

GSACS EDUCATORS' CONVENTION WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

	Workshop #1@10:15 Thursday, October 8	Workshop #2@11:30 Thursday, October 8
Meeting Hall	Psalm 119:1-8 Fronting God's Word (General) Pastor Nathan Mestler A deep dive into the first eight verses of Psalm 119 and how to make sure that God's Word is not part of the "null theology" in the Christian classroom.	Psalm 119:97-104 God's Word--"More Than" (General) Pastor Nathan Mestler A deep dive into the Mem section of Psalm 119, with careful attention to the epistemological and affectional priority of God's Word for the Christian educator.
Rusty Wheel	Developing a Personal Philosophy of Teaching (General) Dr. Brian Carruthers Why do you what you do? It is important that a teacher be able to articulate a biblically based philosophy of teaching that will help guide future decisions regarding students, curriculum, strategies, and the classroom. This workshop will help participants begin the process of drafting a personal philosophy of teaching.	Teaching Your Students To Be Good Stewards of Their Minds (General) Dr. Brian Carruthers Making good and Godly decisions is an important quality of a successful student's life. Using a decision making model based on Acts 6, this workshop shares practical suggestions for helping your students make good use of their minds.
Sheriff Tom's	Taming the Tiger (General) Dr. Thomas Graham Effective classroom management is one of the main challenges facing teachers, especially new teachers, as they enter the classroom. This workshop focuses on simple, yet effective classroom management strategies for both new and veteran teachers alike. (Elementary & Secondary Teachers)	Ideas and Activities To Make Your Secondary World Language Classroom More Exciting (Secondary) Mrs. Ann Carruthers Are your students losing interest in learning a new language? Are they just enduring verb conjugations? Are your classroom games and activities losing their appeal? Join me for a list of fun activities, apps, and ideas that will add excitement to your classroom, engage your students, and make language learning fun.
Eureka	From Eyerolls to Enthusiasm: Sparking a Love for Reading in Your Classroom (Elementary) Megan Russell Do your students groan when it's time to read? Are you fighting an uphill battle against boredom, technology, and "I don't like books"? In this interactive workshop, you'll discover practical, ready-to-use strategies that transform reluctant readers into eager ones. From building anticipation to creating engaging reading routines, you'll leave with a toolbox of fresh ideas that make reading the highlight of your students' day.	Myth Busters: Achievement Testing (Elementary) Mrs. Pam Francis "Achievement testing is a necessary evil." This is a myth! This session will address this and other popular thoughts regarding standardized testing. It will provide elementary educators with tools and solutions for making the experience more enjoyable for teachers and students. It will also equip instructors with simple ways to use the test results, enabling them to better serve and meet the needs of their students.

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The Ranch House	Bridging the Gap (General) Mrs. Maranatha Sweet Many teachers today find themselves standing at the edge of a gap—a space between where their students should be and where they truly are. Some have fallen behind, struggling to grasp concepts they ought to know. But gaps are not impassable; they are simply bridges waiting to be built. In this session, we will discuss time tested teaching methods that support struggling students, examine ways to help them regain lost ground, and find encouragement in the steady, faithful work of guiding them toward success.	The Case of the Mysterious Word Problems (General) Mrs. Maranatha Sweet In arithmetic, word problems simultaneously present a perfect opportunity to train students in strategic problem solving and a perilous puzzle of disappearing time and courage. In our workshop, we will wade through clues and red herrings to uncover the step-by-step map that leads to the treasure of confident problem-solving students.
The Twig	Five Learning Strategies for STEM Students (General) Dr. Rebecca Weier The advice to “study harder” often causes discouragement for students who are already trying but not finding success. Explore five study strategies that lead to success in STEM-related subjects! This session is geared toward high school-level math and science teachers	Fearfully & Wonderfully Made: Helping Students Find Purpose in Their Calling & Vocation (General) Dr. Rebecca Weier As your students discover who they are and how God has gifted them, they can pursue their calling and vocation with conviction and excitement. As you help students work through a series of questions and observations, they can discover where their gifting meets the world’s greatest needs. This session is aimed at helping high school faculty and guidance counselors.
The Barn	Reimagining School Culture (General) Ed Francis Creating a purposeful culture within your school is reachable with some planning. Programming a school culture is important because school culture influences what you are trying to accomplish. Culture can work either against you or for you in reaching your mission. This workshop will identify what creates a positive culture within your school.	Character Formation as a Core Program: How to Disciple a Student (General) Ed Francis An effective Christian school will engage the spiritual development of students. Forming Christlike character in a Christian school involves the following practical considerations: (1) purposing school detentions for character formation, (2) understanding the developmental differences between elementary, middle school, and high school students as they relate to behavioral expectations, (3) stewarding an environment where spiritual development can occur, and (4) leading a culture of peer-to-peer discipleship. The essential factors of an effective character formation program are school leadership, student development, and school culture.

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Bonus Workshop Times	Meeting Hall	Rusty Wheel	Sheriff Tom's
Thursday, 1:45 p.m.	Hi! I Just Me. Will You Teach Me? Empowering Exceptional Minds Through Loving Like Christ (General) Mrs. Brenda Riley Inspired by the personal story of the Riley family and their son, Kendall, this workshop explores unique teaching techniques that fulfill needs, touch hearts, and stir souls. If you would like to meet diverse needs, foster meaningful connections, and inspire transformation in your classroom, this workshop is for you. Please join in as you learn to enrich lives and ignite or reignite your passion for teaching.	A Professional Organizer Goes to School—People and Places (General) Maranatha Sweet Are you due for a little Swedish Death Cleaning? If you step into your classroom or office to tackle a task and immediately think that you need a nap instead, then you will profit from the tips and rules that a professional organizer has to offer. You will learn to apply meal planning principles, the capsule wardrobe concept, and, yes, Swedish death cleaning, to your life to decrease stress and increase productivity.	The Use of DataManager™ (revised for 2025) (General) Ed Francis DataManager™ is a powerful online resource for managing the Iowa and CogAT assessment programs. DataManager™ allows school staff to construct and view reports, interpret and analyze results, and access digital resources. Ed, who oversees the achievement testing for AACCS, will stay around afterward for questions related to IOWA testing and CogAt.
Thursday, 7:45 p.m.	<u>Tentative Possibility</u> – Vendor Demonstrations in a timed slot Possible Vendors that would have a 10-15 minute time slot if interested in a demonstration: BeneFAQ, Trove, Abeka Online Tools, TrekAI, RightNow Media, Herzog Foundation		

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	Workshop #3@8:30 Friday, October 9
Meeting Hall	Managing Behavior with Confidence: Some Tools to Help with both General and Special Education Students (General) Dr. Dan and Mrs. Brenda Riley Wiggling, fidgeting, tantrums, outbursts, negative physical contact with others...the list goes on and on. These are behaviors that a teacher can encounter with any student. However, adding these behaviors to a student who already has some different abilities or disabilities can result in inappropriate consequences from teachers. Listen to Dr. and Mrs. Riley explain how a determination can be made between behaviors that are purposeful (from the heart attitude) and behaviors that may be due to the disability of the child. Most of us discipline or correct students the way we were as we were growing up. It's time to re-train our minds and hearts to be able to manage certain behaviors while still showing Christ to our students. A variety of different disabilities will be discussed, and behavior management tips will be given, as well as suggestions for assisting students with their social skills.
Rusty Wheel	The Parent Paradox (General) Maranatha Sweet If the apparent contradiction of parents' being the authority over their children but not the authority in your classroom creates conflict in your daily life, then you need the tips and strategies in this session. We will work together to discover ways to improve relationships between parents and teachers.
Sheriff Tom's	Equipping Teachers for Success: BJU Press Secondary Math Textbooks (Secondary) Dr. Rebecca Weier Join us for an engaging overview of the BJU Press secondary math textbooks, designed to support teachers with clear instruction, biblical integration, and strong academic foundations. This session will highlight how these resources build conceptual understanding in algebra, geometry, and beyond, while offering practical tools for lesson planning, assessment, and differentiated instruction. Discover how BJU Press math helps students to think logically, solve problems confidently, and see math through the lens of truth
Eureka	Rules of Engagement (Elementary) Pam Francis It has been said that to keep students attentive in class, some kind of change must occur in the presentation every few minutes. That idea might sound intimidating. This workshop focuses on clues to watch for that indicate students are not engaged in learning and simple, on-the-fly practices that can re-engage students' attention to the material being taught.
The Ranch House	Helping Your Students Develop Critical Thinking Skills (Elementary & Middle School) Mrs. Ann Carruthers An interactive workshop exploring ways to integrate critical thinking skills in everyday teaching.
The Twig	Investing in Your Most Important Resource (Administration) Dr. Brian Carruthers Your teachers are the greatest asset of your school. As an instructional leader, you carry the vital responsibility of recruiting, developing, and retaining high-quality educators who will help fulfill the mission of Christian education. In this interactive workshop, we'll explore the essential qualities of exceptional teachers and key leadership decisions that foster their long-term growth and commitment—ensuring a strong foundation for the future of your school.

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The Barn	Assessment Strategies (General) Ed Francis Join me for an interactive workshop designed to empower educators with the knowledge and skills needed to implement effective assessment strategies in K–12 classrooms. In this workshop, we will discuss a variety of assessment methods designed to meet the varied learning styles and abilities of students. Participants will leave this workshop equipped with practical strategies to enhance their assessment practices, promote student engagement, and improve learning outcomes.
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