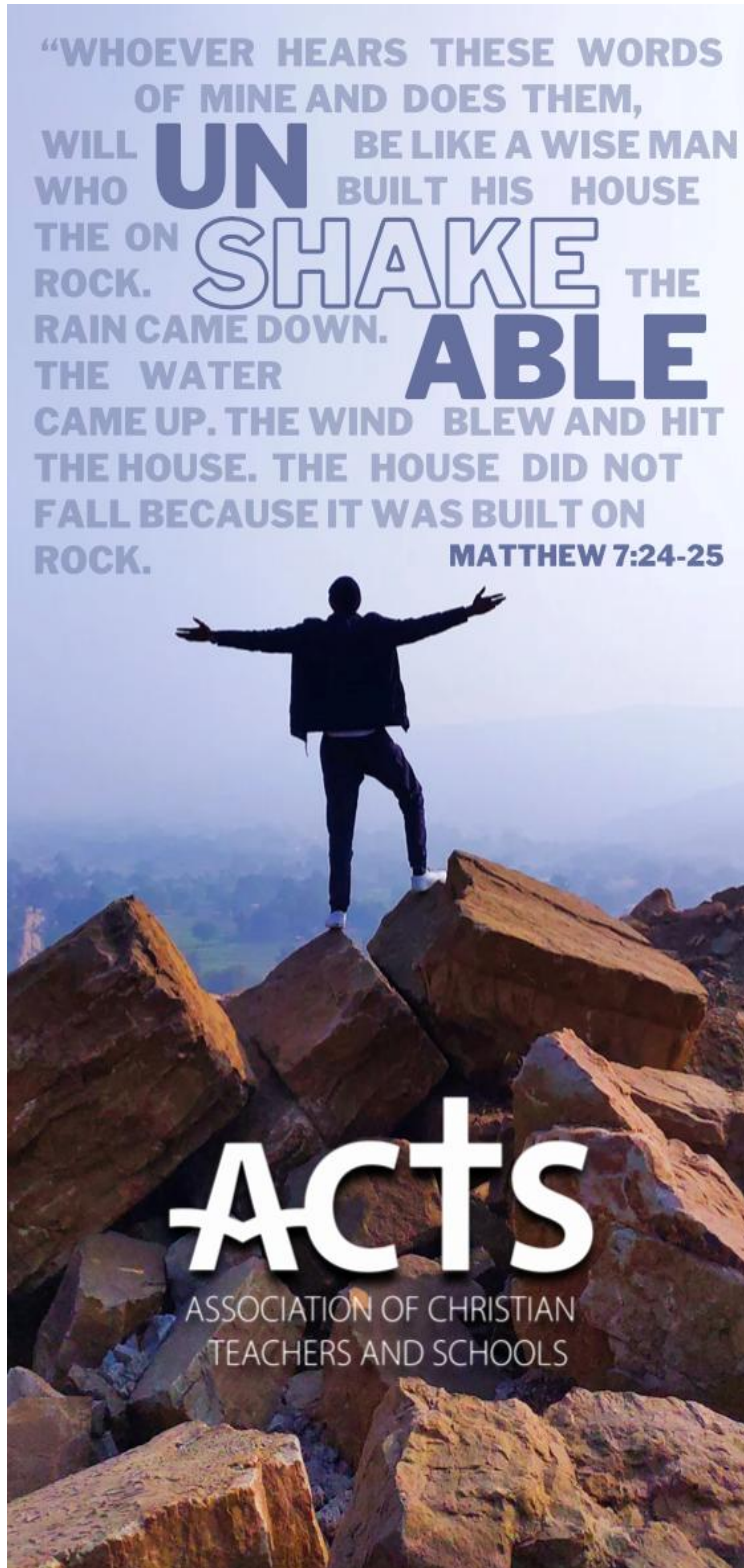


Christian Educators Conference



First Assembly Christian School

8650 Walnut Grove Road
Cordova, TN 38018

March 31, 2025

Welcome!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the first ever Tennessee Christian Educator Conference! It is an honor and a privilege to have you join us for this amazing event. We are extremely excited about this year's conference lineup of exceptional speakers that will share timely information, insightful knowledge, and meaningful conversation during each session.

The purpose of this conference is to provide an opportunity for leaders, teachers, and staff to receive relevant and high-quality professional development. It is also designed to be a space for networking with individuals in the same profession who have similar beliefs and values.

Our goal is to strengthen Christian schools while enjoying the friendly exchange of dialogue among Christian School leaders, teachers, and staff. We pray this conference would be one where you receive encouragement and motivation as a Christian leader and gain new ideas to put into practice in your field of education.

Information about Certification Points:

Collection of Certification Point data occurs electronically. A scan of the QR Code will take you to a Google Form for Certification Points. You will need to fill this form out entirely to receive your Certification Points from your school Administrator. Detailed information about sessions attended by school staff will be emailed to the Administrator after the conclusion of the conference.

What's included in this program:

- Schedule
- Workshop Session Descriptions
- Campus Map

SCHEDULE

- 7:30-8:00a Check-In
- 8:00-8:15a Welcome & Worship
- 8:15-9:15a Keynote 1 (A-103)
- 9:15-9:25a Break
- 9:25-10:15a Workshop A
- 10:15-10:25a Break
- 10:25-11:15a Workshop B
- 11:15a-12:45p Lunch
- 12:45-1:35p Workshop C
- 1:35-1:45p Break
- 1:45-2:35p Workshop D
- 2:35-2:45p Break
- 2:45-3:45p Keynote 2 (A-103)
- 3:45p Closing

CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIOS

Keynote Sessions:

Roy Faletti

Roy has been actively involved in Christian education for 36 years and has conducted training sessions at numerous schools and conventions throughout the nation. As a Colson Center Fellow, he has a passion for developing a sound biblical worldview in each new generation. He served as the pastor and administrator of a church-based school in Idaho for 15 years and has held leadership positions for Alpha Omega Publications, Summit Ministries, DeepRoots Bible and The Pray for Me Campaign. He currently serves as VP of Customer Care for Positive Action For Christ. He and his wife of 41 years, Mary, live in Colorado Springs and have three daughters, two sons-in-law and two granddaughters.

Breakout Sessions:

Frank Cantadore

Frank Cantadore is the Head of School at Concord Academy in Concord, North Carolina. He serves also as the Board President of ACTS and is a regular speaker at conferences and conventions. Frank and his wife Kristen have been married for 45 years. They have four adult children and nine grandchildren, all residing in Concord, North Carolina. He is an ordained minister, with a MA in Missional Leadership, who has served in Christian school ministry for over 40 years, 20 years in Connecticut and 23 in North Carolina. With a background in baseball, Frank also has served as a College and Minor League Baseball Chaplain for over 25 years. His heart has always been to motivate and inspire believers to make a difference to their generation and pass that baton to future generations. His life verse is from Jesus' words to his disciples in Matthew 10:40, *"Anyone who receives you receives Me, and anyone who receives Me receives the Father who sent Me."*

Steve Lindquist

In his almost 30 years of Christian education, Steve Lindquist has served as a classroom teacher (Secondary History, AP Government and Politics, Economics, Geography, etc.), Department Head, Building Supervisor, Assistant Principal and Principal. Originally from Virginia Beach, VA, Steve attended Liberty University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Religion – Youth Ministries Concentration and a Minor degree in Childhood/Adolescent Psychology. After moving to Florida in 1996, he attended the University of South Florida, earning a Master of Arts Degree in Secondary Social Science Education (6th-12th Grade) and completed Master's and Doctorate level coursework in Educational Leadership. Steve joined the ACTS team in 2012 as the Chair of the Accreditation Commission and member of the Board of Directors. In November 2013, the Board hired him in a part time role as Director of Accreditation and Member Services. In June 2015, he moved into that role full time. Now, Steve serves as the Chief Operations Officer, leading the organization into the future of Christian Education and increasing the Kingdom one student at a time. He and his wife Katrina have been married 29 years and have two adult children and two four-legged kids – Taylor, an auto mechanic, Sarah, a student at Hillsborough Community College, studying Exercise Sciences and marching/playing with the University of South Florida's Herd of Thunder Marching Band (Football) and Rumble Spirit Band (Basketball), Ringo Starr, an Australian Shepherd/Great Pyrenees mix and Flynn Rider, a Great Pyrenees/American Staffordshire Terrier/German Shepherd mix.

Ike Stokes

Ike Stokes is the Accreditation Commission Chair and a Board Member for the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools. He has served in that position for nine years and is responsible for the overall accreditation activities within ACTS. Prior to assuming his current position, Ike served as the ACTS Director of Accreditation and Membership Services for 15 years. He served three years as a principal of a Christian K4 – 12 school prior to joining the ACTS staff. He has taught for 23 years at the secondary, undergraduate, and graduate levels. He is retired from 23 years active duty with the United States Air Force (Lt Col, Ret), where he served in increasing levels of responsibility from Squadrons through Major Commands (8th AF, AFLC, AFMC), as a Command Pilot, and Aircraft Accident Investigator between December 16, 1970-September 30, 1993. Ike earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Troy University and a Master of Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Ike has served both part-time and full-time in the ministry for over 45 years as a Singles Ministry Director, Assimilation Director, Children's Church Director, Children's Sidewalk Ministry Director, Sunday School Teacher, Youth Worker and in Christian education. Ike and his wife, Martha, have been married for 56 years. They have three adult children and six grandchildren.

Tracy Cossabone

Tracy is the principal of Life Center Academy in Burlington NJ and a Board Member for the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools. Tracy has 13 years of public-school experience prior to joining LCA as a 5th grade teacher. After that first year, she moved up to 6th grade with her class and became the Elementary Dean in addition to her classroom duties, where she remained for the next four years. In 2021, she moved out of the classroom and is about to complete her fourth school year in her current position. Tracy's husband, Art, is also an educator, with 20 years' experience in the public school system. They met on a mission trip to Haiti in 2001 and married a year later. Education is an important topic in their household and they both strive to stay on top of the current educational trends, while also knowing how important it is to live out Christ in front of staff and students. Tracy and Art have one daughter, Rachel, who started LCA in Kindergarten and is now in her Junior year. Tracy is looking forward to presenting Rachel's diploma next year as a part of the class of 2026. Tracy is a graduate of Rowan University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Carin University, where she earned a Master of Science in Christian Counseling. Tracy loves to travel whenever possible. She is also an avid crafter and reader.

Pam Litzenberger

With 32 years of experience in the classroom teaching Grades 3–9, Pam has a passion for helping other teachers. After teaching different subjects and grades in both Georgia and Texas, she found teaching middle school math to be her favorite age and subject. After teaching for several years in Texas, she and her family moved to Greenville, South Carolina, where she taught at Bob Jones Academy. Here she headed up the implementation of an iPad lab and began “flipping” some of her classes, resulting in steady positive progress among the slower learners. She had the unique opportunity to teach at Camp Infinity for the inaugural summer of the STEM camp at the Creation Museum. Most recently, she has taught girls' Bible, digital literacy, and pre-algebra at BJA. She currently serves as a National Consultant for BJU Press, representing the secondary subjects.

Cindy Dickinson

Cindy Dickinson's passion for Christian education began over 30 years ago. She has served on three continents teaching a variety of ages and subjects. Her heart lies with the elementary-age student. She spent two years in China as an administrator and teacher trainer helping Chinese nationals to use BJU Press materials to teach and shape their students' worldviews. She currently is a Senior National Consultant for BJU Press.

Workshop A

9:25-10:15a

Effective Teacher or Master Teacher: Which Are You?

Room: A-103

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger – BJUPress National Consultant, Greenville, SC

Audience: General, Elem, MS, HS

Are you the teacher who is in the profession for the summers off, break days, and 8 AM–3 PM hours? Is it just a job? Or do you desire to be the teacher who enters the teaching field to reach those difficult students and open the door to learning for them? There is a middle ground here. How can we become an effective teacher—a master teacher—the kind every administrator wants to clone—but without school taking over our lives?

Instructional Strategies to Differentiate: Helping Students Get to Where They Need to Be

Room: A-115

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson – BJUPress National Consultant, Greenville, SC

Audience: General, Elem, MS, HS

Do you feel like your students sometimes just aren't getting it? Are you looking for ways to provide differentiated instruction or new ways to present concepts? Instructional strategies are like vehicles that get students from where they are to where they need to be. Learn instructional strategies that can be used to differentiate. Discuss and determine which strategies can best meet your students' needs. Leave with a list of instructional strategies that you can use in your classroom right away.

Biblical Worldview and Integration in the Classroom: Ensuring the Preeminence of Scripture in Education

Room: A-105

Presenter: Steve Lindquist – Chief Operating Officer, ACTS, Brandon, FL

Audience: General, Admin, Elem, MS, HS

According to a recent poll conducted by George Barna, only 51% of Pastors hold to a “Biblical Worldview”. During this session, we will examine the context of worldview and show how it is absolutely necessary for teachers in a Christian school to hold a biblical worldview when instructing students.

Building Positive Relationships

Room: A-112

Presenter: Tracy Cossabone – Administrator, Life Center Academy, Burlington, NJ

Audience: General, Elem, MS, HS, Admin

How to foster positive interactions with students, parents, your peers, and your administration. Discover why building these relationships is so important and how they can dramatically impact your effectiveness.

Workshop B

10:25-11:15a

Applying Critical Thinking in the Secondary ELA Classroom

Room: A-103

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger – BJUPress National Consultant, Greenville, SC

Audience: General, MS, HS

Students need to understand how to read and write effectively and how to think critically so that they can apply what they learn. This workshop will explain critical thinking and help teachers understand how to guide students through this process as they read and write. We will discuss examples from BJU Press textbooks to help explain the process.

Math Is Neutral and Other Worldview Myths

Room: A-115

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson – BJUPress National Consultant, Greenville, SC

Audience: General, Elem

Teaching with a biblical worldview is critical. It's easy to see God in our science classes. It makes sense to look at literature and history through the lens of Scripture. But what about math? Numbers are just numbers, right? People may think math is neutral, but the Bible speaks to every discipline. Join me to learn practical ways to model a biblical worldview even in your math classes.

Your Needed “Niche”

Room: A-105

Presenter: Rev. Frank Cantadore – ACTS President/Headmaster, Concord Academy, Concord, NC

Audience: Support Staff, General, Admin

Knowing that we are fulfilling God's purpose is the only thing that really gives rest to the restless human heart.” -Chuck Colson. It's amazing what we can do for the Kingdom if we don't care who gets the credit... but God. You have a needed “niche” that matters greatly to your school's influence and success. Let's “unpack” this together as we embrace our needed positions (or niches).

How to Be a Terrible Teacher

Room: A-104

Presenter: Ike Stokes – ACTS Chair of Accreditation, Nixa, MO

Audience: General, Elem, MS, HS

We will look at 10 ways to be a terrible teacher. Join in with us as we take a “fun-filled” look at the ways to be the worst teacher you can be and then *flip it around* to become the best you can be.

To Gen Z and Beyond: Understanding Unique Challenges and Adapting Our Approach

Room: A-112

Presenter: Roy Faletti, VP of Customer Care, Positive Action for Christ, Inc.

Audience: Elem, MS, HS, Admin, General

From the oldest senior to the youngest kindergartner, students from Gen Z and Gen Alpha attend your school. This interactive session gives a brief overview of how we started naming generations and the disunity it has caused in our culture. During group discussion, we'll examine challenges common to both Gens Z & Alpha and consider ways we may need to change our approach to them without compromising Truth.

Workshop C

12:45-1:35p

STEM for Middle School Science and Math—without Breaking the Bank!

Room: A-103

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger – BJUPress National Consultant, Greenville, SC

Audience: General, MS, HS

How can you incorporate STEM activities into your small school's 5th–9th grade science and math classes? Often these activities are cost and time prohibitive. Let me give you ways to add STEM that will not break the bank or take your entire class time – and allow your students to have fun and learn at the same time.

Dive into the Teacher Resources of BJU Press Trove

Room: A-115

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson – BJUPress National Consultant, Greenville, SC

Audience: General, Elem, MS, HS

BJU Press has launched its newest technology platform, Trove! In this session, learn how to log in and navigate to find teacher resources easily using the filter features. You won't want to miss learning about our fantastic new lesson planning feature—the playlist. We will explore how to create a playlist and even include custom content. Learn how to edit, launch, and share playlists with colleagues or substitute teachers. Join me as we dive in and explore the exciting resources of BJU Press Trove.

Why Do My Students Act the Way They Do?

Room: A-105

Presenter: Steve Lindquist - Chief Operating Officer, ACTS, Brandon, FL

Audience: General, Elem, MS, HS

Teachers are often left scratching their heads, wondering why on earth their students are acting the way they do with no explainable reason. Many students today lack skills in executive functions that are foundational to their academic success. This session will begin the exploration of those executive functions and how they can be rectified to create success. (Adapted from *Causes and Cures in the Classroom*)

Building Leaders

Room: A112

Presenter: Tracy Cossabone – Administrator, Life Center Academy, Burlington, NJ

Audience: General, Elem, MS, HS, Admin

In any situation, there are individuals who rise to the top and take the lead. Identifying those people and developing that gift is a game-changer in everything from classroom management with your students to building an amazing grade level team and beyond.

ACTS Accreditation Program Update

Room: A-104

Presenter: Ike Stokes – ACTS Chair of Accreditation, Nixa, MO

Audience: Admin, General

Educational standards and expectations are in a constant state of flux. These changes have a direct impact upon the ACTS Accreditation Process. Join in as we discuss the most current changes and updates to the ACTS Accreditation Standards and Process.

Workshop D

1:45-2:35p

Is There a Worldview in Your Secondary Math Class?

Room: A-103

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger – BJUPress National Consultant, Greenville, SC

Audience: General, MS, HS

Your worldview changes how you see the world around you. In this workshop we will discuss what a worldview is and why our Christian school math classes can instruct our students with a biblical worldview in relation to math. Let's talk about how we can use math to set strong foundations, teach critical thinking, and take a "walkest by the way" approach to teaching math.

Would You Like Sprinkles with That?

Room: A-115

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson – BJUPress National Consultant, Greenville, SC

Audience: General, Elem

Sometimes as busy educators, we sprinkle Jesus into our teaching and think that's enough. But true Christian education can only happen when we integrate our faith with our learning. Learn how your Bible class can be the foundation for all learning and not just the sprinkles on top.

10 Things That Require Zero Talent

Room: A-105

Presenter: Ike Stokes – ACTS Chair of Accreditation, Nixa, MO

Audience: General, Elem, MS, HS

We've all been there- overworked and feeling like we can't do anything right. Join in and find out how everyone can do 10 things that require zero talent that will brighten our day and outlook on life in the classroom.

The Fives: Pathways to Discovering Root Causes of Classroom Issues

Room: A-112

Presenter: Steve Lindquist - Chief Operating Officer, ACTS, Brandon, FL

Audience: General, Elem, MS, HS

During this session, we will discuss three separate processes to help teachers, school leaders, parents and students discover the potential root causes of classroom issues, going deeper than the surface symptoms.

A Coach's Impact!

Room: A-104

Presenter: Rev. Frank Cantadore – ACTS President/Headmaster, Concord Academy, Concord, NC

Audience: Ads, Coaching Staff, PTs, General

"A coach will impact more people in one year than the average person will in an entire lifetime." -Billy Graham. Let's look at the ingredients to 'impact' and how to win on and off the scoreboard as we integrate Christ into the game...one athlete at a time. Together, let's evaluate the weight of our calls to coach.

Map of FACS – First Floor

