



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN
TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

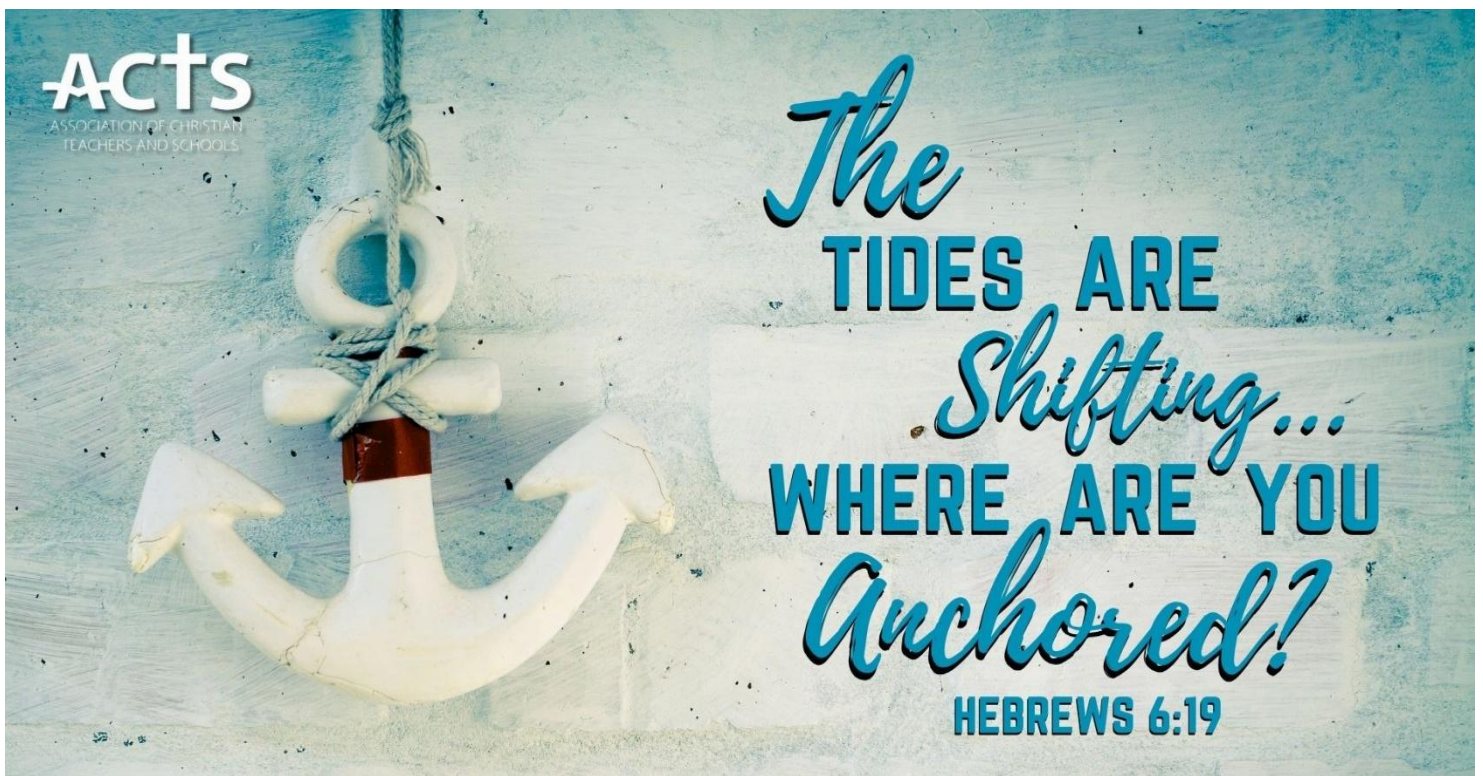
West Coast Christian Educator Conference

November 24, 2025

Calvary Chapel Christian School

12808 Woodruff Ave.

Downey, CA 90242



Association of Christian Teachers and Schools

911 S. Parsons Ave., Suite G, Brandon FL 33511 * 813-694-2024 * www.actsschools.org

Welcome!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the West Coast Christian Educator Conference. It is an honor and a privilege to have you with us today. We are really excited about the conference line-up this year. We have some exceptional speakers in all the sessions. The purpose of this conference is to provide an opportunity for leaders, teachers, and staff to receive professional development that is relevant and of high quality. It is also a place 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.

--The ACTS Leadership Team

- Steve Lindquist, Executive Director
- Jon Aultman, Director of Accreditation
- Ike Stokes, Director of Special Projects/Accreditation Commission Chair
- Jen Greco, Office Manager/Certification Director
- Dr. Kristi Young-Goodner, California Regional Director
- Sarah Lindquist, Intern/Social Media

Information about Certification Points

Collection of Certification Point data occurs electronically. Please visit our Conference tables in the sanctuary to scan the QR Code that will take you to the 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.

Thank You!!!

The ACTS Leadership Team would like to thank the amazing Pastors, Faculty and Staff of Calvary Chapel Christian School for their hard work and dedication in presenting this conference each year. Special thanks go to Dr. Kristi Young-Goodner for her leadership in putting the details together to ensure the best speakers and topics are presented.

SCHEDULE

- 8:00-8:30am Worship/Announcements
- 8:30-9:15am Opening Keynote
- 9:15-9:40am Browse Vendors
- 9:40-10:40am Breakout Session 1
- 10:45-11:45am Breakout Session 2
- 11:45-1:00pm Lunch
- 1:05-2:05pm Breakout Session 3
- 2:10-3:10pm Breakout Session 4
- 3:15-4:00pm Roundtable, Giveaway, & Closing Remarks

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Keynote Speaker:

Frank Cantadore

Head of School at Concord Academy, Concord, NC
President, ACTS Board of Directors

Session Speakers:

Jonathan Aultman

Director of Accreditation & International Programs, ACTS

Dr. Julie Madsen

National Consultant for BJUPress

Dr. Chapin Marsh

President/CEO of Calvary Chapel University, Sun City, AZ

Royce Nelsestuen

Executive Director, Branching Out Educational Consultants

Dr. Emily Sweiss

Assistant Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy, USC Los Angeles

Richard Terhune

Precept Marketing/BJUPress

Kim Van Vlear

Deep Roots Bible Curriculum

Breakout Session 1

9:40-10:40am

You Matter! Living and Serving with Purpose on Purpose

Room: Main Sanctuary

Presenter: Frank Cantadore

Audience: Support Staff, Administration

“What matters to you defines your mattering.” John Green...Join fellow staff members for a time of encouragement and conversation about how your sphere of influence in the school affects the entire building, the stakeholders you engage with on a daily basis, and most importantly the students that walk into your spaces.

Cooperative Learning Basics

Room: 120

Presenter: Royce Nelsestuen

Audience: General, Administration, Elementary, Secondary

Cooperative Learning helps students to build working relationships with others that transcend into lifelong learning skills. Make your curriculum work for you by infusing each lesson with Cooperative Learning. Cooperative Learning is not synonymous to group work, rather, it's a way to structure learning so that students learn how to build effective working relationships with others and deepen their own learning. After this workshop, you will be able to implement Cooperative Learning structures into your classroom instruction immediately.

Biblical Integration in My Classroom – How, When, Why, Where?

Room: 122

Presenter: Jonathan Aultman

Audience: General, Elementary, Secondary, Electives

Introduction or re-introducing different view of Biblical Integration and using those frameworks to integrate into the harder classes.

Watch Me Grow! Understanding and Cultivating Preschoolers' Developmental Skills

Room: 126

Presenter: Julie Madsen

Audience: Preschool

This workshop will explore strategies for developing early learners' developmental skills, including gross and fine motor skills and language, cognitive, social, and spiritual abilities. The discussion will focus on the optimal times and methods for enhancing these skills in the classroom.

Breakout Session 2

10:45-11:45am

The Faith Factor

Room: Main Sanctuary

Presenter: Chapin Marsh

Audience: General, Administration, Elementary, Secondary, Athletics, Support Staff, Electives, Preschool

Where is the Lord encouraging or challenging you to walk by faith? Discover practical and biblical examples and encouragement to walk and live by faith!

Developing a Critical Thinking Classroom

Room: 120

Presenter: Royce Nelsestuen

Audience: General, Administration, Elementary, Secondary

In an ever-changing society, our job as educators is to prepare students to be future problem solvers. Educators need to be shifting paradigms from teaching information to student centered learning. This can only happen if students are a part of a critical thinking classroom community. We will discuss how to develop a community of critical thinkers, revisit Bloom's taxonomy, and higher order thinking skills.

Fear in the Classroom and Beyond

Room: 122

Presenter: Jonathan Aultman

Audience: General, Elementary, Secondary, Athletics, Support Staff

In a society where anxiety and self-harm are rampant, how can we create a fear-free classroom as well as recognize and help students who are already dealing with fear? Let's work through this difficult topic together.

Help Your Students Love and Understand the Bible

Room: 124

Presenter: Kim Van Vlear

Audience: General, Elementary, Secondary

Take your students deeper as you teach them to study God's Word instead of simply reading it. In this hands-on workshop you will annotate a verse, examine its context, and explore how to apply it. Learn and practice the inductive Bible study steps of observation, interpretation, and application. Bring these skills home and implement them in your classroom, equipping your students to be hearers, examiners, and doers of the Word! Special features include:

- Carefully observe and markup a Bible verse, using magnifying glasses and colored pencils.
- Search for clues around the verse to discover its context.
- Ask challenging questions of yourself to determine how to apply God's Word to your own life.
- Take home tools to apply this in your own classroom.

How to Shape Early Childhood Education with a Biblical Worldview

Room: 126

Presenter: Julie Madsen

Audience: Preschool

In this session, learn how to encourage growth in your students by using a biblical worldview in all aspects of teaching. You will learn how to incorporate biblical teaching in your classroom to strengthen your students' emotional skills, cognitive development, spiritual growth, and thinking habits. This session also covers Christian values to instill in students, such as compassion, honesty, love, and forgiveness.

Breakout Session 3

1:05-2:05p

The Transition Game

Room: Main Sanctuary

Presenter: Chapin Marsh

Audience: General

In this session we will explore how 'the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable,' but when, where, how and with whom He chooses to use us changes all the time. Are you open to the Lord's move and any transitions you may have in front of you?

Closure- Making it Stick

Room: 120

Presenter: Royce Nelsestuen

Audience: General, Administration, Elementary, Secondary

Part of a good lesson includes giving students time to process learning. Closure helps teachers and students cement the learning, prioritize the content, and begin to apply new learning. Using closure effectively makes teachers more effective!

Building Biblical Trust and Kingdom Culture

Room: 122

Presenter: Jonathan Aultman

Audience: General

In a culture of distrust in America, let find a Biblical foundation for trust in our schools from the Board to the students and all in between.

Parent Engagement Leads to Student Discipleship in the Home

Room: 124

Presenter: Kim Van Vlear

Audience: General, Elementary, Secondary

We live in a turbulent culture that no longer holds to Christian values. How do we turn the tide? We need to partner with parents to strengthen families in their faith. Come learn practical tips to equip parents with the tools and confidence they need to become their children's spiritual mentors. And learn the secret of one simple habit, that when adopted, will dramatically improve mental health for you, your parents, and your students. Let's improve our classrooms by reaching out to the home!

Special features:

- Learn about eight tools you can use in your own classroom to increase parent engagement.
- Practice using a Bible reading plan so you can coach parents in how to read the Bible with their students.

Tips for Managing the Classroom of Little Learners

Room: 126

Presenter: Julie Madsen

Audience: Preschool

In the classroom, the use of Pathways for Preschool and Footsteps for Fours fosters age-appropriate developmental skills and discovery learning. Learn creative management tips and lesson planning strategies for educators of early childhood education

Breakout Session 4

2:10-3:10p

Discipline with Dignity

Room: 120

Presenter: Royce Nelsestuen

Audience: General, Administration, Elementary, Secondary

Based on the work of James Curwin (Discipline with Dignity) and Doug Lemov (Teach Like a Champion), this workshop will identify the basics of classroom discipline and correction. We will learn six interventions that can be used daily and wrestle with the decisions regarding correction and consequences.

Identifying and Responding to Sensory Processing Problems in the Classroom

Room: 122

Presenter: Dr. Emily Sweiss

Audience: Elementary, Secondary, Support Staff, Preschool

Sensory processing is the way students' brains take in and respond to inputs from the environment and their own bodies (e.g., touch, visual information, experiences of head and body movement). Ineffective sensory processing contributes to problems with emotion and behavior regulation, as well as clumsiness, frustration, and what may look like a lack of motivation to engage in academic tasks. By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify links between sensory processing and disruptive or challenging classroom behavior.
- Implement sensory strategies at the classroom and individual levels to support student regulation of emotions and behavior.

TROVE

Room: 124

Presenter: Richard Terhune

Audience: All

Trove is the premier learning experience platform for those using BJU Press materials in schools, and it isn't just for teachers! Come learn how Trove connects teachers and students for seamless learning in a digital environment. In this session we will explore the easy-to-use student portal as well as eTextbooks, eWorkbooks, and their accompanying accessibility features. You also won't want to miss learning about the Trove assessment builder, which allows teachers to create or customize assessments and then distribute them to students digitally or in print form. A whole new world of opportunities awaits you and your students in BJU Press Trove.

Making Use of Math Manipulatives

Room: 126

Presenter: Julie Madsen

Audience: Elementary

Elementary math teachers will discover innovative methods to inspire a love of learning in their students. Additionally, we will go over how to organize and store manipulatives that improve student learning. We will also talk about several approaches to learning mathematics in an enjoyable way.

Classrooms to be used for today's conference:

Main Sanctuary

120

122

124

126

