believe! Fostering Learner Agency in Schools

Christie Bonfiglio, Ph.D.

ROOM 101 B, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Learner agency is a student’s ability to actively participate in and take ownership of their learning. In Catholic schools, fostering environments where students recognize their voice and embrace their God-given potential is foundational to nurturing both academic and spiritual growth. When students are empowered, they develop the confidence and motivation that positively impact their future. In this interactive session, participants will: a) define the key components of agency, b) explore research-based strategies for cultivating it, and c) examine practical examples for implementation. Together, we will reflect on how Catholic school environments can nurture learner agency—empowering students to grow in confidence and affirm, “I believe!”

NSBECS Domain: [Academic Excellence](#)

ELM, MID

113 Igniting Faith in the Middle: Creative Campus Ministry for Middle School Students

Kate Beskid

ROOM 204 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, attendees will learn how to engage the unique spiritual and developmental needs of middle school students through creative and age-appropriate ministry. Middle schoolers may be seen as the “middle child” of education, but their potential for faith formation is powerful when approached with intention and innovation. Led by middle school campus minister and religion teacher Kate Beskid, this session will explore practical strategies for energizing school Masses, retreats, service projects, and religion classes. Attendees will leave with a renewed sense of mission, fresh ideas, and a plan of action to enhance the spiritual experience of their students.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

CAM, MID



Session Target Audiences:

BOA Board Members
DIO Diocesan Leaders
ADM Site Administrators

ECT Early Childhood Teachers (Preschool-Kindergarten)
ELM Elementary School Teachers
MID Middle School Teachers
SEC Secondary School Teachers

CAM Campus Ministers

CNS Counselors

MKT Advancement/Marketing Directors

PAS Pastors Serving School Communities

114 Implementing Reading Programs for Children with Good and Diverse Books that Inspire Them Without Compromising their Catholic Faith

Normalinda Hammond, M.B.A.;

Sherrilyn Winterble, M.S.

ROOM 212 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In the 1840s, St. Anthony Mary Claret said, “If people do not have good books, they will read bad ones. Books are the food of the soul, and just as the body is nourished by wholesome food and harmed by poisonous food, so it is with reading and the soul.”

Parents often come to Catholic schools with the hope that their children will be free from books that include the influence of political agendas or social biases. This session will discuss what educators and administrators can do to find good books that not only align with the mission of Catholic schools but also help children develop a love and passion for reading through extracurricular programs that can ultimately benefit their school curriculum and parish community.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, MID

115 Improving Collective Efficacy through the Pastor-Principal Relationship

Kristy Dunn; Fr. Stephen Gadberry

ROOM 208 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session targets how to strengthen the relationship between the pastor and principal to increase mission-related outcomes for the entire church and school community.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

PAS, ADM

116 In Their Shoes: Understanding Students with ADHD

Eliane AbdelMalek

ROOM 101 I, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This session is an experiential workshop designed to offer a deep, empathetic understanding of what it's like to live with ADHD—particularly from a child's perspective. Through interactive, hands-on activities and guided simulations, participants will experience the sensory overload, executive functioning challenges, and emotional regulation difficulties that children with ADHD navigate daily.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, MID

117 Leading for Learning: Adaptive Leadership, Feedback, and Data Cycles to Close Student Achievement Gaps

Larisa Henderson

ROOM 101 H, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Adaptive school leaders must address student achievement gaps rooted in cultural and instructional disparities. This session introduces strategies from the Adaptive Leadership Framework to guide PLCs in answering: “What do we do when students do not master a concept?” Attendees will learn to apply Mandouit and Hattie’s Effective Learner Feedback Model and Bambrick-Santoyo’s Data-Driven Coaching Cycle to develop action plans that increase teacher efficacy and support small-group instruction within Tier 1. Participants will leave with practical tools to foster collaboration, improve learning, and fulfill the Catholic mission to serve all students.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, MID

118 Numerical Literacy: Making Math Accessible to All Learners

Sue Milano, M.A.

ROOM 101 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Attendees will learn how mathematical skills develop through a neuroscience-informed lens, with a focus on number sense and decomposition/recomposition. This session will explore the neurological foundations of dyscalculia, hands-on strategies to support number sense, and schema-based instruction for solving word problems. Teachers will engage in brain-based, multi-sensory activities using manipulatives and interactive games to strengthen neural pathways and deepen math understanding—equipping them to support all learners more effectively.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM

119 Saint Augustine the Teacher

Erika Kidd, Ph.D.

ROOM 211 A, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Saint Augustine of Hippo is a Doctor of the Church. He was also a skilled teacher, and he had a lot to say about teaching. He wrote memorably about the way his early teachers failed him, teaching him to love praise and worldly success. He wrote too about the vocation of the teacher, a vocation he lived out in many ways throughout his life. In his work *On the Teacher*, he observes that no parent sends their child to school to learn what the teacher thinks. He also wrote that teaching is never simply a matter of passing along information. What, then, does Augustine think good teaching looks like? This session draws on Augustine's reflections on teaching to show the ongoing practical relevance of his thought for today's teacher.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

SEC, MID

120 Saint Ignatius as a Guide for Executive Function

Michelle Lia, Ed.D.

ROOM 101 B, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Ignatian Pedagogy is a model that seeks to develop people of competence, conscience, and compassion. This interactive session will share ways to integrate executive function skills for the classroom with the five principles of Ignatian Pedagogy: context, experience, reflection, action, and evaluation. As we focus on teaching the whole child, executive function skills are needed in faith life, school life, and real life.

NSBECS Domain: [Academic Excellence](#)

ELM, MID

121 Succession Planning – Who Needs That?

Lauren Carr, M.Ed.

ROOM 211 D, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Why succession planning is key in educational facilities, especially those with significant turnover in post-COVID years. Knowing a few small steps is fundamental to ensuring all constituents are well versed in each employee's job duties (both daily and annual). Learn some very unique, but essential, skills that will guarantee your school will function seamlessly with any transition in role/leadership/moderator. This session will also highlight the sensitive transitions that occur when veterans and novice employees alike leave behind peers and colleagues, and how to manage staff/student morale in the mix.

NSBECS Domain: [Governance and Leadership](#)

ADM, SEC

122 The Evangelizing Catholic School: "Teaching Lived as Ministry and Mission"

Joseph White, Ph.D., LP

Our Sunday Visitor

ROOM 208 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, presented by one of the writers of the U.S. Bishops' Handbook on the Catechetical Accompaniment Process, we'll reflect on Pope Leo XIV's statements on Catholic education and the U.S. bishops' vision for evangelizing catechesis. Participants will be challenged to brainstorm ways to operationalize this vision in their own educational communities through a curriculum, rooted in Christian anthropology, that draws faculty, students, and families closer to Christ.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

ADM, ELM

123 The Science of Reading: Getting it Done Instructionally

Michelle Hosp, Ph.D.

Renaissance

ROOM 101 J, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Understanding the Science of Reading is essential, but successfully applying it in the classroom requires thoughtful, research-based instructional strategies. This session will provide educators with practical tools to effectively teach foundational reading skills, including phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Attendees will explore evidence-based approaches that support all learners, ensuring high-quality instruction that aligns with reading science. Through real-world examples and actionable steps, attendees will leave with concrete strategies to bridge research and practice, making literacy instruction both effective and engaging.

NSBECS Domain: [Academic Excellence](#)

ELM, MID

124 Truth Over Trends: Data, Evidence, and the Courage to Tell Your School's Story

Kyle Lee, Ed.D.

ROOM 211 B, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Catholic schools are charged with the responsibility to not only to gather data, but to speak truthfully about what the evidence reveals. This session explores the critical difference between data and evidence – and why courage is required to report findings honestly, even when results are uncomfortable. Participants will examine how transparency, mission, and trust intersect in evidence-based decision-making. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for communicating findings in ways that strengthen credibility, foster growth, and remain rooted in Catholic identity to help their school(s) grow.

NSBECS Domain: [Governance and Leadership](#)

DIO, ADM



125 Using IDEA to Support Services and Inclusion for Our Students with Special Needs in Our Catholic Schools

Henry Fortier; Dr. Jackie Flanigan
Catapult Learning

ROOM 210 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Participants will gain an understanding of the benefits of participating in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for Parentally Placed Private School Students. This session is intended for central office, building administrators, resource/exceptional student education staff, and classroom teachers. The session will cover Child Find, effective consultation, types of services allowed, and how to maximize those services and supports to students and teachers. Participants will be given tools and strategies for maximizing their participation in these programs, which result in direct benefits to our most vulnerable students. The session will be collaborative and offer the opportunity for Q & A.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
ELM, MID

126 We Believe in Our Catholic Schools and Their Legacy: We Must Not Just Survive, We Must Thrive, Seeking Operational Vitality

Dr. Tony Bonta, M.Ed.

ROOM 101 D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

In the office of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, we make Operational Vitality a priority for our Catholic schools and our Catholic school system. This session will focus on the areas of Operational Vitality in the *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*. In this session, attendees will learn:

- An overview of the issues that impact school leaders and issues they must address for school viability.
- Best practices we learned to develop a strategic plan.
- Real examples of best practices and collaborating with various groups to combine resources and seek opportunities for growth.
- Practical tools and resources for schools and dioceses to use in Operational Vitality.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
ADM, DIO

127 When The Board Missteps, Fire the Head: How High Performing Boards Avoid This Trap

James Hickey, Ph.D.

ROOM 200 F, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session has three objectives:

- Analyze the board's role in fostering a strong partnership between the board and the head, which supports long-term headships.
- Gain insight into building trust, understanding, and respect between the board/pastor and the head to ensure a collaborative approach to pursuing strategic initiatives. Explore the practices of a mature board--the kind that prevents external influences from eroding incremental and dynamic growth.
- Reaffirm the board's crucial role in establishing a strong partnership with the head to achieve strategic objectives and illustrate how boards influence institutional stability, particularly during challenging times, by securing the head's long-term tenure.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
BOA, PAS, ADM

128 Whistles and Witness: Forming Leaders through High School Refereeing and Officiating

Lisa Stocco

ROOM 101 C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Looking for a fresh, real-world way to engage students, build leadership, and connect physical education with purpose? This session explores a refereeing and officiating course offered at the high school level.

Designed for middle and high school PE teachers, health educators, coaches, and athletic directors, this session unpacks how officiating can become a vehicle for virtue, responsibility, and community connection. You'll learn how students are trained to referee and officiate a variety of sports, build resumes, practice conflict resolution, and gain employment-ready skills—all while being formed as leaders rooted in integrity and service.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
SEC, MID

129 Retreats that Renew, Restore, and Reignite Purpose

Kimberlee Gorr, Ed.D., NCEA

ROOM 207 AB, MCC, LEVEL ONE

In the midst of busy school environments and increasing demands, retreat experiences offer a powerful opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect with purpose. This session invites educators, leaders, and school community members to explore how intentional, faith-centered retreats can foster spiritual renewal, strengthen community, and realign daily work with mission.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
CAM, ADM

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Director of School Engagement, frtom@ncea.org

For Hispanic and Latino Engagement, please contact Maria Del Amo,
Director of Hispanic and Latino Engagement, mdelamo@ncea.org



Transform Your Leadership Path with NCEA

TUESDAY

1:30 – 2:45 PM

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSION 2

201 "A Discerning Heart": Leadership Discernment for Aspiring Leaders

Thomas Kiely, M.A., M.A.L.S., D.H.L.;
Annette Jones, Ed.D.

ROOM 205 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session guides participants through a process for discerning paths towards leadership in Catholic schools. Grounded in individual spirituality, practical dimensions, and contextual awareness, the process towards Catholic school leadership is an ever-growing interplay of individual and group interactions. This session seeks to empower participants with the tools to recognize the movement of the Holy Spirit within the particular roles needed in the administration of Catholic schools. Testimonials of different Catholic school leaders will be used as examples.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
ELM, SEC

202 "Believe and Sing!" A Journey of Faith Through Music

Bill Sykes, Jr.

ROOM 208 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This interactive music session, "Believe and Sing!", shows Catholic school educators how to inspire faith through music. We'll learn a bible story with songs and movements, and explore other musical activities on the theme of "believe." Get ready for a hands-on, joyful experience that provides practical ways to deepen spiritual understanding and enrich your classroom!

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
ELM, ADM



203 Believe in Bright Beginnings: Building Knowledge and Early Literacy

Kiley Colby

William H. Sadlier

ROOM 207 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session explores how early literacy is rooted in rich language, joyful engagement, and intentional instruction. Educators will learn research-based strategies for building emergent literacy through oral language, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension. Participants will examine high-impact routines, the role of read-alouds, and ways to create print- and language-rich environments. The session emphasizes inclusion, equity, and developmentally appropriate practices for diverse learners. Ideal for preschool and kindergarten educators committed to strong starts and lifelong learning.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
ECT, ELM

204 Cultivating Engagement: National Study Examining Hispanic Parental Engagement in Catholic Schools

Victoria Berges

ROOM 205 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Drawing from the results of Boston College's National Study Examining Hispanic Parent Engagement in Catholic Schools, which collected survey, focus group, and interview data from Hispanic and non-Hispanic parents in Catholic schools in 2025, attendees will be immersed in a critical and transformative look at Hispanic parent engagement in Catholic schools. Specifically, attendees will be given a brief overview about the contributions of Hispanic families to Catholic schools, their patterns of engagement, and the barriers typically faced by Hispanic families in embracing their role as primary educators (Hamman-Ortiz, Reyes, Sada, 2024; Paredes Scribner & Fernández, 2017). Attendees will walk away with actionable strategies to engage families.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
ADM, SEC

205 Developing a Comprehensive, Four-Year Retreat Program at Catholic High Schools

Chris Miller, Ed.D.

ROOM 212 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session will examine how developmental and multiple intelligence theories can guide the creation of a four-year retreat program at Catholic high schools. Best practices from schools across the nation will be examined, including effective post-retreat follow-up programs and opportunities. Participants will leave with several ideas to improve their retreat program.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
CAM, SEC



**206 Education for Apostolic Mission:
Designing an Integrated Virtue Framework
for Your Catholic School**

Matthew Gerlach, Ph.D.

ROOM 101 D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Drawing from the rich Catholic liberal arts tradition as well as contemporary character education scholarship, this session presents an integrated model of student and school formation according to the different dimensions of the human person and their corresponding principles of student excellence. After explaining why the virtues are central to every dimension of student formation and excellence, not just moral formation, we will look at the ways a virtue-based formation can be "caught, taught, and sought" through school culture, integrated curriculum, and co-curricular activities. Participants will leave with a working virtue-education framework suitable for Catholic schools in a post-Christian age of "apostolic mission."

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
ADM, SEC

207 Financial Sustainability for Small Schools
Harold Parsons

ROOM 200 GH, MCC, LEVEL TWO

On average, over 200 Catholic schools have closed annually over the last 10 years, primarily due to financial hardship due to shrinking enrollment. But there are numerous examples of financially viable schools with enrollment well under 100 students. Clearly, these schools operate differently than larger schools. We will delve into how these small schools operate, including staffing, operational decisions, and how we can emulate their success. Yes, we can actually reverse the trend of closing Catholic schools and start looking for opportunities to expand Catholic education.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
DIO, ADM

**208 From Vision to Impact:
Transforming Catholic Schools
Through Collaborative Leadership**

Denise Ball, Ed.D.; Anita Harkins-Mehsling, Ed.D.
ADAC

ROOM 211 C, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In a time when Catholic schools must be both mission-driven and results-oriented, collaborative leadership links visionary planning with real outcomes. This session highlights how diocesan leaders, school administrators, and mission-aligned partners can forge dynamic partnerships that elevate Catholic identity, academic excellence, and sustainability. Using real case studies, presenters will share frameworks, strategies, and tools to build trust-based partnerships, align vendor services with school goals, and sustain momentum. Participants will gain a practical model for transformative, collaborative leadership.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
ADM, MKT

**209 How Not to Create Inclusive
Catholic Schools in Four Easy Steps**
Michael Boyle

ROOM 101 I, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Through a candid exploration of counter-productive practices, we will expose the subtle ways we might be unintentionally creating barriers rather than breaking them down. Participants will be challenged to re-evaluate their current approaches by considering what happens when we: prioritize mere professional development over deep professional formation; focus solely on the individual student rather than nurturing the entire school community; rely on ad hoc approaches instead of developing a systematic framework; wallow in helplessness rather than normalizing support.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
ADM, DIO



NCEA
AUTHOR



210 Inspiring Catholic School Educators Through the Lives of Saints

Liz Goldman, M.Ed.

ROOM 209 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Catholic school educators are entrusted with the responsibility of nurturing both the intellect and the spirit of their students. Balancing academic excellence with spiritual formation is central to this vocation. This session introduces educators to six saints whose lives exemplify this balance and whose legacies continue to inspire Catholic education today. Come learn about the lives of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John Bosco, St. Francis Cabrini, St. John Baptist de La Salle, St. Katharine Drexel, and St. Joseph Calasanz, and their contribution to Catholic education. Through their stories, we will discover practical strategies, pedagogical insights, and spiritual practices that continue to inform and inspire Catholic education today.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

ELM, MID

211 Integrating Faith and Science in the Biology Classroom

Yvonne Boldt, Ph.D.

ROOM 101 FG, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This session will examine data that has led young Catholics to leave the faith because they believe science shows that God is not needed. They propose philosophy as an important link between science and theology and necessary to show the harmony between faith and science. I will share three examples of the integration of science and faith from my own biology classroom: defining life, applying Aristotle's Four Causes to living things, and how Catholic moral teaching applies to somatic cell gene therapy and germ line gene therapy. The heart of Catholic teaching regarding the theory of evolution will also be addressed in brief. Finally, I will share information about available resources and resources I believe still need to be developed.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

SEC, MID

212 Love in Action: Living the Ten Commandments in Catholic Classrooms

Jim King, Ph.D.; Joy Roberts, Ed.D.

Friendzy

ROOM 200 IJ, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, attendees will explore how the Ten Commandments—reframed through the lens of Jesus' Great Commandment—serve as a foundation for social-emotional and spiritual formation in Catholic classrooms. Participants will discover how commandments like “do not lie” and “do not steal” can be positively taught as invitations to speak truth and respect others. Through scripture, Church teaching, and hands-on classroom tools, educators will learn how to teach character, build emotional awareness, and help students form strong, Christ-centered relationships rooted in love for God and one another.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

ELM, MID

213 Making Room at the Table: MTSS in Catholic Schools as a Framework for Belonging and Excellence

Brianna Nelson, M.C.I.

ROOM 208 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Catholic schools are called to be tables of welcome, excellence, and belonging. This session explores Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) through a Catholic lens—as a structure for forming both minds and hearts. Teachers will leave with a clear vision for dynamic Tier 1 instruction, practical Tier 2 strategies, and data-driven practices that ensure every student is known, supported, and prepared to flourish in their God-given identity and purpose.

NSBECS Domain: [Academic Excellence](#)

ELM, MID

214 Mission & Message: Creating an Annual Report

Ken Willers

ROOM 206 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Mission & Message: How to proclaim your mission by creating an annual report. The session will provide an inspiring rationale as well as a practical guide for administrators, boards, and development directors on the fundamentals of creating an annual report. This session is ideal for elementary school principals who never thought they could create a beautiful document that highlights the mission of their school. The session will provide a template to use. I have offered this presentation to diocesan principals and multiple school boards. I have also presented this session at multiple NCEA conferences in the past.

NSBECS Domain: [Operational Vitality](#)

MKT, ADM

NCEA
AUTHOR

215 Nurturing Student Growth and Virtue Through Small Group Instruction

Michelle Kozakiewicz
Catapult Learning

ROOM 101 B, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Small Group Instruction (SGI) is a powerful, research-based way to personalize learning and accelerate student growth. By tailoring instruction, providing timely feedback, and using preteaching and reteaching, SGI helps educators meet students' needs and move them forward with purpose. This engaging workshop highlights four key advantages of SGI and equips participants with practical tools they can use immediately.

Participants will: explore grouping strategies using data and student interests; learn management techniques for smooth transitions and independent work; reflect on challenges and implementation strategies.

Perfect for educators new to SGI or looking to strengthen their small group instruction practices.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, MID

216 Our Hearts Are Ready: Turning to the Path of Wonder

Peter Crawford

ROOM 211 A, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In a time of fragmentation and loneliness, what role does the classroom play in a child's formation? What is the importance of our work as educators, and what role does it play in a child's developing sense of identity and, consequently, the health of our culture? We must offer our students something deep to love that they will carry with them throughout the peaks and valleys of life. This session will offer an opportunity to reflect on the role of wonder in the classroom, as well as propose a meaningful path forward in the growth of Catholic education.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

SEC, MID

217 Partners in Mission: How Pastoral Staff and School Leadership Partner Together to Prepare Citizens for This Life and the Next

Jennifer Crain; Fr. Felipe Campos C.S.C.

ROOM 200 F, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Catholic schools are more than academic institutions—they are missions of the Church, called to form hearts and minds in the gospel's light. Together, a principal and associate pastor will show attendees how collaboration at one school, rooted in Holy Cross identity, strengthens the Church's mission and fosters a vibrant faith community. Central to their approach is a strong commitment to parent partnership. When families, parish, and school unite in faith, students grow not only in knowledge but in discipleship, leadership, and hope. The session offers practical strategies, real examples, and a shared vision for forming students fully alive in Christ.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

PAS, BOA

218 Planning Good School Liturgies: Best Practices from the Church's Documents, Experienced Liturgists, and Wise Educators

Fr. Michael Lewis, S.T.L.

ROOM 203 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

How do we prepare and lead children to a deeper realization of their participation at the Eucharistic table and at other liturgies, as the Vatican's "Directory for Masses with Children" explains (no. 8)? Drawing from that document and others, attendees will come to understand the adaptations the Church recommends when celebrating liturgies with young people, to include the use of the Lectionary for Masses with Children, Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children, and other Church texts. Best practices and wisdom from experienced liturgists and educators will also be shared on how to foster the full, conscious, and active participation of children when celebrating the liturgy, the sacraments, and sacramentals.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

PAS, CAM



Session Target Audiences:

BOA Board Members
DIO Diocesan Leaders
ADM Site Administrators

ECT Early Childhood Teachers (Preschool-Kindergarten)
ELM Elementary School Teachers
MID Middle School Teachers
SEC Secondary School Teachers

CAM Campus Ministers

CNS Counselors

MKT Advancement/Marketing Directors

PAS Pastors Serving School Communities

219 Protecting Our Schools and Communities (Panel Session)

Nancy Rottler; Bruce Varick; Jacqueline Abrahams; Ryan Maher; Patty Dailey

ROOM 200 CDE, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this panel, leaders from three dioceses will share innovative and practical approaches to strengthening school safety and managing risk across Catholic education. Presentations will highlight creative responses to parent concerns, best practices in school security for principals, and the use of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) as a framework for sustaining Catholic identity, governance, safety, and organizational vitality. Following their individual presentations, the panelists will engage in a joint discussion that connects these strategies and offers diocesan and site leaders practical insights for protecting students, staff, and the mission of Catholic schools.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
ADM, DIO

220 Rooted in Faith, Growing Together: A Journey into Multiage Learning for a PreK-8 Microschool

Jessica Paulsen; Pamela Simon

ROOM 101 H, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This session invites educators and school leadership into the story of moving from a traditional grade-level classroom structure into a PreK-8 building featuring flourishing multiage learning communities. Led by school leadership members and a veteran teacher who helped guide the transformation, attendees will walk through the challenges and graces of shifting into a multiage school. Presenters will describe the establishment of vibrant multiage learning communities, a first step in the foundation of a viable microschool.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
ELM, DIO

221 The Four B's: How Beliefs Affect Our Bodies, Brains, and Bonds

Anne Kernion, B.S., M.A.

ROOM 101 J, MCC, LEVEL ONE

How do our core beliefs affect our bodies, brains, and community relationships in both positive and negative ways? Our engaging multimedia presentation will explore how our beliefs, words, and actions not only affect our brains and bodies, but also the brains and bodies of those around us. Scientific research proves that nurturing our faith and beliefs through simple spiritual practices will boost the well-being of everyone in our Catholic school communities. We will also discover how prayer practices fuel our health and well-being, decreasing our stress, boosting our resilience, and allowing all of us to live more joyfully. Come be amazed and inspired by how impactful our beliefs are on everyone we meet!

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
CAM, CNS

222 The Power and Purpose of Story: How Narratives Can Form Minds and Hearts

David Gockowski

ROOM 101 C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This presentation explores how Catholic storytelling traditions, including Bible narratives and saints' lives, can be strategically integrated across all curriculum areas to inspire students and cultivate virtue in today's fast-paced educational environment. Participants will experience engaging narrative techniques and collaborate to develop practical integration strategies that connect faith stories to history, science, and other subjects.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
ELM, ADM



223 There's No Crying in Math Class

Kim Soenen, MAT; Michaela Becker, M.S.

ROOM 101 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Discover how to build a math classroom culture that fosters academic safety, student engagement, and a love for learning. Drawing on the work of Geoff Krall, Jo Boaler, Brené Brown, and others, this session first explores how to move from passive to active care, address math trauma, and dismantle stereotype threats. Then, learn high-impact strategies like Building Thinking Classrooms (BTC), low-floor/high-ceiling tasks, and integrating real-world modeling to make math accessible and meaningful. We'll also share small but powerful practices that help students feel seen and supported. Walk away with tools to create a space where all students can take risks, learn from mistakes, and see themselves as capable mathematicians.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

MID, ELM

224 To Lead as Jesus Did: Practices for Developing Student Leadership

Stan Cordero, Ed.D.

ROOM 204 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session will present practices for student leadership development emerging from a doctoral study of campus ministers and student activities directors from Catholic secondary schools in California. It will also provide criteria for determining the effectiveness of student leadership and a cycle for developing student leaders. The practices, criteria, and cycle can be implemented as strategies to strengthen the purposeful development of student leaders in Catholic schools.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

CAM, SEC

225 UDL + AI: Empowering Every Learner Through Faith-Centered Innovation

Christine Gregory, M.Ed.; Caroline Becker

ROOM 211 B, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, the attendee will learn how to apply Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles using AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and NotebookLM to plan inclusive, faith-integrated instruction in Catholic schools. Participants will explore how AI can support lesson design, differentiation, and student-centered activities like rotations or centers. Through hands-on engagement, attendees will experience strategies for unpacking standards with diverse learners in mind and leave with practical tools and resources to implement immediately.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

MID, SEC

226 What is on Your Catholic Leadership Bucket List?

Samantha Francis, D.C.; Andrea Leahy, M.Ed.; Kathy Tolnai; Chad Rueth, M.Ed.

ROOM 211 D, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Attendees will learn how to integrate Catholic faith into every aspect of school leadership and culture, from redefining job roles to mission-driven hiring and professional development. They'll discover practical strategies for aligning school operations with faith values, creating roles like Dean of Discipleship, and fostering spiritual and academic excellence. The session will offer real examples of service learning, student-led faith groups, and community engagement that build a vibrant Catholic identity. Attendees will leave with actionable tools to transform their schools into faith-filled, high-achieving communities.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

ADM, CAM

227 What Now for Federal Education Programs

Sr. Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D., NCEA

ROOM 210 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

The U.S. Department of Education has shifted the administration of ESEA K-12 education programs to other federal agencies as it prepares to come to closure. This presentation will focus on various changes to programs administration and how to ensure that new management honors the legislative requirement to provide equitable services to Catholic school students and educational personnel. Time will be provided for questions and sharing experiences and concerns among participants.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

ADM, DIO

228 Learning and Applying Catholic Social Teachings

Patty Lansink

ROOM 200 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

During this session, elementary classroom teachers will explore the depth of the seven Catholic Social Teachings. Additionally, they will be provided with sample lesson plans that integrate these teachings.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

ELM, MID



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WEDNESDAY

10:30 – 11:45 AM

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSION 3

301 Academic Excellence: Mission and Context for Continuous Improvement in Catholic Schools

Kevin Baxter, Ed.D.; Betsy Okello, Ph.D.; Sandra Morten, Ed.D.; April Garcia, Ed.D.



ROOM 208 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session will explore the NSBECS standards 7, 8, and 9 from a schoolwide improvement perspective. It will focus on curriculum and instruction that are aligned both within and across the school as well as to a Catholic worldview. The focus will emphasize the need to engage, motivate and empower students through knowledge and skill development. The importance of assessment, both at the school and classroom level, will also be addressed with emphasis on evaluation and analysis of student data. Finally, programs, activities, and services that elevate the life of the school and community, including parent engagement, will be addressed in the context of educating the whole child.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
ELM, SEC

302 Believe in the Mission: Making the Church Visible in the Everyday Life of Catholic Schools

Maria Grama, M.P.M.

ROOM 204 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

What does it really look like when students and staff believe in the mission of the Church and live it daily? This session will share real, replicable practices that bring Catholic identity to life in the classroom, the faculty room, and beyond the school walls. Discover how ordinary routines and school culture moments can reflect the extraordinary truth of the gospel and foster a deep, authentic belief in Christ's presence in our lives. Participants will leave with practical strategies, sample projects, and a renewed commitment to making belief visible every day.
NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
CAM, MID

WEDNESDAY SESSIONS • 10:30 – 11:45 AM



303 Brilliant Bilingual Beginnings: Nurturing Multilingualism at the Preschool Level

Elisa Zwier Dralle

ROOM 207 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

We will explore the power of early language development in shaping lifelong multilingual learners. This session will highlight the cognitive, social, and cultural benefits of introducing multiple languages in early childhood settings. Participants will gain practical insights and strategies for fostering rich, developmentally appropriate multilingual environments in preschool classrooms. Also, we will share the magnificent story of 62+ schools across two major (arch)dioceses combating the trend of preschool enrollment decline while deeply honoring the rich linguistic gifts of their communities through the formation of language-intensive preschools (30 minutes a day of targeted literacy-focused language instruction).

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
ECT, ADM

304 Build Your Board to Build Your School (Board Series)

Christopher Martin, M.A.

ROOM 102 E, MCC, LEVEL ONE

In this session, attendees will learn how to strengthen their Catholic school board through intentional recruitment strategies rooted in mission and focus on the strategic needs of the school. Using a sample board matrix tool, participants will assess needs aligned with their school's goals, identify and vet prospects, and develop a plan to engage new board members. The session includes interactive exercises and practical resources to help leaders build boards that are diverse, mission-driven, and capable of advancing the school's vision. Whether you have an advisory board, board of specified jurisdiction, or board of trustees, you will walk away with concrete action steps to build your board!

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
BOA, PAS, ADM

305 Building a School Mass Choir

Katherine Broberg; Christopher Ganza, D.M.A.; Emily Chmielewski; Nick Chalmers, M.M.

ROOM 211 A, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, participants will learn the fundamentals of building a choir to serve school needs for school Masses and for other liturgical events within the school community. Participants will explore different methods of recruitment and attrition for members in a way that meets the grade levels and musical and educational expectations of their schools, as well as integrating the choir into the liturgical needs of the school. Participants will also acquire a variety of resources to help them plan and worship at their Masses with a deeper understanding and appreciation of sacred music and the importance of vocal music in the communal prayer of the Church.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
MID, SEC

306 Catching FIRE and the LRN Framework: A Comprehensive Approach to Inclusion for Catholic School Leaders

Carrie Ro; Michael Faggella-Luby, Ph.D.; Sean Smith, Ph.D.

ROOM 205 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Discover a framework for meaningful inclusion tailored to the context of Catholic schools. This presentation emphasizes iterative processes and aligns with Catholic social teaching principles. You'll explore six comprehensive steps, guided by five key principles that reflect Catholic values while supporting all learners. New this year, we will be joined by the board president of the Dallas FIRE Foundation, who will share her perspective as both a parent of a child with a disability and as a Catholic lay leader. She will reflect on what families and partners look for in ethical, inclusive improvement efforts. Join us to explore how Catholic school leaders can evaluate with clarity, compassion, and conviction.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
ADM, DIO



Are scooters or wheelchairs available for NCEA 2026? How can I rent a scooter or wheelchair?
Mobility equipment is available to rent at the MCC.
Learn more at www.NCEA.org/NCEA2026.

308 Classroom Changes with Ripple Effects on Students' Math Learning

Lucy Payne, Ph.D.; Molly Altermatt, M.A.; Julie Steege, M.A.; Genevieve Ahlstrom, M.A.

ROOM 101 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Many instructional changes have an impact on student engagement and learning in math. Number sense is one area that has profound ripple effects on student success. Research has shown number sense is closely tied to achievement and success in mathematics at any grade level. Come participate in evidence-based learning activities that you can implement in your classroom immediately for a big impact on your students' number sense and success in mathematics learning. Activities and learning will be appropriate for elementary through middle school learning environments. You will leave this session with activities and actions that you can implement tomorrow in your classroom.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, MID

309 Data-Driven Decision-Making for the Health and Sustainability of Your School

Charlie Lytle
Blackbaud

ROOM 101 D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Every day, Catholic school leaders face choices that shape the future of their schools, their students, and their communities. We'll explore using the power of data to make informed decisions, optimize your time and efforts, and make a greater impact on your school.

You don't need to be a data expert to analyze admissions metrics, student engagement, and revenue sources—including state choice funding and fundraising—and to get a picture of your school's overall health. Using reports and dashboards to monitor your school's vitality today can help strengthen it for the future. You'll get actionable insights to guide decision-making, budgeting, and strategic planning and practical tools to help lead your institution to long-term success.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

ADM, DIO

310 Evangelization in the Age of Polarization: Practical Tips to Foster Respectful and Productive Classroom Conversations That Change Minds

Emily Geiger

ROOM 200 F, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In a post-Roe America, high schoolers are bombarded by pro-choice culture, and it feels impossible to have meaningful conversations about controversial issues like abortion. Rather than resort to angry debate or just avoid the topic, pro-life apologist Emily Geiger wants students to be able to dialogue thoughtfully. Emily will unpack practical tools and arguments to empower your students as effective pro-life ambassadors who can engage intelligently and respectfully with the most powerful pro-choice talking points of our day. Fostering productive dialogue that meets all students—pro-life or pro-choice—where they are forms students into adults who think through important issues for themselves and apply Catholic values to their daily lives.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

SEC, PAS

311 Excellence In Action Walks: A Collaborative Approach to Instructional Growth

Jessica Gonzalez; Mia Jones

ROOM 101 H, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Learn how to implement Excellence in Action Walks—a non-evaluative strategy that fosters collaboration, reflection, and instructional growth. These structured walkthroughs offer real-time opportunities for educators to observe effective practices, identify trends, and engage in meaningful dialogue. Attendees will explore key components: purpose and structure, identifying “look-fors,” leading reflective conversations, using data tools, and real school examples. Leave equipped to lead walkthroughs that elevate teaching and learning.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ADM, ELM



Session Target Audiences:

BOA Board Members
DIO Diocesan Leaders
ADM Site Administrators

ECT Early Childhood Teachers (Preschool-Kindergarten)
ELM Elementary School Teachers
MID Middle School Teachers
SEC Secondary School Teachers

CAM Campus Ministers

CNS Counselors

MKT Advancement/Marketing Directors

PAS Pastors Serving School Communities

312 Exploring the Power of Science and Math Simulations for High Engagement and Lasting Understanding

Desire' Kirchofer

ROOM 101 FG, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This session delves into the power of science, math, and STEM simulations to boost student engagement and foster lasting understanding. By integrating interactive tools and simulations, educators can create dynamic learning environments that encourage exploration and deep comprehension. Participants will jump into the experience and discover strategies to effectively incorporate these resources into their curriculum, enhancing student motivation and retention of key concepts. Let's explore how simulations can transform traditional lessons into immersive, impactful experiences that resonate with learners. Please bring a device!

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, MID

313 Forming Champions for Life: A Holistic, Values-Based Approach to Student-Athlete Leadership Development

Stuart Brown

ROOM 205 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session explores a holistic, athlete-centered, and values-based approach to developing leadership in student-athletes. Rooted in Catholic identity and guided by the principles of human dignity, optimized personal performance, and formation of the whole person, participants will learn of core elements in the design and implementation of a student-athlete leadership program that nurtures life readiness—spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially. The model integrates faith formation, character education, and performance psychology, empowering student-athletes to lead with integrity, humility, and purpose both on and off the field.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

SEC, ADM

314 Forming the Future: Collaborative Leadership in Launching a Catholic Teacher CorpsChristopher Smith, Ed.D.; Kelly Surapaneni;
Charisse Cowan Pitre, Ph.D.ROOM 200 GH, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Discover how Seattle University and the Archdiocese of Seattle partnered to launch the Catholic Schools Teacher Corps (CSTC)—a transformative teacher formation program rooted in service, spiritual development, and academic excellence. This session explores the collaborative structures that made the initiative possible, offering ideas for dioceses, schools, and universities seeking sustainable solutions to Catholic school staffing, mission alignment, and community formation.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

DIO, ADM

315 From Fear to Formation: Helping Students Thrive with AI Through a Catholic LensMeaghan Crowley-Sullivan, M.Ed., M.A.;
Kerwin MolinaROOM 200 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Artificial intelligence is changing the way we teach and learn, but Catholic schools have an opportunity to respond with something deeper than caution or curiosity. We can respond with conviction. In this session, members of the iDEAL Institute at Loyola Marymount University will share their Catholic Companion Framework for AI and Innovation, a tool to help Catholic schools and communities approach emerging technologies through the lens of faith. Designed for teachers, leaders, and parish ministers, the Catholic Companion Framework offers practical strategies, reflection, and faith-informed guidance to support students in growing in virtue, wisdom, and digital responsibility. While this session will highlight middle school and high school applications, the framework itself can be used by all grade levels and roles, making this session valuable to anyone invested in Catholic education.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

MID, SEC

317 God Gave You That?! Helping Kids Discover and Celebrate Their Gifts

Julie Widman, Ed.D.; Whitney Stovall, M.S., NCC
Friendly

ROOM 101 J, MCC, LEVEL ONE

In this session, attendees will discover how to break the cycle of comparison, criticism, and competition that can quietly disrupt learning and belonging in the classroom. Rooted in John 17:20-21 and the truth that each child is uniquely created by God, this session helps educators unlock a Christ-centered approach to unity—by recognizing and celebrating God-given strengths. When students know their gifts and see the value in others, cooperation replaces competition and learning flourishes. Educators will leave with a month's worth of fun, faith-filled lessons and tools to build confident learners, compassionate classmates, and classrooms where every child knows they belong.

NSBECS Domain: *Mission and Catholic Identity*
ELM, MID

318 How to Handle Parents Who Bully the School

Jodee Blanco

ROOM 200 CDE, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Specific communication tools and strategies exist for handling a difficult or challenging parent. The skills taught in this session are simple, practical, and rooted in core Catholic values. This session will show participants how to transform a tense situation with a parent into an opportunity to forge a productive and rewarding partnership that enriches the school, the student, the student's family, and the parish community as a whole. This immersive session helps participants become more comfortable and confident engaging with challenging parents through a better understanding of the human component of being a good communicator.

NSBECS Domain: *Governance and Leadership*
ADM, MID

319 Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Equitable Services Guidance from the U.S. Department of Education

Maureen Dowling, Ed.D.

ROOM 210 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

The U.S. Department of Education will provide an overview of the requirements and discuss the 2022 guidance under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) related to children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools. This includes the equitable services consultation requirements to ensure that eligible children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools can participate equitably in programs authorized under this Act.

NSBECS Domain: *Academic Excellence*
ADM, DIO

320 Let's Get Real About Teacher Retention

Kimberlee Gorr, Ed.D., NCEA

ROOM 211 D, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this candid and solution-focused session, we'll get real about the challenges of teacher retention in today's Catholic schools. Participants will explore the root causes of burnout, disengagement, and turnover—along with research-based strategies to retain, support, and reignite passion in teachers. Through open dialogue, practical tools, and real-life examples, attendees will leave with actionable steps to build a culture of belonging, purpose, and professional growth. Whether you're a school leader, instructional coach, or educator, this session offers honest insight and hope-filled solutions for sustaining mission-driven teams.

NSBECS Domain: *Governance and Leadership*
ADM, DIO

321 Life More Abundantly: Evangelizing with a Catholic Liberal Arts Curriculum

Kiernan Fiore, M.A.

ROOM 211 C, MCC, LEVEL TWO

For a Catholic school, every moment is a moment to evangelize. Come learn about the Catholic Liberal Arts model of education and how the Catholic Liberal Arts model can infuse every subject area with our Catholic faith and so capture our students' hearts for Christ. This model focuses on the development of the whole child—body, soul, and spirit—and so aligns our academic program with the mission of the church. This session will focus particularly on how the Liberal Arts model in high school classrooms enables us to integrate faith with our instruction.

NSBECS Domain: *Mission and Catholic Identity*
SEC, MID

322 Matteo Ricci: Interdisciplinary High School Programming in the Catholic Tradition

Matthew Wright, M.Ed.; Natalie Schmidt, M.Ed.;
Rochelle Hubbard, M.Th.

ROOM 101 C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This session is an interdisciplinary approach to learning, allowing students to explore themes at the core of the gospel: compassion, justice, stewardship, human dignity, and community. This kind of learning also mirrors the holistic view of humanity that the gospel promotes. Jesus didn't just speak in parables to theologians—he spoke to fishermen, tax collectors, and the sick. Interdisciplinary education reflects that spirit: it meets people where they are, connects real-world issues to deeper truths, and nurtures both intellect and soul. Specifically, attendees will hear about curricula, pedagogy, and assessment methods that are research-based and valuable to the missions of all Catholic schools.

NSBECS Domain: *Academic Excellence*
SEC, MID



CANCELED

WEDNESDAY SESSIONS • 10:30 – 11:45 AM

323 Meeting Students Where They Are: A Model for Support, Growth and Achievement

Kathleen Kilty, Ph.D.; Alexis Burns; Lizbeth Bull

ROOM 101 I, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Discover how the Seton-LaCroce Learning Center at Mother Seton School has successfully provided intervention and support to students with language-based learning disabilities and related challenges. This session will share proven strategies, tools, and resources teachers can adapt in their own classrooms to help their students thrive academically and emotionally. Attendees will explore the core components of an effective school-based learning support program, including the identification, referral, and intervention process. Through real-world examples of structured schedules, collaborative teaching, and research-based practices, participants will leave equipped with practical approaches to better support their students' growth and success.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, MID

324 Mild, Medium, and Spicy: Differentiating with Clarity and Challenge

Michaela Becker, M.S.; Kim Soenen, MAT;

Charles Morgenroth, M.S.; Kris Woolsey

ROOM 211 B, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Rooted in the belief that each student is uniquely gifted, this session introduces an instructional and assessment approach inspired by Peter Liljedahl's Building Thinking Classrooms. By breaking down standards into mild (approaching), medium (meeting), and spicy (exceeding) levels, teachers can differentiate learning, set clear expectations, and encourage students to grow with confidence and purpose. This methodology was developed with math class in mind but can be applied in other content areas. The shared language of mild, medium, and spicy supports student ownership, promotes equity, and fosters a culture of high expectations rooted in dignity and hope—hallmarks of Catholic education.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

MID, ELM

325 Mirror, Mirror on the Shelf: The Reflective Role of Literature in Moral Formation

Sr. Immaculata Marie Policare, M.A.;

Sr. Elena Marie Piteo, Ph.D.

ROOM 208 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Educational psychology highlights the significance of character virtue development for flourishing. As Catholic school educators, how do we help our students to live a good life? Through the capacity to grow in virtue, students choose true goods to flourish. Explore how stories and characters in literature can inspire and transform students in pursuing virtue and deepening their relationship with Christ. Stories captivate the imagination of students, allowing them to grow in empathy. Literature is a means to nurture the moral, social, cognitive, and emotional capacity of all students. Walk away with practical examples of how to enrich your use of literature in the classroom to deepen comprehension skills and develop your students' lives of virtue.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

ELM, MID

326 Music That Teaches the Heart

Steve Angrisano

ROOM 203 AB, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Music is one of the most natural ways children encounter faith—before they can explain it, they can sing it, feel it, and remember it. This workshop explores how intentional use of music in the classroom, prayer, liturgy, and school life can create real encounters with God for young students and their families. Connecting the dots from head to heart, you'll learn practical tools and creative ideas for choosing and using music to support meaningful faith formation, deepen prayer, and engage children beyond words.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

MID

FAQ

Did you misplace something?
The lost and found is in Room 103 BC.



327 The Annual Fund: The Core of Catholic School Advancement

[Kirsch Williams, M.A.](#)

[ROOM 206 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

This session explores how a thriving annual fund strengthens Catholic school advancement, enrollment, and culture. Learn to build a mission-centered case for giving, engaging stakeholders, and implementing a multi-phase campaign strategy. Attendees will leave with tangible tools, a sample campaign checklist, and ideas for stewardship, development tours, and donor communications. Whether launching your first campaign or refining an existing one, this session will help you elevate your school's institutional advancement.

[NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality](#)

[MKT, ADM](#)

328 Transforming Catholic School Leadership: A Mission Retreat for Board Members (Board Series)

[Todd Sweda, Ed.D.](#); [Andrew Kremer, Ph.D.](#);

[Daryl Hagan, Ed.D.](#)

[ROOM 103 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE](#)

In this session, attendees will explore a mission-focused retreat framework designed to strengthen Catholic identity and leadership from the top down. "Illuminate the Mission" offers governing board members a dynamic and prayerful experience that deepens understanding of the Church's mission as it applies to Catholic education. Grounded in Trinitarian theology and apostolic witness, this model is structured for consistent use across dioceses and school systems. Participants will leave equipped to champion and sustain a mission-driven culture in their schools.

[NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

[BOA, DIO, ADM](#)

329 Wings to Fly: Embracing Learning Differences in a Catholic School Setting

[Julie Capirchio, M.Ed.](#); [Dr. Shannon McMahon, M.Ed.](#)

[ROOM 101 B, MCC, LEVEL ONE](#)

As the first elementary school in Rhode Island to establish an official inclusive education program, we are redefining what's possible in a faith-based setting. This session will showcase how our school responded to the growing needs of students with learning differences by creating a structured, sustainable, and student-centered program. Through creative staffing, targeted professional development, and a commitment to embracing neurodiversity, we've built a model that supports all learners while maintaining high academic expectations. Attendees will gain insight into how the program was developed, its impact on student growth, and how intentional collaboration among faculty has transformed our school culture. Key takeaways will include: Steps for launching an inclusive education program in elementary and middle school settings, Practical strategies for supporting students with language-based learning differences, and Tools for building staff and community trust. Whether you are just beginning this journey or looking to refine your current approach, this session will inspire.

[NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

[ELM, MID](#)

330 Making the Federal Tax Credit Scholarship a Reality for your School Community

[Peter Murphy](#); [Ricky Austin](#);

[Shawn Peterson](#); [Alyse Maslonik](#)

[ROOM 212 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

Federal law now contains a permanent tax credit scholarship program, effective in 2027, that will generate private donations from any individual with income tax liability. This landmark opportunity could unlock billions of dollars in new scholarship funding, helping families access Catholic education for their children.

What does this mean for Catholic education and is your diocese or state prepared to take full advantage of this transformative opportunity?

This session will discuss practical steps and strategies for school-based practitioners to make this new federal program a reality to benefit families, schools and educators.

[NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership](#)

[DIO, ADM](#)





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Topics Include:

- Mission and Catholic Identity
- Academic Excellence
- Governance and Leadership
- Operational Vitality
- NSBECS
- Public Policy and Legal Issues
- Data Culture
- Hispanic/Latino Engagement
- Developing the Whole Child
- And More...

WEDNESDAY

1:30 – 2:45 PM

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSION 4

401 After the Storm: Supporting Survivors of Trauma Stephen Gerrish, M.Ed.

ROOM 203 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Many students carry trauma from abuse, loss, neglect, or chronic stress, shaping how they think, learn, and behave. This session unpacks trauma effects on the developing brain and translates the science into classroom practice. Participants will learn to spot trauma signals, respond in ways that promote healing, and craft safe, consistent routines where learning can flourish. Grounded in current research and Catholic faith, the workshop equips educators to be steady, compassionate witnesses who guide wounded children toward hope and growth.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

SEC, CAM

402 Avoid Teacher Burnout: Lean into Prayer and Fill Your Cup Stacy McNerney

Hallow

ROOM 200 CDE, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session is geared toward educators at all grade levels. The focus of this session is on best practices and strategies for teachers to avoid burnout by focusing on prayer, rest, and intentionality. Teachers will discover ways to regroup, recharge, and "fill their cup" while spending time praying with and for their school community.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

ELM, SEC

403 Belief in Action: Helping Students Live What They Learn About Love

Steve Botsford, MRE

William H. Sadlier

ROOM 211 A, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Students long not just to believe—but to live lives of purpose, love, and connection. This workshop offers strategies for integrating a Theology of the Body-informed understanding of love, freedom, and responsibility into faith formation and behavior expectations. Discover how to help students make meaningful connections between what they believe about God and how they treat themselves and others.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

MID, ELM

404 Bridging Achievement: Supporting Spanish- Speaking Students in English-Only Instruction

Carol Johnson, Ph.D.

Renaissance

ROOM 205 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

As U.S. Catholic schools serve growing multilingual populations, supporting students whose home language is Spanish but receive English-only instruction presents both challenge and opportunity. This session introduces a three-pillar framework—Language, Knowledge, and Skills—to foster achievement and whole-child development. Drawing on research, practical strategies, and culturally responsive pedagogy, it equips educators to design inclusive environments. With over 75 percent of emergent bilinguals speaking Spanish (NCES, 2023), this session offers timely, mission-informed guidance to strengthen instructional practice and student success.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, MID

405 Building Thinking Skills in Preschool and Kindergarten: A Brain-Based Model of Early Childhood Education

Joseph White, Ph.D., LP

Our Sunday Visitor

ROOM 207 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

What does science teach us about the development of the brain in preschool and kindergartens, and how can we apply current research to the methodology we use in early childhood education, including religious education? Dr. Joseph D. White, clinical child psychologist and early childhood religious education author, will discuss what we know now about how young children learn best, and how we can put it into practice.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ECT, ADM

406 Catholic Culture: How to Build Future Disciples

Fr. Father Paul Shovelain, M.Div.

ROOM 101 I, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Having opportunities to foster a Catholic culture is important in every Catholic school. The attendee will learn how to encourage and foster participation in the life of the parish. The presenter will share creative ideas on how to grow the faith life of teachers, students, and parents.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

PAS, ELM

WEDNESDAY SESSIONS • 1:30 – 2:45 PM

407 Catholic Schools and Gender Ideology: What's at Stake? What Should We Do?

Emily Dahdah, Ph.D.

ROOM 208 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This presentation aims to equip Catholic school leaders with a foundational understanding of gender ideology and its growing influence on educational institutions. As government schools increasingly adopt "gender affirming" practices, Catholic school educators must be prepared to respond with clarity, compassion, and fidelity to Church teaching. The session will introduce participants to key terminology used in contemporary discussions about gender identity, including transgender, cisgender, and more. We will examine how these terms are rooted in a worldview that often conflicts with a Catholic understanding of the human person. Participants will learn to communicate essential truths about the human person with charity and confidence.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

ADM, PAS

408 Encountering Creation: Do Nature Journaling and Local Species Identification Improve Students' Connection to Each Other, School, the Environment, and God?

Clayton Glasgow

ROOM 208 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session will share results from a yearlong effort to increase student interaction with creation in integrated science, biology, and environmental science classes. Through weekly nature journaling, students in my classes reflect on questions like "How connected do you feel to your school? To the environment? To God?" My environmental science students will catalog campus biodiversity to create a school nature guide. Surveys given quarterly will reveal insight regarding the potential for increasing students' contact with nature to strengthen their relationships with each other, the environment, and God. The session will share successes, areas for growth, and suggestions for integrating nature-based learning in science classes.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

SEC, MID

409 Enhancing Board Engagement - From Passive Participants to Active Problem Solvers (Board Series)

John James, Ed.D.

ROOM 102 E, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Too often, Catholic school boards are underutilized and function as passive recipients of leadership reports that are "managed" to not do harm. Learn tools such as "playing stupid" and "asking for a presentation on..." to bring individual board members from the scripted passive role to an engaged problem-solving role in the area of operational vitality, lifting a burden that by default falls entirely on school leadership. This is NOT one more thing for school leadership to do; in fact, if it is, you're doing it incorrectly. In this session, you will develop a one-year plan for board engagement nested within a multi-year plan for board growth and development, beginning with a focus on operational vitality.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

ADM, BOA, DIO

410 Enrollment is Everything and Everything is Enrollment (Panel Session)

Bernard Dumond; Kurt Nelson, Ph.D.

ROOM 209 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Come learn practical strategies for growth and retention. This panel brings together proven strategies and practical tools to help Catholic schools strengthen enrollment and sustainability. Drawing on the work of enrollment experts, the session will highlight ten essential strategies for building a culture of growth and share low-cost, high-impact approaches for attracting and retaining students and families. Participants will walk away with a clearer understanding of enrollment dynamics and an action planning guide to create their own game plan for success.

NSBECS Domain: MISSING

MKT



Is there wi-fi at the MCC?
The MCC offers complimentary Wi-Fi (wireless internet service) in all public lobby and meeting room areas.

**411 Forming Faithful Partnerships:
How Parent Agreements Empower Schools
to Set and Enforce Expectations**

Sam Nelson

ROOM 101 C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

The Church teaches that parents are the primary educators of their children, making the school-parent relationship essential to the success of Catholic education. This session explores how a solid school-parent relationship serves as a vital tool when working through difficult situations. When serious student misbehavior occurs, teachers and administrators must work with parents to address the situation. If a solid relationship already exists with the parents, the process can be smooth. If instead there is no relationship, or a bad relationship, parents might undermine the school mission through gossip, hostility, or refusal to cooperate. Establishing a solid relationship throughout the year - through teacher and administrator contact and parent partnership agreements - provides a solid foundation for addressing student or parent misconduct when it arises.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
SEC, MID

**412 From Compliance to Culture:
A System-Wide Continuous Improvement
Process for Catholic School Sustainability**

Michael Riley, Ed.D.; Jim Grillo

ROOM 200 GH, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session outlines a replicable, system-wide Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) that helps Catholic schools move from compliance-driven metrics to mission-centered growth. Built upon NSBECS and accreditation alignment, the CIP incorporates a strategic dashboard, goal-setting templates, and an evaluation rubric that supports leadership development, instructional excellence, and operational vitality. Participants will learn how one diocese is shifting culture, not just compliance, while building leadership capacity and advancing long-term school sustainability.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
DIO, ADM

**413 From Intake to Inclusion:
Rethinking Enrollment for Students
with Diverse Learning Needs**

Kelly Urban, M.S., CCC/SLP/L; Owen Logue

ROOM 206 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

How can Catholic schools ensure that students with diverse learning needs are welcomed, supported, and set up for success? In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia secondary schools, enrollment and learning support leaders partnered to rethink the admissions process through the lens of inclusion. This session will share tools and real-world examples: developing a master accommodation list, conducting family-centered intake interviews, evaluating efficiency of data collection and reporting utilizing systems, and having open conversations with parents and students. This session will help participants to implement scalable practices that align the enrollment process and procedure with support—ensuring every student is seen, known, and believed in.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
CNS, MKT

**414 From the Locker Room to the Upper Room:
Cultivating Faith the Lasso Way**

Monica Schreck, M.S.

ROOM 101 J, MCC, LEVEL ONE

In this interactive workshop, Catholic school educators will explore how the seven signs in the Gospel of John—and key moments from the show *Ted Lasso*—can be used to inspire belief, foster connection, and nurture faith in the classroom. Through storytelling, scripture, and practical classroom applications, participants will gain tools to help students from all walks of life feel seen, heard, and loved as God loves us. Each of John's signs will be paired with a real-world teaching practice that builds bridges, cultivates community, and can be implemented at any point in the school year—whether it's day one, mid-year, or the final bell. Come ready to reflect, share, and leave renewed in your ministry as a Catholic school educator.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
SEC, MID



Session Target Audiences:
BOA Board Members
DIO Diocesan Leaders
ADM Site Administrators

ECT Early Childhood Teachers (Preschool-Kindergarten)
ELM Elementary School Teachers
MID Middle School Teachers
SEC Secondary School Teachers

CAM Campus Ministers
CNS Counselors
MKT Advancement/Marketing Directors
PAS Pastors Serving School Communities

415 How Can You Grade Me On My Faith?

John Galvan, M.A., M.Ed., NCEA

ROOM 101 H, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Has a student ever questioned you on how he or she can be graded on matters of faith? Of course, we can objectively assess what they know based on the tenets of the Catholic Church, but this is more than just a cognitive exercise. To form missionary disciples, we must also consider how faith is being integrated into our students' lived experience. In addition to addressing the importance of religious assessments, what are the other data points already at the fingertips of schools to measure the health and vitality of their Catholic Identity & Mission? This session will explore both the cognitive (head knowledge) and affective (hands & heart knowledge) dimensions of the education and formation of students.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
SEC, MID

416 How Catholic Schools Are Actually Using GenAI

Fr. Nate Wills; Lewis Poché

ROOM 200 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Curious how Catholic schools are navigating the rise of generative AI? This session pulls back the curtain on what's actually happening in Catholic school classrooms across the country. We'll explore how educators are experimenting with AI tools, what kinds of policies—both formal and informal—are emerging, and how professional development is helping teachers and leaders use AI wisely. We'll also spotlight promising tools that remain under the radar and share insights from the field that can inform your own next steps.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
SEC, ELM

417 Let the Children Come to Me:**A Blueprint for Campus Ministry PreK-8**

Maria Joyce

ROOM 212 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Attendees will receive ideas for opening the "windows and doors" of the hearts of students to allow the Holy Spirit to enliven a deeper friendship. The avenues for a relationship with God include campus ministry monthly classes, retreats, liturgies, and God moments enriched by the lives of the saints, especially Blessed Solanus Casey, Saint Carlo Acutis, St. Therese, and other heroes of our faith. Those who attend will take away innovative ideas to bring alive the faith journey for our youngest to our oldest students. Further, attendees will return to their respective schools with a "blueprint" for executing and organizing an effective campus ministry program Pre-K through Junior High.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
ADM, ELM

418 Math Party! Engaging Mathematical Thinkers in Upper Elementary and Middle School

Erin Whalen

ROOM 101 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Want to make math engaging and relevant for your students? Want to encourage your students to think like mathematicians, find patterns, make sense of numbers, and enjoy math? Then this is the session for you! This interactive session will include tried and true activities as well as new content not shared in my previous NCEA sessions. You will learn many whole group, small group, and center activities as well as daily routines you can use right away in your classroom. We will spend a small amount of time discussing the latest research on math instruction and number sense, and a lot of time learning practical strategies for teaching math. Most, if not all, of the activities shared are free. Let's make math creative, accessible, and enjoyable!

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
MID, ELM



419 Professional Development Partnerships 101: Building Creative, Collaborative Communities for Catholic Schools

[Anne Marie Tourant; Jennifer Buss, Ph.D.](#)

[ROOM 205 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

Collaboration is at the heart of our Catholic mission. This session explores how Catholic schools can build effective partnerships with universities, parishes, parents, and community organizations. Participants will learn practical strategies to form sustainable relationships that strengthen professional development, enrich student learning, and expand access to shared resources. By connecting our schools with the broader Church and community, we bring innovation into classrooms and support the spiritual, academic, and emotional growth of every child.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)

ADM, ELM

420 Student Success Beyond the Classroom: Enhancing the Educational Journey Through Developmentally Informed Programming

[Amy Lucido, M.S., CCL](#)

[ROOM 211 B, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

In this session, participants will explore how a child development lens can guide daily teaching practices and help shape meaningful classroom experiences. We'll look at practical strategies that support students' academic, social, and emotional growth, with an emphasis on what teachers can implement in their own classrooms. Attendees will gain insight into how being intentional—with instruction, family engagement, and student supports—creates stronger learning outcomes. Together, we'll highlight how collaboration between educators and families empowers students to thrive—both in the classroom and beyond.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)

MID, ELM

421 Studying the Bible through Annotation

[Kenneth Griswold](#)

[ROOM 204 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

Attendees will work with an annotation system that will allow them to better observe Bible text. They will learn how to relate these annotations to discussions about the interpretation and the application of the text to the lives of their students.

[NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

CAM, CAM

422 Teaching the History of the Church as an Interdisciplinary Project

[Robert Kennedy, Ph.D.](#)

[ROOM 211 C, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

The Church, by its own definition, is not simply an organization. It is a society in its own right whose boundaries transcend geography and whose membership is constituted by those baptized into the community. As St Augustine famously observed, this makes Catholics citizens of both an earthly city and a spiritual city. A deeper and more mature understanding of Christian discipleship requires, of course, a better understanding of theology, but it also requires a stronger acquaintance with the history of the Church community. This session will consider ways of de-complicating the 2,000 years of the Church's experience, as well as recognizing the action of the Spirit beneath the surface of secular events.

[NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

SEC, MID

423 The EI Experience: Emotionally Intelligent Leadership in Action

[Duane Jourdeans, M.A.](#)

[ROOM 211 D, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

In this interactive workshop, attendees will discover the EI Experience, where emotionally intelligent leadership comes to life. Participants will explore six core competencies that fuel a healthy school culture—self-awareness, awareness of others, authenticity, emotional reasoning, self-management, and inspiring performance. Through hands-on activities, reflection, and real-world examples, attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of their leadership impact and practical tools to elevate trust, connection, and performance across their school communities.

[NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership](#)

ADM, SEC



WEDNESDAY SESSIONS • 1:30 – 2:45 PM

424 The Roadmap to Curriculum Development

Kaitlin Reichart, Ed.D.; Michelle Lia, Ed.D.

ROOM 200 IJ, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session will discuss best practices in curriculum development such as backward design, universal design for learning, executive functions, positive behavior supports. Catholic school teachers and leaders will learn implementation methods and reflect on current teaching practices. Additionally, participants will practice using planning templates from recently published the book, *The Curriculum Development Roadmap*, to practice curriculum development.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, ADM

425 To the Heights: Witnessing to Virtue in our Catholic Schools

Daniel Baillargeon

ROOM 200 F, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session looks at the goal of Catholic education as defined by the Church, our recent popes, and those who have served in Catholic education. Specifically, attendees will learn how to intentionally cultivate and celebrate virtue in the school; what the Church teaches about being a witness as a teacher; practical ways to serve as a witness and support teachers in the classroom as witnesses of their faith and excellence; practical ways to incorporate virtue into the formation of students, families, and teachers; and how cultivating closer relationships with Mary and the saints keeps us aligned to our mission.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

ADM, PAS



426 Understanding the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit

Sr. Dale McDonald, PBVM, Ph.D., NCEA

ROOM 210 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This presentation will explore the FSTC program's intent, benefits and requirements for schools, donors and scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) and what needs to be done to make this program successful in Catholic schools. Attention will be paid to the responsibilities of families, schools, donors, and SGOs as well as what school and parish communities prepare for new scholarship students.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

ADM, DIO

427 Visionary Leadership Unleashed: Strategic Planning for Catholic Secondary Schools (Board Series)

Marco Clark, Ed.D.

ROOM 103 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Visionary strategic planning involves creating a bold, long-term vision that aligns with your school's mission, inspires a broad array of stakeholders, and is rooted in Catholic identity. Done effectively, it requires identifying emerging trends, understanding community needs, and setting ambitious yet achievable goals. This process prioritizes innovation, leveraging resources creatively, and building partnerships to maximize impact. It also calls for skilled change leadership strategies and an entrepreneurial mindset from the school leader and the board. Effective visionary planning also incorporates flexibility, allowing your school to adapt to changing circumstances while staying true to its core mission and distinctive purpose.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality

ADM, BOA, DIO



Session Target Audiences:

BOA Board Members

DIO Diocesan Leaders

ADM Site Administrators

ECT Early Childhood Teachers (Preschool-Kindergarten)

ELM Elementary School Teachers

MID Middle School Teachers

SEC Secondary School Teachers

CAM Campus Ministers

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WEDNESDAY

3:15 – 4:30 PM

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSION 5

501 A Campus Ministry Department of One: Bitter Lessons, Camaraderie Building, and Critical Tools for Survival

John Bouc

ROOM 204 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Have you heard of those Catholic high schools with a large "team" of campus ministers and a full-time chaplain who together form amazing disciples while uplifting the Catholic mission for the whole school? That is not the case at my school. However, if you sometimes feel like the only person to keep all the liturgies, retreats, and a myriad of other faith-related things going, then this session is for you. Here, participants will connect with others who may be the only campus ministry person (or close to that) for their school. I will share tough (and sometimes hilarious!) lessons from my 25 years in ministry. Participants will gain practical tools for self-advocacy, self-care, and ministry/family balance. [NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
CAM, ADM

502 Alternative Pathways into the Classroom: Addressing the Teacher Shortage and the Need for Renewal in Catholic Education

Sarah DeCock

ROOM 200 F, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Our Catholic schools are in need of teachers. With large numbers of teachers retiring, and the number of undergraduate education majors declining, a gap is forming within our classrooms. Simultaneously, our Catholic schools are in need of a renewal in their Catholic identity. How are we to address the pressing need for skilled educators, while not neglecting the need for renewal? Conversely, how do we fill our classrooms with mission-driven teachers who are also trained in the art of teaching.

In this session, attendees will learn more about alternative pathways into teaching in a Catholic school, how they serve the need for skilled and mission-driven teachers, and what characteristics make these programs successful.

[NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
ADM, PAS

503 Ask One More Question: How Curiosity Helps Us See Through God's Eyes

Judy Madden, M.A.; Sarah Currier, M.A., M.Ed.

ROOM 101 H, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Research tells us that strengthening teachers' and leaders' resiliency skills increases student achievement. Grounded in gospel narratives and Visio Divina, this session will examine ways to support student flourishing in the classroom by strengthening teachers' and leaders' cognitive agility and addressing effective SEL strategies. This session will outline how to embody and model resilience skills and SEL tools in the classroom, specifically how asking one more question can empower everyone in the classroom to take concrete steps toward fulfilling their potential. Curiosity can help all of us see through God's eyes; helping them allow themselves and others to be the person God created them to be. [NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
ELM, CNS

504 Called to Lead: Experiential Wisdom for Catholic School Leaders

Todd Flanders, Ph.D.

ROOM 205 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Drawing from 25 years' experience founding and heading a PreK-12 Catholic school, this session offers insight and inspiration to new, recent and aspiring Catholic school leaders. Different from the good things that are taught in graduate schools, the session presents experiential wisdom to address common questions like, "Am I really the right person for this job?," "I don't feel qualified!," "What if I don't have what it takes to raise money?," and much more. [NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership](#)
ADM, PAS

505 Catholic Ed Camp: A Choose-Your-Own-Adventure PD Experience for Teachers

Laura Van Sambeek, M.A.

ROOM 101 D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Believe in the power of your staff and the impact of faith-filled collaboration! Learn how to design your own Catholic Ed Camp—an empowering professional development model that taps into your team's gifts, offers choice-driven learning, and builds a culture of shared leadership. Laura Van Sambeek, director of curriculum for the GRACE School System in Green Bay, will share how this model has energized PD across schools. Discover how partnering with other singleton schools can expand opportunities and build community across campuses.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)
ADM, DIO

506 Character Education with Dr. King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Arthur Hippler, Ph.D.

ROOM 211 C, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham Jail* was crucial in the cause of racial equality. Its rhetoric still has power. But the heart of his argument, about the foundation of just laws, is less emphasized today, and thus, a great resource for character education is often overlooked. If we wish to instill a firm foundation for human dignity and human rights, we should recover Dr. King's compelling appropriation of perennial ethical principles.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
SEC, MID

507 Classical Education & Catholic Renewal: Challenges & Opportunities

Michael Adkins, Ed.D.

ROOM 205 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Together, we will investigate the approach known as "Classical Education," which has gained enormous momentum in the last decade. Why have many schools adopted this approach? The session will locate classical education within the history of Catholic education, as well as explore the qualitative and quantitative benefits. In addition, the session will dive into key areas of the classical model and how it can augment the Catholic vision of educating the whole person, created in God's image and likeness. How does classical education contribute to: mission/identity; character/virtue formation; integrated curriculum; living Catholic culture; and academic excellence? What are its unique and dynamic characteristics? We will explore these questions.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
SEC, ELM

509 Contemplative Leadership: Thinking with a Catholic Worldview for Decision-Making

Merylann Schuttloffel, Ph.D.

ROOM 211 D, MCC, LEVEL TWO

The Catholic school leader has a distinctive role that requires strategic decision-making. Contemplative leadership practice assists in the integration of reflection and action, grounded in gospel values as exemplified in virtues, Catholic theology, and Church teaching. This session will address how leader decision-making integrates a Catholic worldview into the various domains of school life through decision-making that creates a faith formation culture within the school supported by the curriculum, psycho-social programs, and parent social capital. Attendees will have opportunities to contribute to the discussion from their real-world experiences.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
ADM, DIO



510 Cultivating Flourishing Young Women: A Strategic Approach to Whole Child Education

Molly McMahon, Ph.D.;

Dan Quesnell, B.A., M.S., CHE, CLS

ROOM 101 C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This session will explore how Divine Savior Holy Angels (DSHA), an all-girls Catholic high school, strategically utilized the Roche Center for Catholic Education's "Whole Child Education Playbook" to enhance its holistic approach to student formation. We will demonstrate how the Playbook's framework and practical checklists guided DSHA in developing a comprehensive school improvement plan that nurtures the spiritual, cognitive, emotional, social, and physical well-being of its students, preparing them for a life of purpose and leadership in the 21st century.

NSBECS Domain: [Academic Excellence](#)
SEC, MID

511 Enrollment Intelligence: A New Model for Catholic School Growth

Rachel Cramond; Craig Dodson

VenturEd Solutions

ROOM 206 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

What if Catholic schools could predict yield, identify barriers to application completion, and adapt recruitment strategies in real time? That's the promise of "enrollment intelligence"—a forward-looking approach rooted in data and decision science.

This session will walk attendees through how Catholic schools can integrate digital tools to capture application trends, track prospective family engagement, and make mid-cycle strategy shifts. We'll highlight real examples from private schools using this model to refine their outreach and improve conversion. The goal: boost enrollment while staying true to your school's mission.

NSBECS Domain: [Operational Vitality](#)
DIO, MKT

512 Evangelizing as a Missionary Disciple: The Impact of Charism on the Ministry of Catholic Education

Michael Zelenka, M.A., M.Ed.

ROOM 212 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session explores the characteristics of a missionary disciple, the five stages of becoming a missionary disciple and how to progress through these stages/accompany others through these stages. Together, we will also study the definition and types of charisms within the Catholic Church, how charisms infuse our ministries with supernatural effects, and review the research about the perception of Catholic school leaders who discerned their charism and the impact it had on their spiritual leadership.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
ELM, SEC



513 Federal Education Benefits and Services Available for Students and Teachers Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA)

Jenay Morrissey

ROOM 210 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, the U.S. Department of Education will provide an overview of the equitable services provisions for eligible private school students and teachers under the ESEA. Topics will include implementation requirements for all covered programs, including Title I and Title VIII covered programs, and will include strategies to help private school officials engage in timely and meaningful consultation.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ADM, DIO

514 From Burnout to Balance: What the Saints Can Teach Us About Flourishing in Our Vocation While Avoiding Complete Exhaustion

Pamela Patnode, OlsSB, Ed.D.

ROOM 208 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Currently, in the United States, burnout affects workers in nearly every industry. Research shows that 63 percent of physicians, nearly 70 percent of nurses, 55 percent of educators, and 40 percent of the overall workforce are experiencing burnout. Those working for the Catholic Church are also at risk. Alarming numbers of Catholic school educators, lay ministers, social workers, and even pastors are leaving their roles due to burnout.

Burnout is real, and the consequences are significant. This presentation explores "vocation" according to the mind of the Church and the lives of the saints. We will also highlight research-based, practical steps for Catholic school leaders and educators to grow in vocation while discovering that elusive "balance in life" that we seek.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

ELM, CAM

515 From Data to Decisions: How Data Literacy and Diocesan Leadership Brought Change to Instructional Practices

Alan Barnicle, M.S.; Patrice Kopas, M.A.;

Anthony Cook, Ed.D.

Curriculum Associates

ROOM 200 IJ, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session equips you with the practical skills to create a data-driven culture in your school and provides a framework for data-driven instructional decision-making that works across tools and contexts to drive academic growth and target areas of need from the student to curricular levels. We will explore the significance of data literacy in Catholic education, focusing on how data leadership in the Diocese of Bridgeport has enhanced decision-making, improved student outcomes, and aligned with the mission of Catholic schools. Participants will examine a case from the Diocese of Bridgeport, where data-driven initiatives have led to personalized learning environments and innovative teaching practices.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, MID

516 From McNeice to Lynch: Building a Leadership Pipeline from Teacher to Principal

Eileen McLaughlin; Mary Bridget Chick;

Kevin Holbrook

ROOM 200 GH, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, attendees will learn about the Archdiocese of Boston's strategy to develop Catholic school leaders through a tiered model that leverages both internal programs and external partnerships. Internal programs such as the McNeice Academy for Excellence in Catholic Education orient new teachers to the pillars of Catholic school leadership: faith formation, excellent instruction, and executive management. External partners, such as Boston College Lynch Leadership Academy, offer advanced leadership training to lead teachers and aspiring and sitting principals. Attendees will consider how they might develop a leadership pipeline in their own school communities.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

DIO, ADM

517 From Struggle to Success: Supporting Every Learner Through a Collaborative SAT Process

Madeline Rinkacs, M.S.; Katy Chattin, M.S.

ROOM 101 I, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Learn how to build and sustain an effective Student Assistance Team (SAT) process within a Catholic school setting. Attendees will explore how our school uses goal setting, collaborative problem-solving, and data tracking to support struggling learners. We'll share the structure of our weekly SAT meetings, how we partner with public school resources, including those from your local education agency, such as school psychologists, and the specific tools and forms we use to help teachers make data-informed decisions that lead to academic and behavioral growth. Participants will leave with a practical framework and resources to implement or strengthen their own SAT model.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ADM, DIO

518 I Am the Vine, You are the Branches: The Spiritual Core of Catholic School Governance (Board Series)

Ronald Fussell, Jr., Ed.D; Max Engel, Ph.D.

ROOM 102 E, MCC, LEVEL ONE

One of the most transformational forces in Catholic education is a well-formed school board. Grounded in the NSBECS and informed by current research and Vatican documents, this interactive session explores the spiritual foundations of board service, how board members support mission, and how effective formation strengthens Catholic identity. Participants will engage with best practices from the field for integrating prayer, discernment, and mission into board work, with time to learn from one another. Attendees will leave with practical tools and strategies they can use immediately to enhance the faith formation of their boards.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership

BOA, ADM, DIO

519 Kids These Days: The Neuroscience Behind Motivating Adolescence Today

Colleen Santoni, MAT; Lauren Caton

ROOM 211 B, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session explores the intersection of motivation, neuroscience, learning, and behavior in adolescent students. Drawing from the latest research in developmental psychology and neuroscience, educators will learn to shift the narrative around motivation in their classrooms and gain tools to foster engagement, autonomy, and positive behavior.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

MID, SEC

520 Meet the Parents

Sr. Carol Cimino, SSJ, Ed.D.

ROOM 101 B, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Teachers frequently mention that students are pretty much receptive to what goes on in the classroom. On the other hand, teachers express frustration with the same frequency at having to deal with parents, whose demands often exceed the abilities of teachers. This session will outline parents' needs and wants for their children, parents' own behaviors, and offer strategies for helping parents align their goals and needs with those of the Catholic school. The session will also provide tips on communicating with parents and easing teacher stress in providing good communication with students' homes while maintaining Catholic school principles.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

ELM, MID

521 Mic Drop Moments – Setting the Stage for WOW Learning!

April Moore, Ed.S.

ROOM 101 J, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Turn your classroom into a stage where students can't wait for the curtain to rise! In this high-energy session, we'll explore ways to create "mic drop moments"—those unforgettable, joy-filled experiences that leave students inspired, engaged, and ready to take the spotlight. We will look at ways to create hooks and interactive moments—whether it's a dramatic question, a quirky prop, or a surprising twist—they will set the tone and help motivate students through the excitement of learning. Every day, your classroom becomes a stage where you have the opportunity to show your students the endless possibilities of learning and to create a classroom experience full of "WOW" moments that will leave a lasting positive impact!

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ELM, MID

522 My Catholic LETTERS, Words, and The Saints from A-Z: Building Catholic Identity, Character, and School Readiness in PreK and K

Emily Knapton, M.Ed., OTR/L; Jan Olsen

ROOM 207 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This hands-on, interactive presentation is by the creators of the award-winning Handwriting Without Tears and Get Set for School methods. In this session, they will walk you through engaging ideas to develop letter knowledge, handwriting skills, and language/literacy skills. They will present new ideas developed for the Catholic school educator to instill catholic identity while teaching core curriculum to all learners. Participants will learn to incorporate over 100 Catholic words while teaching the skills of handwriting and school readiness. Additionally, everyone will walk away with fun and developmentally appropriate activities to teach the lives and qualities of more than 30 saints.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

ECT, ELM



523 Not One More Thing

Sr. John Dominic Rasmussen; Tammy Conway, M.A.
Openlight Media | Education in Virtue

ROOM 200 CDE, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Stop and think about your daily habits. Every day, there are particular routines that you follow naturally. In your classroom, the daily routine can set the tone for the rest of the day. In sum, habits are already a part of the day. Simply put, virtue is the habit of doing good. Yet, it is acquired by education and most especially by witnessing other people living virtuously. This session will provide educators with a foundation of understanding the virtues as well as practical applications from experienced administrators and teachers. You will leave convinced that virtue education is not one more thing.

NSBECS Domain: *Mission and Catholic Identity*
 ELM, MID

524 Powerful Learning Through Play

Stephen Meehan

ROOM 101 FG, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Session attendees will experience how to integrate engaging hands-on learning into K-12 Catholic school STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) programs using LEGO Education solutions, including the new LEGO Education Science program. This program features standard-aligned lessons specifically designed for the science core classroom, catering to grades K-8. Participants will explore our learning tools, make curriculum connections, and have fun learning by doing, just like our students! Attendees will leave with innovative, practical ideas to bolster STEAM learning across their classrooms and enrich their science instruction.

NSBECS Domain: *Academic Excellence*
 ELM, MID

525 Right From the Start: Unlocking Success Through Oracy, Writing, and Knowledge Building
 Amelia Larson

ROOM 208 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

How can we set multilingual learners up for success from day one? This session explores the powerful intersection of oracy, writing, and knowledge building to accelerate academic growth in one or more languages. Attendees will discover engaging strategies to help students develop strong language skills while deepening their content knowledge. Learn how to create vibrant classroom environments where students confidently express their ideas, engage in meaningful discussions, and transform their thoughts into clear, compelling writing. Walk away with practical, high-impact approaches to empower multilingual learners and elevate their learning experience!

NSBECS Domain: *Academic Excellence*
 ELM, SEC

526 Setting the Standard - Utilizing the NSBECS to Cultivate a Standards-Driven Culture (Board Series)

Kevin Baxter, Ed.D.

ROOM 103 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This session will explore how school boards can strategically leverage the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS) to foster a thriving educational culture. We will delve into how a board's commitment to these benchmarks moves beyond mere compliance, serving as a powerful blueprint for guiding vision, mission, and operational vitality. Participants will learn practical approaches for integrating standards into board governance, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and championing the school's unique mission and Catholic identity. Discover how a standards-driven approach empowers the board to provide grace, guidance, and a clear vision, ultimately leading to sustained success and a vibrant Catholic school community.

NSBECS Domain: *Governance and Leadership*
 BOA, ADM, DIO



Session Target Audiences:

- BOA** Board Members
- DIO** Diocesan Leaders
- ADM** Site Administrators

- ECT** Early Childhood Teachers (Preschool-Kindergarten)
- ELM** Elementary School Teachers
- MID** Middle School Teachers
- SEC** Secondary School Teachers

- CAM** Campus Ministers
- CNS** Counselors
- MKT** Advancement/Marketing Directors
- PAS** Pastors Serving School Communities

527 Teen Girls: The Crisis, The Cause, and The Creator

Cindy Westbrook

ROOM 211 A, MCC, LEVEL TWO

More than any other demographic group, teen girls are facing increasing crises in the culture in which we live. These challenges are revealed in unprecedented numbers of girls feeling hopeless, depressed, and considering suicide. This is far beyond concerning—it is shocking! The why is complicated but warrants discussion. The answer lies in all that is true, beautiful, and good. Join us to discover how to bring your teen girls to wholeness, holiness, and health!

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
MID, SEC

528 The Cadence of Catholic School Development: Connecting the Dots

Frank Donaldson

ROOM 209 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session will highlight the new NCEA publication, *The Cadence of Catholic School Development*. Attendees will learn the 26 steps of establishing the correct infrastructure for a successful Catholic school development/advancement effort. With the presenter being the author, he will share with the attendees the highlights of each step that will connect the dots of Catholic school development. When it comes to development/advancement, many Catholic schools have different disparate programs in place—the Annual Fund, a Golf Tournament, the Gala, a candy sale, etc. The challenge is that there is no "cadence" that assures a logical sequence of what needs to be implemented 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. This session will present that order.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
ADM, MKT

529 The Learning Covenant: Assessment Strategies that Practice What We Preach

Jack Connors, M.T.S.

ROOM 203 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Is it okay, or even moral, to give students grades in theology class? Can we really assess a faith-based curriculum? What does it mean to tell a student they are a "C-student" in a religious education context? This session will explore strategies for reconsidering student assessment in light of our Catholic values and consider how assessment practices can better reflect the dignity, creativity, and autonomy that God has given each of us. The "Learning Covenant," an approach to contract learning, aims to empower each student as a unique learner while emphasizing our Catholic beliefs in practice, not simply in content.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
SEC, CAM

530 The Priest in the Catholic High School

Fr. Peter Stravinskis

ROOM 202 A, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In an era where the presence of consecrated Religious in schools has significantly diminished, the priest often stands as the sole visible representative of the Church within the high school environment. This session explores the many roles a priest can fulfill—pastoral, sacramental, instructional, and symbolic—and how these roles contribute to the spiritual and communal life of a school. Attendees will gain practical insights on how to effectively engage clergy, maximize their impact, and integrate their ministry into the fabric of school life. Sample job descriptions and role outlines will be provided, equipping school administrators with clear expectations and tools to make informed decisions when collaborating with clergy.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
CAM

531 Navigating the Naysayers

Michael O'Connor; Sarah Jones; Elizabeth Bartley

ROOM 200AB MCC, LEVEL TWO

When a teacher tries to lead change in their Catholic school, they may inevitably face resistance. Whether facilitating a new math curriculum review or considering changes to student participation in school Masses, resistance from others is natural and teachers can draw upon lessons from teacher-leadership to do something about it. In this engaging session, attendees will learn about adult learning principles (e.g., adults must feel safe to learn, adults come to learning experiences with histories) and how they can apply them proactively to create collaborative and supportive adult learning cultures that promote the dignity of all teachers and students in our Catholic schools. Regardless of the efforts you're leading as a teacher, this will set attendees up to lead collaboratively and navigate the "naysayers" in our Catholic schools.

NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership
ELM, MID



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- Crisis Management Issues: Dealing with Armed Intruders
- Managing the Immigration Crisis Impacting Schools
- Make the Federal Scholarship Tax Credits Work for Families

Breakout sessions:

- Legally Sound Handbooks
- Fundamentals of the Law
- Athletics and Legal Issues
- Personnel Issues
- AI/Cybersecurity Responsibilities
- Grants and Fundraising
- Special Education Law: IDEA and 504
- Addressing Bullying
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Providing the latest information on the law as it applies to Catholic education and ministry.

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- Legal Updates
- Fundamentals of the Law
- Personnel Issues
- Grants and Fundraising
- Artificial Intelligence
- Athletics
- Crisis Management
- Application of the Code of Canon Law
- Cybersecurity
- Upholding Religious Liberty
- School Discipline
- 504/IDEA in Catholic Schools
- Faculty/Student/Parent Handbooks
- Immigration Laws



REGISTRATION FEE: \$425
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THURSDAY
8 – 9:15 AM

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSION 6

601 21st Century Classroom Management: Strategies for Success

Jessica Werner, Ph.D.

ROOM 205 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this workshop, we will explore the most effective strategies and techniques that teachers can implement so they can spend more time facilitating instruction and cultivating student relationships in their classrooms, and less time handling low-level student behavior issues, such as disrespect, interruptions, inattention, and reluctance to follow directions.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
ELM, MID

602 Authentic Assessment in Early Childhood

Jennifer Marcheschi; Tracie Douglas, M.A.

ROOM 207 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Assessment is often associated with paperwork and formal documentation, but what if we shifted our perspective to view assessment as a meaningful opportunity to know, understand and support the development of the children in our care? In this session, educators will learn how to:

- Recognize and interpret the many ways young children communicate their learning, growth, and needs
- Implement authentic assessment strategies that reflect developmentally appropriate practice
- Create environments and experiences, the invite children to demonstrate their knowledge in multiple ways

By the end of the session, attendees will leave with a renewed vision of assessment, as a relational informative process, not just a procedural task.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence
ECT, ADM

603 Believe in Every Student: Inclusive Enrollment Strategies for Mission-Driven Catholic Schools (En Español)

Maria Del Amo, NCEA

ROOM 101 D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This session, delivered entirely in Spanish, will explore enrollment strategies that go beyond filling seats to building inclusive, mission-driven school cultures. Our schools are called to be places where every student is recognized, nurtured, and empowered to thrive. Particular attention will be given to engaging the growing population of Hispanic and Latino families, while also addressing effective outreach to other underrepresented groups—multilingual households, families with children of differing abilities, and those from various socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Through real case studies and practical tools, attendees will learn how to design enrollment pathways rooted in gospel values and open to all.

NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality
ADM, DIO

604 Building Belonging and Leadership: How a House System Transformed Culture in a Catholic Upper Elementary and Middle School

Laura Wrinn; Steven Cheeseman, Jr.

ROOM 209 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In 2023, All Saints Catholic School launched a House System for grades 5-8 to deepen community, promote leadership, and prepare students for high school. In this session, we will share how this classical concept—reimagined for the 21st-century Catholic school—fosters identity, connection, and a strong sense of belonging. Learn how houses are shaping student behavior, engagement, and spiritual formation. Walk away with practical ideas and a roadmap for starting or strengthening a House System in your own school.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
MID, CNS

605 Building Resilience in a Jesuit Middle School: Labyrinths and the Ignatian Imagination

Bryan Sokol, Ph.D.; Josh Goldman, M.S.W.; Gene Brion; Alexis Micic

ROOM 204 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Our session details an art and contemplation curriculum for middle schoolers, developed in collaboration between a Catholic, Jesuit middle school and university in urban St. Louis.

Attendees will learn:

- The details of a curriculum that emphasizes the role of the Ignatian Imagination in middle schoolers' spiritual growth.
- The Catholic history of labyrinths as spiritual tools and links to contemporary mindfulness practices and social-emotional learning.
- The personal experiences of middle schoolers and their teachers in the application of novel prayerful techniques, especially designed to engage non-Catholics.
- The dynamics of navigating an ongoing university partnership among stakeholders with a shared Jesuit-inspired mission.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
CAM, MID

606 Called to Lead: Lessons from Joan of Arc for Today's Catholic School Leaders

Mary Davis, Ph.D.

ROOM 211 D, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Amid challenges of enrollment pressure, staff burnout, and mission drift, Catholic school leaders are called to lead with the courage and conviction of saints. This engaging, story-rich session draws on the leadership journey of St. Joan of Arc to explore how spiritual clarity, boldness, and deep purpose can shape visionary leadership today. Participants will reflect on their own mission, gain tools for discernment and decision-making, and leave with a "mission map" to lead their communities with purpose and resilience. Participants will reflect on their own leadership call and learn how to lead with conviction—especially in times of challenge, uncertainty, or change.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
ADM, DIO

607 Creation Care Across Your Campus, Curriculum, Community, and Culture

Sister Kathleen Storms, SSND

ROOM 211 C, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This session provides practical tools for bringing the integral ecology to campus, curriculum, community, and culture.

The session takeaways include:

- How to develop an ethics of ecology, and help students "through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility, and compassionate care." (Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 210)
- How to reckon with the truth that "our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society, and our relationship with nature." (Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 214-15)
- How to accompany our students through the reality of climate disruption, with a spirit of hope and joy.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
SEC, MID

608 Effective Partnership with Parents: A Simple Approach to Parent Formation

Alison Dahlman

ROOM 200 CDE, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Attendees will learn how to mobilize key parent partners in their community who understand and live out the mission of the Church and school to assist in the effective formation of parents.

Attendees will also be provided with templates that can be used at their site to replicate a similar parent formation. Everyone will be given concrete ideas on how to meaningfully engage with parents as "thought partners" and the primary educators of their children in mutually beneficial ways (for both parent and school).

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity
ADM, PAS



Session Target Audiences:

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- PAS** Pastors Serving School Communities

609 Formed by the Past: Wisdom and Wonder in Teaching Historical Figures Through Narrative

[Leila Vance](#); [Rose Coleman](#)

[ROOM 200 IJ, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

This presentation explores how Catholic school educators can harness the transformative power of historical narratives and saints' stories to create an integrated curriculum that promotes both academic excellence and virtue formation. Participants will discover how stories of historical figures, both saints and secular heroes, serve as powerful vehicles for teaching across content areas, helping students internalize virtue formation through compelling narratives that connect past wisdom to present application. The session will inspire and engage attendees to discover impactful stories that ignite wonder, leading ultimately to wisdom and a deeper encounter with the God of truth, goodness, and beauty. Attendees will also explore narratives that help students encounter the author of our story.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)

ELM, ADM

610 Get Them Writing! Creative Multimodal Approaches for Upper Elementary Writers

[Jennifer Monger](#)

[ROOM 208 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

In this session, attendees will learn creative multimodal strategies to inspire upper elementary students' writing by integrating literary texts, visual arts, music, drama, and poetry. Participants will explore how these diverse art forms can support writing across genres, build student voices, and foster authentic engagement.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)

ELM, MID

611 Guided by Faith, Powered by AI: A Shared Path to Supporting All Catholic Learners

[Sean Smith, Ph.D.](#); [Mary Brigid Cahill, M.Ed.](#); [Michael Faggella-Luby, Ph.D.](#)

[ROOM 200 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

In this session, attendees will learn how AI tools can be used by teachers, students, and families to support the whole child in Catholic education. Through live demonstrations and practical examples, participants will see how AI can help personalize learning, strengthen home-school collaboration, and support struggling learners and their peers. Tools that generate reading supports, writing prompts, translations, and simple progress check-ins will be modeled. Educators will leave with practical strategies they can share and apply immediately, guided by mission and empowered by innovation. Participants will leave with AI tools for teachers, but also designed for the student-user. Solutions to support home engagement will be included.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)

ELM, MID

612 Hearts of Lambs, Energy of Wolves

[Troy Newlove](#)

[ROOM 211 B, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

St. John Bosco devoted his life to serving and forming young men. Today, middle school boys are often categorized as overly energetic, disruptive, and disrespectful. In this session, we will explore the ways that St. John Bosco worked with the boys in his care and relate it directly to how we can improve our boys' experiences in middle school.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)

MID

613 Inclusion in Action: Strategies and Stories for Serving All Learners (Panel Session)

[Avery Coats](#); [Lisa Cordell](#); [Kristen Lanier](#); [Kim Shields](#)

[ROOM 101 I, MCC, LEVEL ONE](#)

This panel explores how Catholic schools can build and sustain inclusive education rooted in mission and faith. Drawing on the work in two dioceses, presenters will share strategies for creating supportive systems, fostering acceptance, and partnering with families and educators.

Attendees will gain practical insights and inspiration to strengthen inclusion in their own schools and communities.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)

ADM, ELM

614 Learning from Finland: Applying Lessons from Nordic Culture to Form our Catholic School Cultures

[Kyle Rickbeil, M.Ed.](#)

[ROOM 211 A, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

Take an brief trip (further) north to Finland in this session to learn how the Finnish culture has created success stories in the Finnish education system, and what lessons it can inspire in American Catholic Schools. Fortunately, many of the factors that vaulted Finland to the top of PISA test scores are in place in the United States within our Catholic schools. Attendees will learn many of the cultural factors that have inspired Finnish students for decades, and discuss practical ways in which these principles can be applied within American Catholic Schools. Attendees will also understand the Finnish approach of teaching to the whole child, and how American Catholic schools lead the way in following this approach.

[NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

ADM, BOA

615 Leveraging Strong Roots for a Sustainable Future: Multiage Catholic Schools

Kaitlin Reichart, Ed.D.;
Debra Sullivan, Ed.D.

ROOM 205 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Critical elements of strong, successful Catholic schools are not determined by school size. This session will address core elements, recognizing the flexibility required to adapt to enrollment changes without sacrificing the integrity of instructional programs. In this session, learn how a multiage instructional program can make a mission-driven school even better able to meet the broad continuum of student needs with limited resources. With attention to building a runway to effective and seamless change, it addresses strategic communications and welcoming approaches to involve stakeholders in designing a strong, sustainable, multiage Catholic school experience. [NSBECS Domain: Operational Vitality](#)
ELM, MID



616 Math Fluency: Moving Beyond Basic Facts

Christine Sullivan

ROOM 101 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This session will focus on mathematical fluency beyond basic facts. Based in research, participants will understand how fluency is built upon conceptual understanding, strategic competence, adaptive reasoning, and procedural fluency. Through simple activities, participants will gain knowledge of how they can improve their student's fluency without revamping what is already happening in their classroom. These small tweaks helped our urban school increase our MAP scores significantly. [NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)
ELM, MID

617 Mission Growth: Connecting Faith and Reason in Accreditation

Andrew Kremer, Ph.D.

ROOM 200 GH, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, the attendees will learn the importance of connecting our Catholic faith and what the Church teaches us on education to the continuous improvement process of accreditation. Accreditation processes are more than quality assurance and data analysis. In a distinctly Catholic accreditation process, data collected and analyzed should reflect Church teachings and be grounded in prayer and discernment to hear God's call in the process of growth toward mission. This session will guide attendees to find the connection of faith and reason in the accreditation growth process.

[NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
DIO, ADM



618 Music as a Language of Faith

Steve Angrisano

ROOM 212 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Music speaks fluently to the hearts of teenagers and can open doors to faith when other approaches fall flat. This workshop focuses on using music intentionally—not only in liturgy, but also in teaching, prayer, and conversation—to engage teens in authentic encounters with God. Designed for classroom teachers, campus ministers, and educators of all kinds, this session offers practical tools to help students connect faith to real life through a language they already trust.

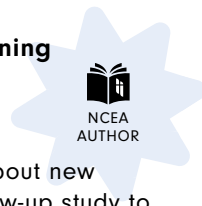
[NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
SEC, MID

619 Priestly Leadership in Catholic Schools: What Award-Winning Pastors Do in Their Schools

Jim King, Ph.D.; Melissa Link, D.Min.

ROOM 202 A, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, attendees will learn about new research completed in 2025 as a follow-up study to the 2015 NCEA book, *Priestly Leadership in Catholic Schools*. This new study will examine the clergy winners of NCEA's Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Awards and look at the leadership behaviors, qualities, formation, and relationships these pastors hold with their principals. Attendees, either clergy or those who work closely with them, will learn what research tells us about the practices of these leaders as well as implications for professional development and policy. [NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership](#)
PAS, DIO



620 Reaching Every Learner: Evidence-Based Practices to Support All Students

Alyshia Koerner, Ed.S.

ROOM 101 J, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Rooted in the belief that all students can learn, this session highlights the importance of differentiated instruction in meeting the diverse needs of learners in Catholic classrooms. Participants will explore evidence-based strategies that promote engagement, equity, and academic growth for all students. With a focus on practical application and faith-informed teaching, educators will leave equipped to create inclusive learning environments that reflect the dignity and potential of every child.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)
ELM, MID

Lyft/Uber, Rideshare Apps

A popular option and one that will drop off exactly where you need to be. MSP airport has designated areas for Rideshare pick-up points. Approximate pricing: \$20-\$40 depending on the time of day and demand.

621 Selling Catholic Schools the Digital Way: Lessons from Big-Box Retailers

Sarah Toepfer; Owen Logue

ROOM 206 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In today's competitive educational landscape, it is important to go beyond the traditional word-of-mouth marketing—Catholic schools must market themselves with the same savvy as successful retailers. This session explores how schools should leverage modern digital strategies to attract families. From smart keyword searches and digital ad buys to harnessing the power of ratings and reviews, "people who bought this bought that" recommendations, and real-time customer service tools like chat and AI, you'll gain actionable insights to increase visibility and engagement.

This session will equip you with practical tools and proven techniques to meet families where they are—online—and present your Catholic school as their top choice.

NSBECS Domain: [Operational Vitality](#)

MKT, DIO

622 The Journey to Excellence: A Case Study in Catholic School Culture Change

Scott Barron, M.Ed.; Tom Hood, B.S., M.S.; Rob Bridges, Ph.D.; Nick Tanis, M.A.

ROOM 101 B, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This workshop features an experienced and enlightened panel of Catholic school leaders who will illuminate the audience on how a school's culture reveals its true character, shaped by the collective beliefs, core values, and practices of its community. Sharing the transformative journey that these three leaders have forged serves as a case study to demonstrate that effective cultural change demands courageous leadership from both the board and the head of school. Participants will learn how uniting around shared values not only elevates trust but also enhances collaboration and sparks innovation.

NSBECS Domain: [Governance and Leadership](#)

DIO, BOA

623 The Role of School Leadership in School Choice Advocacy and Enrollment

Jennifer Daniels; Jason Adkins

ROOM 210 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

School choice programs such as ESAs, scholarship tax credits and vouchers present opportunities for families who would like to choose Catholic schools for their children. Currently, there are more than 1.5 million students in 34 states using these programs to attend the school of their family's choosing. Over the past five years, there has been an enormous increase in programs, their capabilities to serve families, and the options that exist. This session will provide an overview of the school choice landscape, including the recently passed Federal Scholarship Tax Credit, highlight ways Catholic schools are advocating for their students at the state level, and maximizing enrollment through programs.

NSBECS Domain: [Operational Vitality](#)

ADM, DIO

624 Twice Blessed, Twice Exceptional: Integrating Faith and Evidence-Based Practice for 2e Learners in Catholic Schools

Janette Boazman, Ph.D.

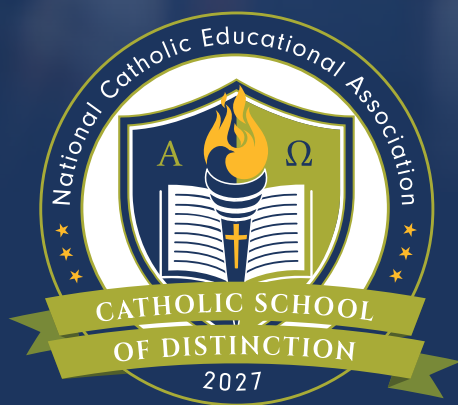
ROOM 101 H, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Twice exceptional (2e) students, those who are gifted and also have diagnosed learning or attentional challenges, require both high-level enrichment and targeted support. This session invites educators to believe in the full potential of these complex learners by combining current neuropsychology, Catholic anthropology, and practical classroom strategies. Participants will analyze case studies, examine tiered instruction and executive function supports, and explore tools for differentiation and social-emotional formation. Rooted in the belief that every child is "unique and unrepeatable" (St. John Paul II), this session equips Catholic school educators to challenge giftedness, support needs, and nurture the whole child.

NSBECS Domain: [Academic Excellence](#)

ELM, MID





National Catholic Educational Association

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

The NCEA Catholic School of Distinction Program will recognize schools that set the national standard for excellence in Catholic education as demonstrated through the *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools* (NSBECS).

An NCEA Catholic School of Distinction is more than a strong school—it is a model of Catholic education at its best. These schools live out their Catholic mission with visible impact and service to students, families, and the wider community, while integrating faith across all aspects of school life. They demonstrate measurable growth in learning and innovation, embody a culture of academic excellence rooted in gospel values, and ensure sustainability through shared leadership, vitality, and sound stewardship of resources.

The first NCEA Catholic School of Distinction honorees will be recognized at the NCEA 2027 Convention & Expo in Indianapolis.

Learn more: www.NCEA.org/Distinction



THURSDAY

9:45 – 11 AM

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSION 7

701 Beauty, Wonder, and the Catholic Classroom

Justin Shay

ROOM 211 A, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, the attendee will learn about the rich Catholic educational tradition rooted in the beauty and wonder of God and His creation. This session will explore the role that beauty and wonder play in education, especially in the formation of a Christian imagination that leaves open the possibility of an encounter with the supernatural in the midst of daily life.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

MID, ELM

702 Believe and Lead: A Transformative Servant Leadership Model to Deepen Mission Fidelity and Inspire Sustainable Catholic School Governance (En Español)

Raul Nieves

ROOM 205 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This interactive session, presented entirely in Spanish, explores the transformative impact of servant leadership in Catholic schools. Dr. Raúl Nieves, drawing from his doctoral research, presents data, lived leadership experiences, and pastoral insight to examine how this model can address declining enrollment, disengaged communities, and weakened Catholic identity. Participants will reflect and engage in dialogue, gaining tools to renew school culture. Rooted in the Gospel and inspired by Robert Greenleaf, this approach highlights the role of leaders and teachers as co-responsible agents of mission, whose influence extends beyond administration into the spiritual and human formation of the school community.

NSBECS Domain: [Governance and Leadership](#)

ADM, MID

703 Cultivating a Sacramental Worldview Across the Curriculum

Sister Bethany Miller, SCTJM, M.A.

ROOM 211 C, MCC, LEVEL TWO

This workshop offers Catholic school teachers and catechists the tools to integrate the Church's sacramental vision across all subject areas. Rooted in scripture, the catechism, the writings of the saints, and magisterial teaching, participants will explore how to reveal God's presence through science, literature, history, math, and the arts, and will identify creative ways to infuse truth, beauty, and goodness across the curriculum for all age groups.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

SEC, MID

704 Dante's Lessons for Teachers

William Junker, Ph.D.

ROOM 101 C, MCC, LEVEL ONE

Dante's Comedy tells the story of a man who is lost in life and in need of direction. He is given direction in the form of two teachers--Virgil and Beatrice—who lead him from a condition of bondage, ignorance, and death into freedom, knowledge, and life. In Dante's poem, then, the role of the educator is understood as participating in and being ordered to God's loving plan for every human being. More than this, however, Dante's poem offers educators today key insights into the vocation of the teacher, the role of authority, and the loving relationship that structures every true educational endeavor. In this presentation, we will examine these lessons and discuss how we might implement them into our own teaching.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)

SEC, MID

705 Empowering Catholic Schools Through Standardized Financial Reporting and Benchmarking

Judy Logan; Jim Weiland, C.P.A.

ROOM 200 F, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this session, attendees will learn to apply standardized financial reporting, use benchmarking data for comparison, and interpret financial reports to make strategic, data-driven decisions for improved school sustainability.

NSBECS Domain: [Governance and Leadership](#)

ADM, BOA

706 F Does Not Mean Failure:

4 Fs that Flourish in Catholic Schools

Fr. John Serio, M.A., M.Ed.; Will Summer, M.Ed.

ROOM 101 B, MCC, LEVEL ONE

A religious congregation's charism can be indispensable in forming the culture of a school. It can provide the "skeleton" from which all the major elements of the school may hang.

Don Bosco used a framework for his educational institutions that included the values of family, faith, future, and fun. These correspond to young people's needs: to belong, to believe, to learn, to play (or socialize). This is a universal approach that aligns the mission of Catholic schools with their actual practice at all levels.

Join us and learn about this framework and how you can employ it in your own school for a unified approach to your educational program.

NSBECS Domain: *Mission and Catholic Identity*

CAM, ADM

707 Forming the Formaters – Whole-Teacher Formation for Whole-Child Education

Molly McMahan, Ph.D.;
Michael Nicholson, Ed.D.

ROOM 101 D, MCC, LEVEL ONE

This presentation will delve into the profound impact of comprehensive adult formation on achieving holistic student development within Catholic schools. We will utilize the "Whole Child Framework—Adult Formation" as a practical lens to demonstrate how intentional investment in teachers' mission formation, adult relationships, adult capacity, and adult well-being directly cultivates an environment where students can flourish spiritually, cognitively, emotionally, socially, and physically. Participants will gain actionable insights and concrete strategies for designing and implementing robust adult formation plans that foster thriving school communities for both adults and students.

NSBECS Domain: *Academic Excellence*

ADM, DIO



708 Fundraising Momentum:

Practical Strategies from Corporate America & Collegiate Advancement

Tony Mullen; Seamus Kelly

ROOM 206 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Ready to boost your school's fundraising? This session demystifies advancement by blending practical strategies from the corporate world and proven collegiate fundraising techniques. Tony Mullen (25 years Fortune 500 sales/marketing, 3 years Catholic high school advancement) and Seamus Kelly (10+ years collegiate fundraising from St. Olaf/Iowa State) share practical tools. Learn simple forecasting for predictable revenue (e.g., "December surge") and how to track progress. Gain strategies for engaging your community, empowering your team, and creating a sustainable financial future, applicable to any school's starting point.

NSBECS Domain: *Operational Vitality*

MKT, DIO

709 Generational Grief:

Creating a Space to Be Seen and Heard

Fr. Nathan LaLiberte, M.Div.;

Kathleen Massmann, Ph.C., LPCC, FT, IPPE-C, CPLC

ROOM 207 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Bereavement, especially unique losses, is often misunderstood, with multigenerational grief overlooked and under-researched. This session introduces foundational grief concepts and explores how loss impacts multiple generations through real-world case studies—such as grandparents mourning a grandchild and siblings born after a sibling's death. We'll examine how grief manifests differently across generations and its psychological and relational effects. Finally, practical strategies for schools and parishes will be discussed to foster supportive environments where healing, acknowledgment, and being truly seen and heard are possible.

NSBECS Domain: *Mission and Catholic Identity*

PAS, DIO



Session Target Audiences:

- BOA** Board Members
- DIO** Diocesan Leaders
- ADM** Site Administrators

- ECT** Early Childhood Teachers (Preschool-Kindergarten)
- ELM** Elementary School Teachers
- MID** Middle School Teachers
- SEC** Secondary School Teachers

- CAM** Campus Ministers
- CNS** Counselors
- MKT** Advancement/Marketing Directors
- PAS** Pastors Serving School Communities

710 High-Quality Instruction Without Burnout: Teacher Moves That Make It Work

[Lauren Keeling](#)

[ROOM 208 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

High-quality instructional materials only deliver results when teachers are equipped with clear, actionable strategies for using them well. This session centers on the instructional decisions and classroom practices that bring Science of Reading-aligned materials to life—without adding to teacher overload. Participants will explore how teachers can:

- Use core materials with intentional routines and instructional moves that strengthen student learning
- Adapt lessons to meet diverse student needs while preserving coherence and pacing
- Leverage formative data to make in-the-moment instructional adjustments
- Implement new materials in ways that feel sustainable, focused, and manageable

Attendees will leave with a practical set of teacher-facing strategies that support strong instruction, consistent practice, and long-term sustainability—so high-quality teaching becomes the norm, not the exception.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)

[ELM, ECT](#)

711 Leading with Purpose: How Catholic School Leaders Can Use AI to Lighten the Load and Lead with Clarity

[Shannon Tabaldo, Ed.D.](#)

[ROOM 209 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

Catholic school leaders juggle an enormous range of responsibilities—from evaluation and parent communication to instructional planning and community-building. This session explores how AI tools can support school leaders in managing operational tasks with greater efficiency and purpose. Rooted in Catholic values, the session will showcase time-saving tools for drafting newsletters, analyzing school data, supporting teacher feedback, and more. Leaders will also explore common concerns about AI use and walk away with realistic, ethical ways to model responsible AI use in their school communities.

[NSBECS Domain: Governance and Leadership](#)

[ADM, DIO](#)

712 Get it Write: Best Practices for Content-Area Writing Instruction
Previously named: Literacy Leadership for Student Success

[Phil Singewald, Ed.S.](#); [Brigid Berger](#)

[ROOM 208 CD, MCC, LEVEL TWO](#)

Writing is not just for English Language Arts classrooms—it is a critical tool that strengthens comprehension and deepens learning in every subject. In this interactive session, participants will explore the powerful relationship between reading comprehension and writing, drawing from Scarborough’s Reading Rope and research on writing-to-learn strategies. Educators will experience evidence-based practices first-hand, including Power Writing, Because-But-So sentence frames, and Shared/Interactive Writing, all designed to fit seamlessly into content-area instruction. These strategies, adaptable for all grade levels, require minimal time investment yet have proven impact on student engagement, memory, and synthesis of content. Participants will also reflect on common barriers—such as lack of time, student readiness, or teacher preparation—and learn practical solutions to integrate writing in meaningful, efficient ways. The session will conclude with guided planning time so participants leave with actionable next steps to bring back to their classrooms.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)

[ELM, MID](#)

713 Math Intervention Connected to the Community

[Lucy Payne, Ph.D.](#)

[ROOM 101 A, MCC, LEVEL ONE](#)

Engage with us on our integrated academic intervention Gear Model. Our relationship-based model that focuses on academics, habits of mind, and whole child will be shared along with all the gears needed to work together for academic success. We will share the largest gears (intervention, movement, emotions, enrichment, and reflection) and smaller gears surrounding the work. Our model is community and family-focused to enhance learning outcomes for all students. The Gear Model can be run during the school day or through community outreach programs after school and in the summer.

[NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence](#)

[MID, SEC](#)

**715 Middle School Mayhem—
Transformed by Love**

Sr. Patricia McCormack, IHM, Ed.D.

ROOM 211 B, MCC, LEVEL TWO

If immaturity, inability to focus, impulsivity, lack of accountability, and chronic disruptive behavior impedes class productivity in your school, this session will illustrate how two middle schools reversed the COVID-effect and increased student self-control, self-reliance, and industry. Participants will benefit from handout material.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
MID, ADM

**716 School Choice, We have it!
Handling the Change in Student Population**
Julie Delaney, Ph.D.ROOM 210 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

The state of Iowa passed Educational Savings Accounts which began in the 2023-2024 school year. The 2025-2026 school year marks the third year of the program. The attendees will learn how St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School in Davenport, IA, quickly adapted to the changes in student population including academic and SEL needs, cultural diversity, along with religious diversity, while maintaining Catholic identity and high academic and behavioral expectations. Attendees will take away tools that can help them not only in areas that have school choice initiatives, but also for schools that are experiencing a change in population for a multitude of reasons.

NSBECS Domain: [Academic Excellence](#)
ADM, ELM

**717 Service Learning
Roundtable Discussion**
Cari Foster, D.Min.ROOM 204 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

Service is a vital part of Catholic education, but creating meaningful opportunities can be a challenge. Too often, student service is reduced to tasks like mowing a lawn or walking a neighbor's dog. This session invites participants into a guided conversation about what service looks like at their schools—sharing successes, struggles, and creative approaches. Rather than a traditional presentation, this collaborative discussion will offer practical ideas and inspiration for developing service programs that form students in faith and foster a deeper commitment to living out the gospel.

NSBECS Domain: [Mission and Catholic Identity](#)
CAM, SEC

**718 Shining Light in the Digital Sphere:
Forming Students for Online Discipleship**
Katy McGillin; Heide TannerROOM 200 IJ, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In today's increasingly digital world, Catholic educators are called not only to teach academic content, but also to form students as disciples who live out their faith in all aspects of life—including online. This session explores how Catholic schools can integrate digital citizenship education with gospel values. Rooted in Catholic social teaching and virtue ethics, this session offers practical strategies to help students navigate the digital world with integrity, compassion, and faith. Educators will learn how to guide students in becoming not just responsible digital users, but active disciples who use online platforms to promote truth, build community, and reflect Christ's love in a complex digital culture.

NSBECS Domain: [Academic Excellence](#)
ELM, MID

**719 Strengths-Based Teams: Building
Connection, Community, and Collective Impact**
Julie Widman, Ed.D.; Joy Roberts, Ed.D.
*Friendly*ROOM 200 CDE, MCC, LEVEL TWO

In this dynamic session, attendees will discover how to build a stronger school culture by recognizing and leveraging the God-given strengths of each team member. Rooted in the Core Value Index (CVI), this experience equips educators and administrators to foster empathy, reduce friction, and strengthen collaboration. When team members understand what drives each other, they communicate better, support one another more intentionally, and work toward shared goals with trust and clarity. Whether you're leading a school or supporting your colleagues, this session offers practical tools for building a thriving team and a mission-driven community.

NSBECS Domain: [Governance and Leadership](#)
ADM, DIO



How do you get from official
NCEA 2026 hotels to the MCC?

All hotels are within a mile of the MCC. The following hotels have access to the convention center via skyway bridges:
Hilton Minneapolis, Hotel Indigo, Hyatt Place Minn,
Hyatt Regency, Sheraton, The W

720 The Legacy of American Catholic Education: Centered in the Eucharist, Cultivated in the Liturgy, Inspired by Pope Leo XIV

Angela Johnson, Ed.D.

ROOM 200 GH, MCC, LEVEL TWO

The long-lasting legacy that American Catholic education leads with is the cultivation of the vineyard of veritas, virtue, and vocations. With a Holy Father who attended American Catholic schools and universities, inspiration for growth and hope in Catholic education, at all levels, is highly promising. Inspired by the spirituality of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV, Catholic schools and universities are primed and positioned to continue the essential formation of disciples and leaders who are devoted to the Lord in their vocation, and who remain centered in the Eucharist and led by the Liturgy.

NSBECS Domain: Mission and Catholic Identity

DIO, PAS

721 Walking the Tightropes: Supporting High School Religion Teachers Amid Competing Demands

Nicholas Hurt, Ph.D.

ROOM 203 AB, MCC, LEVEL TWO

High school religion teachers are asked to be theologians, youth ministers, and academic instructors—often all at once. Based on a national qualitative study, this session explores four key tensions they navigate: academic vs. catechetical teaching, teacher vs. minister identity, curriculum constraints, and teacher training gaps. We'll discuss how these tensions impact Catholic identity, student engagement, and religion teacher morale. Based on the findings of this study, participants will reflect on their own school contexts and leave with concrete strategies to support, mentor, and retain strong religion teachers. In addition to presenting the study's insights, time will also be allotted for conversation among session participants.

NSBECS Domain: Academic Excellence

SEC, ADM





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Make **NCEA Central** your go-to stop during Convention to browse the latest publications, pick up exclusive merch, and explore the latest NCEA programs and resources.

NEW Attend **NCEA Central Chats** for a glimpse into what's going on with your association!

Tuesday, April 7

- 1 PM NCEA Consulting
- 1:30 PM Revised ACRE
- 2 PM New NCEA Website

Wednesday, April 8

- 10:30 AM New NCEA Website
- 11 AM Catholic School of Distinction Program
- 11:30 AM Data Dashboard
- 1 PM Membership Benefits
- 1:30 PM NCEA Consulting
- 2 PM Hispanic/Latino Engagement
- 2:30 PM NCEA Academy

Wednesday, April 8

- 3 PM Catholic School of Distinction Program
- 3:30 PM Data Dashboard
- 4 PM Revised ACRE
- 4:30PM Hispanic/Latino Engagement

Thursday, April 9

- 8 AM Campus Ministry
- 8:30 AM Membership Benefits
- 9 AM Catholic School of Distinction Program
- 9:30 AM NCEA Academy
- 10 AM Revised ACRE
- 10:30 AM Hispanic/Latino Engagement



NCEA Central also provides opportunities to meet NCEA authors, catch up with NCEA staff, and see the latest visits from the Bright Lights of Catholic Education tour!

We'll see you at **NCEA Central** throughout Convention!

NCEA AT WORK FOR YOU

Be part of the largest professional learning community of private school educators in the world.

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Your membership brings you award-winning publications and keeps you informed.

- *Momentum* Magazine (Print and Digital)
- NCEA Talk Blog
- NCEA Weekly
- Catholic Schools Week and Year Round Marketing Kit
- *National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools*



Public Policy and Advocacy

NCEA collaborates with national associations to advance Catholic school interests with federal agencies regarding national education policy, equitable services, and other current issues facing our schools.



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- NCEA Academy
- Access to Current NCEA Research and Data
- Professional Learning Networks (PLNs) to Support Educators/Leaders
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Catholic Schools
Communities of Hope and Joy



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- NCEA Career Center Member Pricing
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ACELA Solutions is a national leadership partner serving Catholic schools, dioceses, and religious communities. We advance Catholic education through mission-driven support rooted in discernment and stewardship. Services include executive search; leadership coaching and culture development; strategic planning and organizational assessments; school system strategy and design; partnered leadership and ongoing counsel; workshops and keynotes; and board development.

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611

Aim Higher Foundation

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www.aimhigherfoundation.org/

The Aim Higher Foundation (AHF) provides student-based, tuition-assistance scholarships so that more children can experience the life-changing benefits of a Catholic education. Since 2012, AHF has awarded more than 19,000 scholarships—worth nearly \$18 million—to children attending every Catholic school serving grades K-8 across the Twin Cities metro area.

436

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219

American Heritage Girls

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www.americanheritagegirls.org

American Heritage Girls (AHG) is the premier Christ-centered character and leadership development program for girls ages 5 to 18. AHG is dedicated to building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. Through beloved, time-honored scout-type traditions, AHG comes alongside the Church to equip girls with practical skills, strong character, and a lifelong foundation of faith.

915

Amplify

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A pioneer in K-12 education since 2000, Amplify delivers next-generation curriculum and assessment on an intuitive, integrated platform that includes thousands of free lessons. Today, Amplify serves 18 million students and teachers worldwide.

924

Anatomage, Inc.

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Anatomage is a medical company, driving innovation through advanced solutions in hospitals and educational institutions. Our digital cadaver table, the Anatomage Table, allows a hands-on approach to learning the human body through unique visualization options, dissection tools, and quiz mode features, making it a strong asset to any anatomy class.

Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education

226

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www.luc.edu/gcce/

The Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education was created to serve PK-12 Catholic schools.

We support their mission through consultation, professional learning, and research. We meet with organizations to identify professional learning needs and create customized plans to achieve those goals. We create strategies to build the capacity of Catholic schools so they can meet the spiritual and educational needs of all students they serve.

Apex Leadership Co.

829

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www.apexleadershipco.com

Apex Leadership Co. provides a leadership and character-building program that culminates in a fundraising event for schools throughout the U.S. Our focus on building leaders with strong values and character differentiates us from all other fundraising options. Leadership lessons are available in both a standard format and a biblically based version, ensuring alignment with the core values of the schools we serve. Apex schools typically raise and keep more funds than with other fundraising programs.

623

Archangel Education + Technology

406

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(651) 756-7577

www.h2oforliveschools.org

H2O for Life offers a service-learning opportunity designed to engage, educate, and inspire youth to take action to solve the global water crisis by raising awareness and funds to support implementation of water, sanitation, and hygiene education projects for global partner schools.

Hallow

609

167 N Green St., 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60607

www.hallow.com

Hallow for Schools helps educators guide their students to build a personal relationship with God and discover His peace through daily prayer and meditation. With an ever-growing library of over 10,000 guided prayers, meditations, and sessions, Hallow serves schools to help foster a culture of prayer among faculty, students, and families, elevating your school's Catholic identity.

Hapara

16 W Martin St.
Raleigh, NC 27601
(917) 662-2397

www.hapara.com

Hāpara is a classroom management and student monitoring platform for schools that integrates with Google Workspace for Education (and Microsoft 365) to help teachers guide student online activity, share digital content, manage workflows, and support digital citizenship and student safety.

936

Herrmann Center for Innovative Catholic Education-Saint Louis University

231

3500 Lindell Blvd.
Saint Louis, MO 63103
(314) 977-1976

www.slu.edu/education/institutes/center-catholic-education/

The Herrmann Center for Innovative Catholic Education advances Catholic education through research, professional learning, and strategic partnerships. Located in the School of Education at Saint Louis University, the Center supports schools and systems in leadership, inclusion, innovation, and sustainability, grounded in Catholic identity and social teaching to strengthen schools and serve diverse learners.

Heifer International

322

1 World Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72202
(888) 548-6437

www.heifer.org/school

Heifer International works to end hunger and poverty while caring for the earth. Since 1944, we have provided livestock and sustainable agricultural training to help families build reliable food and income. Through real-life stories, photos, and videos, students and teachers see Catholic social teaching in action. We offer free, engaging resources and standards-aligned lesson plans for church and school settings so people of all ages can help make a lasting difference worldwide.

Heinemann

643

145 Maplewood Ave., Suite 300
Portsmouth, NH 3801
(210) 215-9114

www.heinemann.com

Heinemann is a leading provider of professional resources and educational services for educators, kindergarten through college. Heinemann supports the professionalism of teachers as they help children become literate, compassionate, engaged citizens of the world. Heinemann is dedicated to teachers and the modernization of the teaching profession. Visit Heinemann.com to learn more.

HMH

740

125 High St.
Boston, MA 2110
(616) 570-1492

www.hmhco.com

HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) is a global learning company delivering engaging, research-based educational content and solutions. It provides curriculum materials, digital platforms, and professional development for K-12 schools, aiming to improve student outcomes and empower educators. With a focus on innovation and personalized learning, HMH combines technology and pedagogy to create effective teaching tools that support diverse learners and drive academic success.

Home Science Tools

828

665 Carbon St.
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 256-0990

www.homesciencetools.com

Your headquarters for hands-on science! For more than 30 years, Home Science Tools has worked alongside educators to make hands-on science reliable and engaging in real learning environments guided by our values of faith, family, wonder, and growth. Whether you're planning for a single lesson or a district-wide program, we're here to help you bring hands-on science to life with confidence and ease.

Ignatius Book Fairs

5050 Ave Maria Blvd.
Ave Maria, FL 34142
(888) 771-2321

www.ignatiusbookfairs.com

At Ignatius Book Fairs, we aim to inspire a love of reading and provide children with literature that aligns with Christian values. We believe in the power of books to shape character and enrich minds. Our carefully curated selection includes both Christian and secular works that inspire, educate, and help children explore the meaningful connection between faith, literature, and personal growth.

Ignatius Press

1348 10th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94122
(971) 678-9512

www.ignatius.com

Ignatius Press offers reliably orthodox and faithful books, films, curriculum, and more. Enrich your faith and the faith of your students with catechetical series such as Faith and Life, and Image of God, as well as books for all ages on the saints, Church history, the sacraments, classic literature, and much more.

Imagine Learning

100 S Mill Ave., Suite 1700
Tempe, AZ 85281-3399
(877) 725-4257

www.imaginelearning.com/solutions/catholic-school-solutions

Imagine Learning creates K-12 learning solutions that support the boundless potential of students in more than half the districts nationwide. Empowered with data and insights from educators, we innovate to shape the future of education with a robust, digital-first portfolio of school services and core, courseware, and supplemental and intervention solutions. Imagine Learning. Empower potential.

IMTLazarus

5900 Balcones Dr., Suite 100
Austin, TX 78731
(512) 222-8231

www.imtlazarus.com

K-12 "Premium" Security to solve challenges that others cannot.

IMTLazarus is the leading ecosystem that integrates cutting-edge agents and technologies.

807

Institute for School and Parish Development

334

15 Log Cabin Ln.
Pearl River, LA 70452
(504) 491-2122

www.ispdconsulting.com

ISPD is a national development consulting, coaching, and educational firm working exclusively with Catholic institutions. ISPD's mission: Bringing people, process, and ministry together to help build the Kingdom of God.

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)/USA

744

1627 K St. NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20006
(646) 260-2462

www.jrsusa.org

Kind Lips in the Classroom

917

610 SE 9th St., Suite 11
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 206-4262

www.kindlipsintheclassroom.com

We are a nonprofit organization focused on helping every student know they belong, are respected, and are safe at school by creating simple, meaningful experiences that build confidence, inclusion, and a culture of kindness.

Kindness Fundraiser powered by Raise Above IT

923

3435 Harris Dr.
Northbrook, IL 60062
(847) 363-2201

www.mykindnessfundraiser.com

We're redefining fundraising with a meaningful and innovative approach that inspires kids to complete ACTS OF KINDNESS at school, at home, and in their community. During the two-week fundraiser, students complete acts of kindness while friends and family support their Kindness Passport Challenge—making a real difference, all while having a lot of fun! No sign-up fees. No deposits. No minimums. Just KINDNESS!

Lamps-A-Glow, Inc.

129

425 Lands End Cir.
Union Hall, VA 24176
(301) 938-2213

www.lampsaglow.com

My life journey has reinforced the belief that prayer is fundamental to spiritual growth. At Lamps-A-Glow, we strive to provide both activities and online resources that encourage youth and adults to incorporate prayer more actively into their daily routines and to support one another on our faith journeys with grace and intentionality.

Lands' End School Outfitters 708

6 Lands End Ln.
Dodgeville, WI 53595
(608) 935-4608

www.landsend.com/school

Lands' End School Outfitters expertly crafts branded apparel solutions that unite and ignite your school, creating powerful connections with your students and staff.

Learn It Systems

724

6225 Smith Ave., Suite 100/1A
Baltimore, MD 21209
(704) 631-4540

www.learnitacademic.com

At Learn It, our mission is to help schools provide services to their students and educators through various Title funding. We also serve as an essential resource to parents and school staff through workshops and coaching. Each program is developed and implemented according to analysis of student performance data and the latest best practices. We work closely with our school partners to increase the quality and efficiency of these services and we offer a wide range of flexible solutions based on evidence-based practices to ensure positive outcomes for everyone involved.

Learning Ally

830

20 Roszel Rd.
Princeton, NJ 8540
(812) 733-4045

www.learningally.org

Learning Ally, formerly Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, is a nonprofit that unlocks literacy for struggling readers, including those with dyslexia. For 77+ years, it has supported PK-12 students with its human-read Audiobook Solution and educators through evidence-based professional learning.

LEGO Education

214

1001 Boylston St.
Boston, MA 2115
(862) 296-9719

www.education.lego.com/en-us/

For over 40 years, LEGO® Education has teamed with teachers to create engaging, playful learning experiences. Our physical and digital resources inspire creativity, systematic thinking, and unlock student potential. By making learning fun and impactful, we help students shape their futures and develop essential skills for success in a rapidly changing world.

Lifetouch

217

11000 Viking Dr.
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

www.lifetouch.com

As the industry leader in professional photography, Lifetouch is dedicated to innovation and excellence. We are committed to partnering with schools on crucial initiatives such as safety and security, student data privacy, student and staff wellness, and operational efficiencies.

Little Books of the Diocese of Saginaw

809

5802 Weiss St.
Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 797-6653

www.littlebooks.org

Little Books offers prayer booklets for educators to use with their classrooms during the seasons of Lent, Easter, and Advent/Christmas, along with a book on the Eucharist for Ordinary Time (kids and young adult versions), as well as special Lent activity booklets for grade schoolers.

Loyola Press

715

8770 W Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 1125
Chicago, IL 60631
(800) 621-1008

www.loyolapress.com

Loyola Press provides faith formation programs, including sacramental preparation, to facilitate transformative experiences of God so that people of all ages can lead holy and purposeful lives with and for others. In addition to our spirituality and faith formation offerings, we have embraced the opportunity to serve all types of students and educators by producing world-class language arts supplemental materials for grades K-8.



Catholic Schools

Communities of Hope and Joy

Discover Catholic Schools Week
NOVEMBER 15 – 21, 2026

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW)
JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 6, 2027

National Catholic Educational Association
www.NCEA.org/csw #CSW2027

LTP

3949 S Racine Ave.
Chicago, IL 60609
(800) 933-1800

www.LTP.ORG

LTP (Liturgy Training Publications) is a Catholic publishing company that helps people grow closer to God through the beauty and meaning of the liturgy. Founded in 1964, LTP is an agency of the Archdiocese of Chicago that serves the universal Church and creates resources that form ministers and assemblies in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council. Our books, videos, and workshops help the faithful pray more deeply and serve more confidently at Mass.

Magis Center

12141 Lewis St., Christ Cathedral Tower 4th Fl
Garden Grove, CA 94840
(949) 271-2727

www.Magiscenter.com

We exist to turn the rising tide of unbelief in our culture through contemporary, rational, and science-based evidence.

Magnificat

86 Main St., Suite 303
Yonkers, NY 10701
(914) 502-1855

www.magnificat.com

Magnificat publishes liturgical and catechetical resources for adults and children, including Magnificat, the daily missal and prayer resource, MagnifiKid, the colorful Sunday missalette and prayer guide for children, and Magnifier, a new magazine that introduces children to the marvels of the world. It also publishes seasonal companions for Advent and Lent, along with books that offer spiritual formation and opportunities for children to grow in knowledge of the faith while having fun.

Marian University Center for Vibrant Schools

3200 Cold Spring Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46222
(317) 955-6741

www.marian.edu/vibrantschools

The Marian University Center for Vibrant Schools partners with K-12 schools to help students and educators shine through literacy coaching, integrated student support, STEM resources, leadership development, and strategic partnerships. Part of the Fred S. Klipsch Educators College, the Center has reached more than 46,000 students and 6,000 educators across 260 schools in Indiana and Ohio since 2021.

1018

Marshall Cavendish Education - Singapore Math

218

800 Westchester Ave., Suite N-641
Rye Brook, NY 10573
(973) 271-8970

www.mceducation.com

Marshall Cavendish's core programs are built upon the science of how students learn and empower educators to inspire engagement, persistence, and achievement in all learners. We are committed to providing teachers with the tools, resources, and support they need to foster meaningful learning experiences for all students. Marshall Cavendish is Singapore's leading educational publisher. Our programs are tailored for the U.S. to create rigorous, meaningful learning experiences for all students.

Mary & Friends, LLC

236

3810 Dudley St.
Lincoln, NE 68503
(580) 370-1677

www.maryfriends.com

We are a small family-owned company that creates Catholic materials to help children grow in faith. We are committed to providing engaging hands-on activities that develop not only academic skills but also joy in serving others.

Media Flex – OPALS

141

PO Box 1107
Champlain, NY 12919
(877) 331-1022

www.opalsinfo.net

OPALS is a library automation and digital asset management system for school, academic, public, and special libraries. It supports cataloguing, circulation, booking, resource sharing, website creation, and hosted support services.

Meitler

224

PO Box 71
Hales Corners, WI 53130
(414) 529-3366

www.meitler.com

Meitler is a consulting and planning firm that has been serving Catholic schools, parishes, and dioceses for over 50 years. We partner with you to help solve problems and take advantage of opportunities so you can carry out your mission effectively and sustainably. We have worked in 46 of the 50 states, and our consultants are experienced Catholic leaders, so we offer broad experience and practical insights to help you succeed.

Membean Inc.

10940 SW Barnes Rd., Suite 233
Portland, OR 97225
(866) 930-6680

www.membean.com/

Membean is a personalized and differentiated online vocabulary program specializing in long-term retention. Unlock lifelong potential one word at a time!

939

Memoria Press

10901 Shelbyville Rd.
Louisville, KY 40243
(502) 966-9115

www.memoriapress.com

Memoria Press is a foremost publishing company promoting classical education with a complete JrK-12 curriculum. Memoria Press provides both curriculum and teacher training.

817

Midwest Theological Forum 908

4340 Cross St., Suite 1
Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 541-8519

www.theologicalforum.org

Midwest Theological Forum is a Catholic non-profit publisher offering faithful resources in service of the church. In addition to the Didache Semester Series for High Schools, we publish sound Catholic material in areas of liturgy, theology, Canon Law, prayer and devotion, and religious education. Our popular titles include the and the Book of the Gospels.

Mike McCoy Ministries Inc. 101

2384 Cotton Gin Row
Jefferson, GA 30549
(770) 490-8200

www.mccoy77.com

Mike McCoy Ministries utilizes the platform of a former Notre Dame and NFL Football Player (Mike McCoy) to reach students in Catholic schools, in an assembly setting, with the message of Faith, Hope, and Encouragement. We have two programs, grades 3 through 5, the Value and Worth of a person through God's eyes, and grades 6 through 12 Decisions, Determine, Our Destiny. He lays out a Faith-based plan around the landmines in the field of life to help students lead a life of purpose and meaning. There is no charge for his programs.

Missionary Childhood Association 919

200 Central Ave., 4th Floor
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(212) 563-8719

www.pontificalmissions.org

Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is a Catholic mission organization that invites children to pray, learn, and share with children around the world. Through prayer, service, and sacrificial giving, MCA helps children support the Church's mission and bring hope, care, and the love of Christ to children in need.

Museum of the Bible 215

400 4th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20024-2798

www.museumofthebible.org

Museum of the Bible is an engaging and immersive museum in Washington, D.C., that invites guests to engage with the history, stories, and impact of the Bible.

Nancy Larson Science 728

PO Box 688
Old Lyme, CT 6371
(860) 434-0800

www.nancylarsonscience.com

Nancy Larson® Science K-5 effectively builds a strong science foundation. It is easy-to-teach, includes hands-on activities, demonstrations, and experiments. Children work as scientists—reading, highlighting, writing, labeling, annotating, and illustrating their scientific observations in their interactive student booklets. Nancy Larson Science students learn through a multi-sensory approach, develop higher-level thinking skills, and comprehend and retain the concepts being taught.

National Committee on Catholic Scouting 213

PO Box 949
Rociada, NM 87742
(615) 594-8010

www.CatholicScouting.com

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is working with NCEA, to highlight the many ways Catholic scouting programs align and reinforce what is taught in Catholic schools. Catholic Scouting does this through age-appropriate activities that help Scouts learn about the Catholic faith, learn from the saints about living a holy life, and serving others through service projects.

National Catholic Educational Association

momentum

Since 1970, *Momentum* magazine has offered relevant, timely, and important articles and best practices in the realm of Catholic education.

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Shopping on Amazon Business Prime is as user-friendly as Amazon.com and includes features tailored for K-12 purchasing. Log in and visit www.NCEA.org/MemberOffers to find the exclusive invitation link and start saving today!



Questions? Contact memberservices@ncea.org.

amazon business

NCEA Central

200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 730
Arlington, VA 22203
(571) 257-0010

www.NCEA.org

Make NCEA Central your go-to stop during Convention to browse the latest publications, pick up exclusive merch, and explore the latest NCEA programs and resources. Learn more about your member benefits, NCEA Academy, ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education), NCEA Catholic School of Distinction Program, and more!

National Geographic Learning/Cengage School 937

10650 Toebben Dr., Suite A
Independence, KY 41051
(513) 229-1752

www.cengageschool.com

Cengage School delivers high-quality instructional materials and innovative digital resources for K-12 educators and librarians, helping them engage learners and support academic success. Through exclusive access to National Geographic Learning, Big Ideas Learning, Gale, Thorndike Press, and Cengage curriculum and technology, we deliver authentic content and engaging learning experiences across every subject—inspiring student success.

National Inventors Hall of Fame 240

3701 Highland Park NW
North Canton, OH 44720
(234) 901-6095

www.invent.org

The National Inventors Hall of Fame® delivers innovative PK-8 STEM programs that spark curiosity and creativity. With 52 years of experience, we offer flexible, hands-on curricula—both in and out of school—providing everything educators need for stress-free implementation, from enrichment add-ons to complete multiweek solutions.

Navigate 360 710

3900 Kinross Lakes Pkwy., Suite 200
Richfield, OH 44286
(330) 661-0106

www.navigate360.com

Navigate 360 is the leader in school safety solutions. Built on the belief that safety is a cohesive system, our integrated portfolio brings together safety, student behavior, campus operations, and staff training into one unified ecosystem. Trusted by more than 30,000 schools nationwide, we help K-12 communities prevent harm before it happens and respond with precision in critical moments.

422

NET Ministries, Inc.

110 Crusader Ave. W
West St. Paul, MN 55118
(651) 450-6833

www.netusa.org

We challenge young Catholics, through relational ministry, to follow Christ and embrace a life of community in the Church. Our ministry is carried out by NET's dynamic evangelistic retreats, NET Discipleship Team, and YDisciple.

Newsela

741

169 Madison Ave., Suite 2770
New York, NY 10016
(219) 229-9620

www.newsela.com/

Newsela products are purpose-built to unlock student motivation, inspire teachers, and drive long-lasting learning outcomes. With a suite of products to support knowledge- and skill building, writing practice, daily instruction, and assessment in K-12 classrooms, Newsela offers solutions backed by learning science research to drive student outcomes and support teachers in their instructional goals.

Notre Dame Federal Credit Union 1028

1825 Moreau Dr.
Notre Dame, IN 46556
(574) 400-4624

www.notredamefcu.com

Notre Dame Federal Credit Union is the nation's largest Catholic-oriented credit union. We are proud to serve nearly 1,000 Catholic entities throughout 30 dioceses. In 2025, we donated more than \$650,000 in support of Catholic education and other ministries.

NWEA

742

222 Berkeley St.
Boston, MA 2116
(877) 469-3287

www.nwea.org

NWEA empowers educators and learners with evidence-based assessments that reveal and unlock opportunity.

OnBoard

930

333 N Alabama St., Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 520-2562

www.onboardmeetings.com

OnBoard is a global leader in digital board governance solutions, serving over 6,000 boards worldwide. The innovative platform empowers boards to make informed decisions, enhance collaboration, and streamline governance processes.

Open Up Resources

101 Jefferson Dr., 1st Floor
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(631) 835-2311

www.openupresources.org

Open Up Resources is a non-profit publisher that provides best-in-class ELA and Math curricula for every student to achieve academic success with authentic representation in their classroom. We achieve this by representing proven, research-based materials and professional learning to create a PreK-12 experience that celebrates, honors, and empowers every student with a keen focus on historically excluded populations of students.

Openlight Media / Disciple of Christ, Education in Virtue

4101 East Joy Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 996-4245

www.openlightmedia.com

Openlight Media—where faith meets learning. Founded by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, we offer educational and inspirational media that seeks to open hearts and minds to the light of Christ. Our goal is to nurture academic, emotional, and spiritual growth by equipping individuals with tools for self-knowledge, virtue, and a deeper relationship with Christ and others.

OSV

200 Noll Plaza
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 388-7796

www.osv.com

Forming children and their families to know, live, and love their Catholic faith through programs in early childhood and basal curriculum.

Our Saint Family

16 Burke Rd.
Olean, MO 65064
(619) 415-1081

www.Oursaintfamily.org

Our Saint Family creates beautifully crafted wooden doll ornaments depicting various saints and biblical figures. Each piece is meticulously hand-painted with intricate details, making them perfect for adorning Christmas trees or as thoughtful gifts for loved ones. Embrace the spirit of faith and tradition with our unique collection of religious ornaments, designed to inspire and uplift the soul.

746

ParentSquare

6144 Calle Real, #200a
Goleta, CA 93117
(919) 219-9238

www.parentsquare.com/engage/charters/

Partners in Mission

130 W Haviland Ln.
Stamford, CT 6903
(203) 200-0236

www.partnersinmission.com

Partners in Mission is a Catholic consulting firm dedicated to strengthening mission, leadership, enrollment, and advancement. We partner with dioceses, parishes, and schools to provide strategic planning, feasibility studies, capital campaign counsel, leadership search, advancement and enrollment counsel, and more. Grounded in faith and informed by data, our team guides communities from vision to implementation, fostering sustainable growth and lasting impact for students, families, and the Church.

207

Pearson

221 River St.
Hoboken, NJ 7030
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www.pearson.com

High school is more than preparation—it's transformation. Educators and counselors guide students to discover who they are and who they're becoming. Pearson supports that journey with trusted Career Exploration, AP®, Honors & Electives, CTE, and Dual Enrollment programs, plus bold new platforms and tools that help students own their paths.

840

Pflaum Publishing Group and Good News Planners

500 Salisbury St, LaMaison Francaise, 3rd Floor
Worcester, MA 1609
(305) 586-7882

www.bayardfaithresources.com

Owned by the Augustinians of the Assumption, Bayard stands as a leading Catholic publisher with over 140 years of excellence. Our prestigious imprints include Pflaum Publishing Group (Gospel Weeklies), Twenty-Third Publications, and Creative Communications. We also produce Good News Planners, the market's leading school agendas, and beloved periodicals like Living with Christ and Living Faith. We remain committed to bringing the gospel to life for modern families through encounter and mission.

106

108

734

Pixton Comics Inc.

PO Box 123
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia
V9K 1S7
(331) 234-5774
www.pixton.com

Pixton integrates reading and writing as complementary practices across the curriculum. With Pixton, students make comics that build fluency, deepen comprehension, and strengthen critical thinking. They write, organize ideas into logical sequences, build knowledge, and internalize concepts, making instruction more exciting, memorable, and effective.

Praelio Security & Risk Management

4 Family Life Ln.
Front Royal, VA 22630
(540) 252-0747
www.praelio.com

Praelio is a security and risk management firm that specializes in providing armed security and security management services to Catholic schools.

Project Lead The Way

5939 Castle Creek Pkwy. North Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46250
(877) 335-7589
www.pltw.org

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) serves over 12,200 schools nationwide with industry-aligned PK-12 STEM programs in engineering, biomedical science, and computer science. Schools across the country trust PLTW to boost student engagement, expand opportunity, and build future-ready pathways that align with college, career, and workforce success.

RCL Benziger

4050 Westmark Dr.
Dubuque, IA 52002
(563) 589-1075
www.rclbenziger.com

RCL Benziger is a leading provider of Catholic religious education, serving parishes, schools, families, and individuals with comprehensive print and digital curricula offerings and resources. Committed to enriching learning experiences that strengthen faith-based and academic education, RCL Benziger offers bilingual and special-needs materials. These programs support sacramental preparation, family life, and catechist and adult faith formation. Learn more at rclbenziger.com.

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Rediker Software

2 Wilbraham Rd.
Hampden, MA 1036
(800) 213-9860
www.rediker.com

Created by educators for educators, Rediker Software provides solutions for school management, admissions, websites, and school-to-home communication. The fully web-based AdminPlus SIS includes gradebooks, parent and student portals, mobile apps, demographics, attendance, report cards, schedule building, mass notifications, and more, in one affordable, easy-to-use system.

Renaissance

2911 Peach St.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
www.renaissance.com

As a global leader in assessment, reading, and math solutions for PK-12 schools and districts, Renaissance is committed to providing educators with insights and resources to accelerate growth and help all students build a strong foundation for success. Renaissance solutions reach more than 40 percent of U.S. schools and more than half a million students in other regions across the world. Our portfolio includes solutions for assessment (Star Assessments, Star Phonics, myIGDIs for Preschool, FastBridge, DnA, and SchoolCity); practice (Accelerated Reader, myON, Freckle, and Lalilo); data-driven insights (eduCLIMBER and Schoolzilla); and teacher-facilitated instructional delivery (Nearpod).

Risse Brothers School Uniforms

901 East Clements Bridge Rd., Unit 3B
Runnemede, NJ 8078
(856) 906-7470
www.rissebrothers.com/

Risse Brothers School Uniforms is a trusted partner in school success, with over 20 years of experience creating high-quality, custom uniforms students are proud to wear. With one of the largest embroidery houses on the East Coast, we maintain deep inventory to help ensure every student is in uniform on day one. Our fully stocked stores and in-school shopping events provide families with a convenient, personalized uniform solution year-round.

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603

635

NCEA *Corporate Partners*

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Google for Education



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Riverside Insights

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www.riversideinsights.com

At Riverside Insights, we share your commitment to helping individuals elevate their learning potential. That's why we offer proven, trusted, precise assessments, such as CogAT, Iowa Assessments, and ESGI. These solutions provide the clarity and perspective needed to create a meaningful impact.

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Saint Joseph College of Maine

278 Whites Bridge Rd.
Standish, ME 4084
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www.sjcme.edu

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704

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326

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838

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815

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827

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909

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929

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104

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This index groups sessions by Audience Area, with session numbers included, making it easy to identify offerings most relevant to your role in Catholic education.

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200s Professional Learning Session 2
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300s Professional Learning Session 3
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400s Professional Learning Session 4
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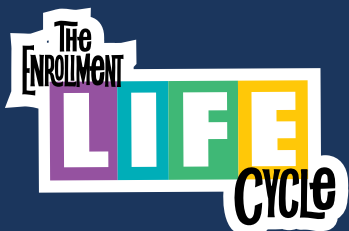
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