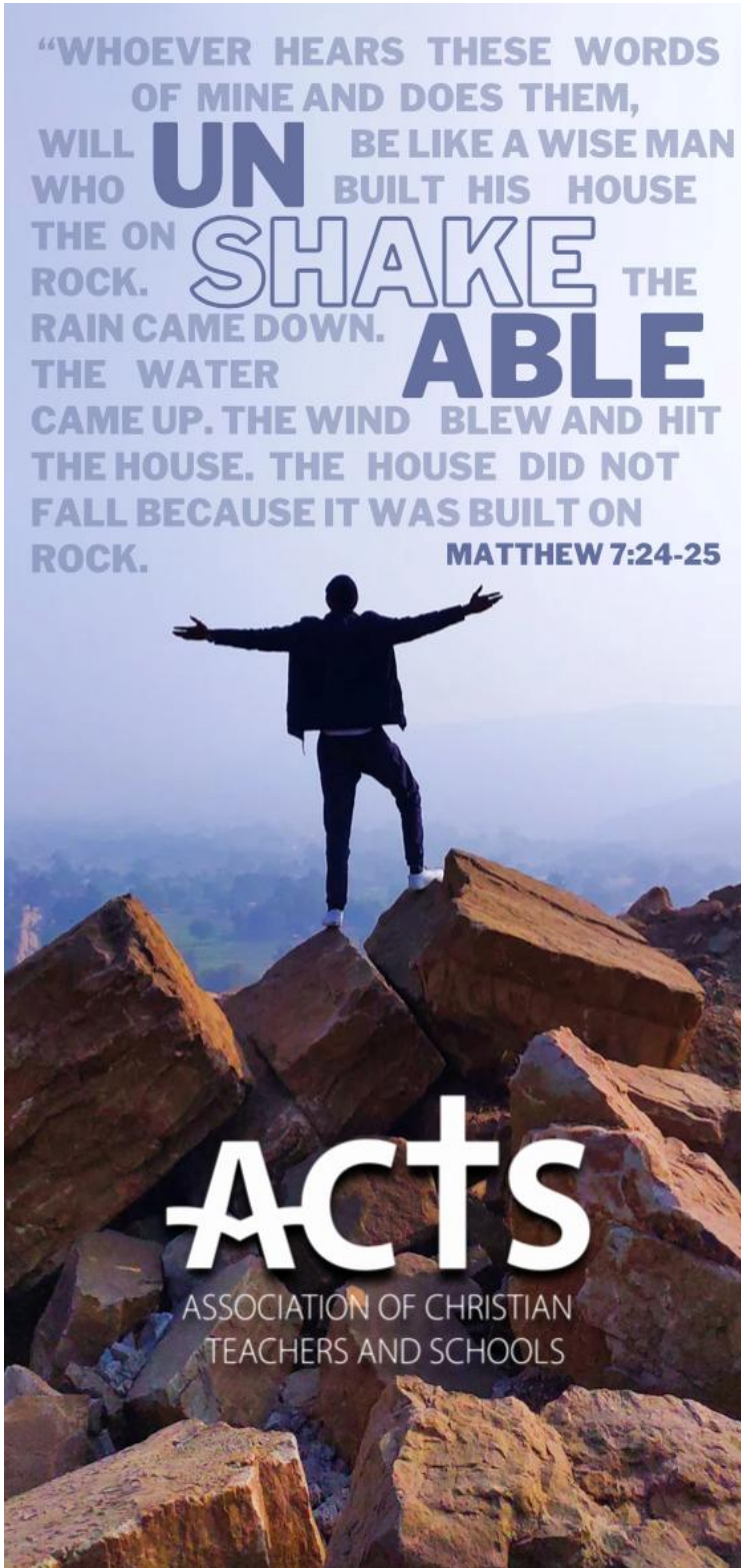


Florida Christian Educator Conference



Calvary City Christian Academy

2500 W. Oak Ridge Rd.
Orlando, FL 32809

February 14, 2025

Welcome!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Florida 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 of our 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.

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.

What's included in this program:

- Schedule
- Workshop Session Descriptions
- Campus Map

Schedule

- 7:30-8:15am Registration
- 8:15-8:30am Announcements/Worship
- 8:30-9:30am Keynote
- 9:40-10:30am Workshop Session 1
- 10:40-11:30am Workshop Session 2
- 11:30-12:30pm Lunch (provided by Precept Marketing)
 - Lunch will be collaborative conversations with other teachers; you will receive 1 Certification Point for this time as well
- 12:40-1:30pm Workshop Session 3
- 1:40-2:30pm Workshop Session 4
- 2:40-3:45pm Keynote & Closing

ACTS 2025 FLORIDA CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIO

Dr. Renton Rathbun

Renton has been a classroom teacher for over 25 years. His experience has included both secular and Christian colleges and universities. He speaks on biblical worldview and apologetics across the country as well as podcasts, radio and TV. He trains faculty and administrators in biblical worldview all over the U.S. Renton holds a B.S. in English Education and an MA in interpretive speech from Bob Jones University. He has also received an MFA in Creative Writing from Minnesota State University, an MA in Philosophy from the University of Toledo, a ThM from Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, and has a PhD in Apologetics from Westminster Theological Seminary. Renton is a national consultant for BJU Press.

Opening Keynote

Losing Our Religion in Education: Creating a Stickier Biblical Worldview

We teach our students from a biblical worldview. So, why are so many children from Christian schools abandoning the Bible, the church, and ultimately the faith? In this talk, we discuss the cognitive process of how this divorce between biblical worldview instruction and biblical faithfulness happens. Then we discuss steps that will help develop our students' confidence, appreciation for truth, and personal accountability as rooted in the Law and the Gospel.

Closing Keynote

The Marxification of Christian Education: Our Obligation to a Philosophy of the Classroom

As teachers we want to keep up on new techniques and trends in running a classroom that is best organized for learning. However, throughout the years, we have unintentionally developed “best practices” in our classrooms that are Marxist in nature. As a result, our students have developed a disdain for authority and an overestimation of their existing knowledge base. This talk exposes how these practices work and how to develop a philosophy of classroom order that is not only conducive to learning but also biblical.

Workshop Session 1

9:40-10:30am

Will Monday Ever Come?

Room: 112

Presenter: Earlene Carte, First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

Audience: General

I do not know anyone, particularly school staff, that has ever asked that question. Come join us to learn ways to help get you and keep you on track. You will have opportunities to share ideas that have worked for you.

Take a Look, it's in a Book: Improving Reading Comprehension and Enjoyment in the Secondary Classroom

Room: 113

Presenter: Katie Smith, First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

Audience: Secondary

Reading is required in most secondary classrooms, yet college professors say incoming students are struggling with reading comprehension, and many students lose their love of reading at this age. This class will discuss strategies to improve reading comprehension and foster an enjoyment of reading for secondary level students.

Successful Strategies in Early Childhood Education

Room: 114

Presenter: Jessica Guntrum, First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

Audience: Preschool

Early education brings unique challenges to teachers and administrators. Come prepared to discuss strategies for overcoming challenges and succeeding in Early Education.

Pathways for Preschool: Parts and Pieces

Room: 125

Presenter: Dr. Julie Madsen, BJU Press

Audience: Preschool

This workshop takes a hands-on, center-based approach to learning. The Pathways for Preschool program gives the tools needed to address little learners' cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs. Pathways is intended to instill a profound love of learning in two- and three-year-olds.

Motivate the Motivator

Room: 128

Presenter: Michelle Pacheco, Pine Castle Christian Academy, Orlando

Audience: General, Administration

When the motivator now needs motivation. Where should they go? What should they do? Who motivates me?

Four Keys to School Sustainability

Room: Peter Farrant

Presenter: Ronda Dry, Step Up for Students

Audience: All grade levels

Education and reputation alone will not provide your school sustainability. But what are those key areas that will ensure a strong foundation as you move your vision and mission forward? Attend this session to transform your definition of sustainability and create a strong future.

You Can't Study for Math and Other Myths

Room: 217/213

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger, BJU Press

Audience: General

Our students often say, "You can't study for math!" How can we help our students learn to study and prepare for math? What are some of the difficulties and mind-blocks students have, and how can we help them get past these? In this workshop we will have very practical discussions to help you in your classroom.

Instructional Strategies to Differentiate:

Helping Students Get to Where They Need to Be

Room: 218/211

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson, BJU Press

Audience: All grade levels

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.

Loving to Read or Required to Read: How Do Your Students Feel?

Room: 219/220

Presenter: Becky Teruel, BJU Press

Audience: All grade levels

Does it seem that schools give awards for sports accomplishments more than academic and reading achievements? Rewarding and encouraging students to read will open a path to lifelong learning. In this session, teachers will learn several methods of drawing students into the "love of reading" and share ideas that have worked in their classrooms.

Workshop Session 2

10:40-11:30am

Am I ever going to use this in real life?

Room: 112

Presenter: Alex Figueroa, Integrity Tabernacle Christian Academy, Kissimmee

Audience: Secondary

This must be the number one question asked by math students across the nation! In this workshop we will discuss a new way to approach teaching mathematics that will help students see the relevance in your teaching. If the students find your lesson relevant, it's a recipe for success!

The 5 B's of Trauma

Room: 113

Presenters: Glenna Jacola, Carlene Garboden, First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

Audience: General, Administration, Secondary, Support Staff

Understanding trauma and its impact on students. This session will overview the causes of trauma in students and the potential effects in an educational setting.

Guidance for C.L.A.S.S. Observations

Room: 114

Presenter: Jessica Guntrum, First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

Audience: Preschool

An overview of what to expect before, during and after C.L.A.S.S. observations.

Watch Me Grow! Understanding and Cultivating Preschoolers' Developmental Skills

Room: 125

Presenter: Dr. Julie Madsen, BJU Press

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.

Curriculum Guides, Scope & Sequences- Necessary or Nonsense?

Room: 128

Presenter: Steve Lindquist, ACTS COO

Audience: General

Every teacher uses the words "curriculum guides, unit plans, scope and sequence", etc., but are these things necessary to the success of a classroom or just nonsense documents that some accreditation association says every school needs to have. During this session, we will explore the definitions, designs, and deployments of these documents to create an effective education plan for the classroom.

Only in the Mind? Why Biblical Worldview MUST Develop Holiness

Room: Peter Farrant

Presenter: Dr. Renton Rathbun

Audience: General

Biblical worldview tends to be discussed only in terms of one's thinking patterns. However, if biblical worldview does not lead to holy living, we are really just making "Christianly pagans." How do we make the connection from biblical thinking to biblical action? This talk develops a three-step plan for a holistic biblical worldview.

Effective Teacher? Or Master Teacher? Which are you?

Room: 217/213

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger, BJU Press

Audience: General

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 or 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 24/7?

Math is Neutral and Other Worldview Myths

Room: 218/211

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson, BJU Press

Audience: Elementary

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.

Writing Tips and Tricks for Success in the Elementary Classroom

Room: 219/220

Presenter: Becky Teruel, BJU Press

Audience: Elementary

Are your students eager to write or do you hear moans when you mention writing? In this session, teachers will learn ways to make writing exciting and a subject students will look forward to in the elementary classroom. Participants will collaborate on ideas and complete a writing assignment in groups, demonstrating how writing can be taught and modeled in the classroom.

Workshop Session 3

12:40-1:30pm

Trust in God

Room: 112

Presenter: Earlene Carte, First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

Audience: General

What has your word been for your school year? This has been a powerful word for our school, and I did not know just how powerful it would become for us. I will be sharing what I believe the key has been for trusting God for me.

Becoming a Trauma Informed School... an Introduction

Room: 113

Presenters: Glenna Jacola, Carlene Garboden, First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

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

Is too much of the day spent correcting or 'herding' classes, when you are supposed to be able to teach? If this is a question you struggle with, understanding the impacts of trauma and utilizing the principles in Trust Based Relational Intervention® may help. In this session we will discuss our school's ongoing journey and actionable steps to become a trauma-informed school.

Preschool Art: Its All About the Process

Room: 114

Presenter: Danielle Dodd, First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

Audience: Preschool

Hands-on experience diving into the importance of the difference between product and process art in the preschool classroom.

From Vision to Impact: Boosting Enrollment and Event Attendance through Strategic Marketing

Room: W116

Presenter: Shelly Vazquez, Calvary City Christian Academy

Audience: General

Join Shelly Vazquez, Media Teacher and Marketing Strategist for Calvary City Christian Academy and preschool, as she shares what they've implemented and learned over the past nine years, leading to significant growth in both enrollment and event engagement. This workshop is designed to equip Christian schools with practical tools and strategies to effectively market their mission, events, and clubs. Whether you're looking to boost enrollment, enhance community engagement, or elevate the impact of your school's activities, Shelly will provide valuable insights and creative ideas that align with your school's values. Learn how to craft compelling messages, build a genuine online presence, and create marketing campaigns that truly resonate with your audience. Walk away inspired, equipped, and ready to take your school's marketing efforts to the next level!

Classroom Accommodations in Compliance with Sensory Techniques

Room: 125

Presenter: Nellie Rosado, Calvary City Christian Academy and Jeselli Hernandez, Sunshine State Therapy

Audience: Preschool

Discussion will be on What is Sensory Integration, sensory integration includes multiple senses, and how does sensory integration affect Preschoolers. Classroom Modifications to help and support students in the classroom.

Why Do My Students Act The Way They Do?

Room: 128

Presenter: Steve Lindquist, ACTS COO

Audience: General

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*)

How to Create Thinking Habits in the Classroom: Worldview Down to the Lesson Plan

Room: Peter Farrant

Presenter: Dr. Renton Rathbun

Audience: All grade levels

Let's face it, biblical worldview has been an ethereal concept for too long. If biblical worldview is to have any legitimacy, it must be practical. In this talk, we develop the lost art of reading, writing, and arithmetic in the classroom. We establish that every subject taught in the classroom involves these three skills. We then develop how Worldview work is at the heart of 1) organizational thinking in reading, 2) critical thinking in writing, and 3) conductive thinking in arithmetic.

Teaching School Math Actively

Room: 217/213

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger, BJU Press

Audience: Secondary

Need ideas to make sixth-grade math more interesting or methods to help your pre-algebra students better understand slopes? How can you make learning the quadratic formula—or any formula—easier to learn? In this workshop, I will present simple ideas that will be easy and inexpensive to personalize for and implement in your class. From graphic organizers to games and projects, these resources will add variety to your class and get your students excited to learn math.

Would You Like Sprinkles with That?

Room: 218/211

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson, BJU Press

Audience: Elementary

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.

When Parents and Teachers Meet: A View from Both Sides of the Desk

Room: 219/220

Presenter: Becky Teruel, BJU Press

Audience: General

Have you ever heard, or said, "I would love teaching if it weren't for the parents?" Parents should be viewed as a positive part of our teaching, helping our students to become more successful. I have taught for many years in the classroom and believe that parents can be partners. As a parent of four children, I learned to see and value both sides of communication. Come learn ways to include parents in your students' learning to make your year the best it can be!

Workshop Session 4

1:40-2:30pm

The Ultimate Classroom

Room: 112

Presenter: John Delcamp, The Elijah School and Kids Prep Academy, Ocala

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

Every year I hear teachers and staff say, "these students are worse than last year." I know that your classroom can become your best year yet with some proper preparation. I will discuss several essential elements to move you in the right direction, removing a lot of your present stress and frustrations.

Mastering Classroom Management: How to use negative & positive reinforcement effectively

Room: 113

Presenter: Jonathan Dorn, Calvary City Christian Academy

Audience: General, Elementary, Secondary

This session will motivate, educate, and inspire educators at every level (K-12) to utilize their unique teaching style to set the culture in their classroom. This session is designed to stir creativity in educators and inspire them to develop a classroom management approach that fits their unique learning environment. This session is meant to encourage educators to recognize their God given and unique ability to capture the minds of young people. The Key Scripture in this session is 1 Corinthians 3:7 KJV, "So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that liveth the increase." This session will highlight the urgent need for teachers to value what they bring to the table, sow into the lives of students intentionally, and challenge teachers to offer students just as much positive praise as (negative) words of correction. Teachers who are confident and courageous are more likely to make a lasting impact on students. Educators who attend this session will reaffirm their knowledge of positive and negative reinforcers as well as add to their arsenal new strategies designed to motivate students to positively engage in the classroom. Classroom management begins with knowing God, knowing your desired goals as a class, and knowing your students - meeting them where they are.

Tips for Managing the Classroom of Little Learners (PreK)

Room: 125

Presenter: Dr. Julie Madsen, BJU Press

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.

Administrators' Roundtable

Room: 128

Presenter: Steve Lindquist, ACTS COO/ Director of Accreditation

Audience: Administration

Roundtable discussions concerning daily operations of Christian Schools, Strategic planning for the future, and encouragement for tough decisions...

Office Hours with Community Relations Overview

Room: Peter Farrant

Presenter: Ronda Dry, Step Up for Students

Audience: All grade levels

We will be conducting a review of the recent communications and will be available to answer any questions you may have about the current processes of Step Up for Students. Additionally, our chat support team will be there to assist you in case you have any general questions about any recent school communications. Please note that we won't be able to answer any questions regarding specific students. We look forward to your participation!

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

Room: 217/213

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger, BJU Press

Audience: Middle

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: 218/211

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson, BJU Press

Audience: General

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.

Reading Groups vs. Whole-Class Instruction: Does it Really Matter?

Room: 219/220

Presenter: Becky Teruel, BJU Press

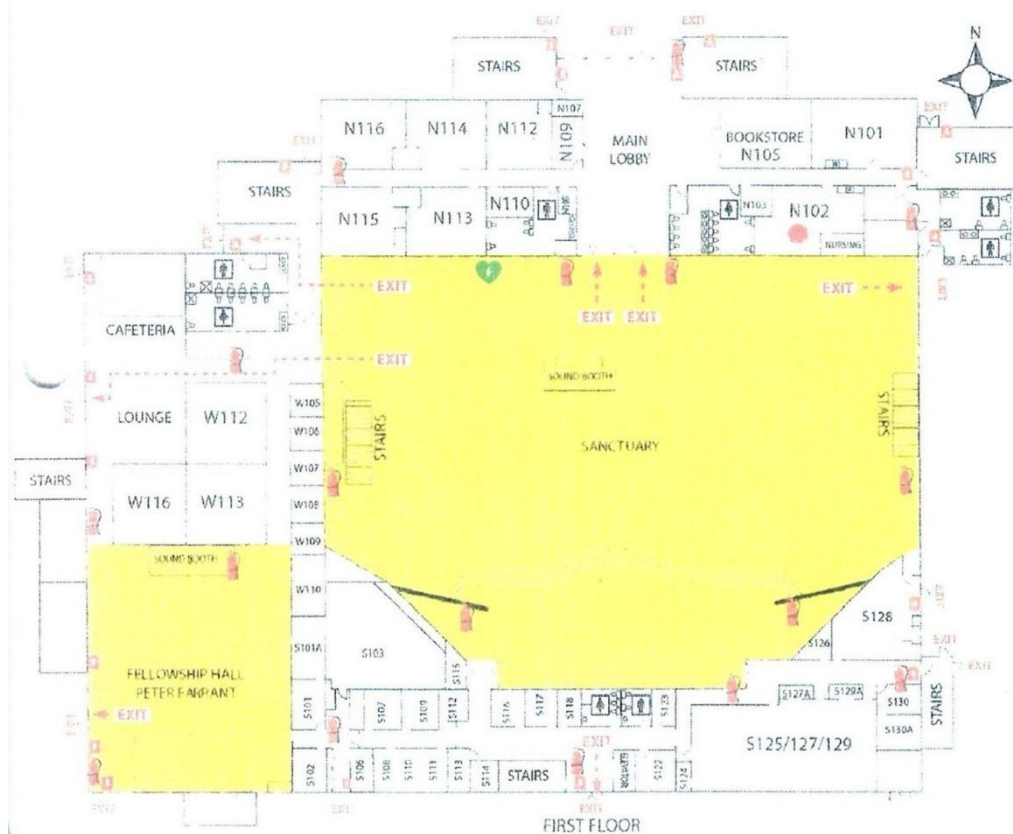
Audience: All grade levels

Shouldn't it be up to the teacher whether grouping or whole-class instruction is used to teach reading? Isn't the outcome the same for students no matter which way reading is taught? Up-to-date reading group research shows how reading is taught does matter for students. In this session, learn why reading groups are important and how to implement them. Participate in an interactive reading lesson and discuss ideas for how to occupy students during reading group time to help the classroom flow smoothly.

EMERGENCY EXIT ROUTES



CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
& PRESCHOOL



EMERGENCY GUIDELINES:

1. Familiarize yourself with all exit locations
2. Know where the fire alarms pull stations are located
3. Evacuate the building and proceed to the designated location when the fire alarm signal (slow whoop) sounds.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

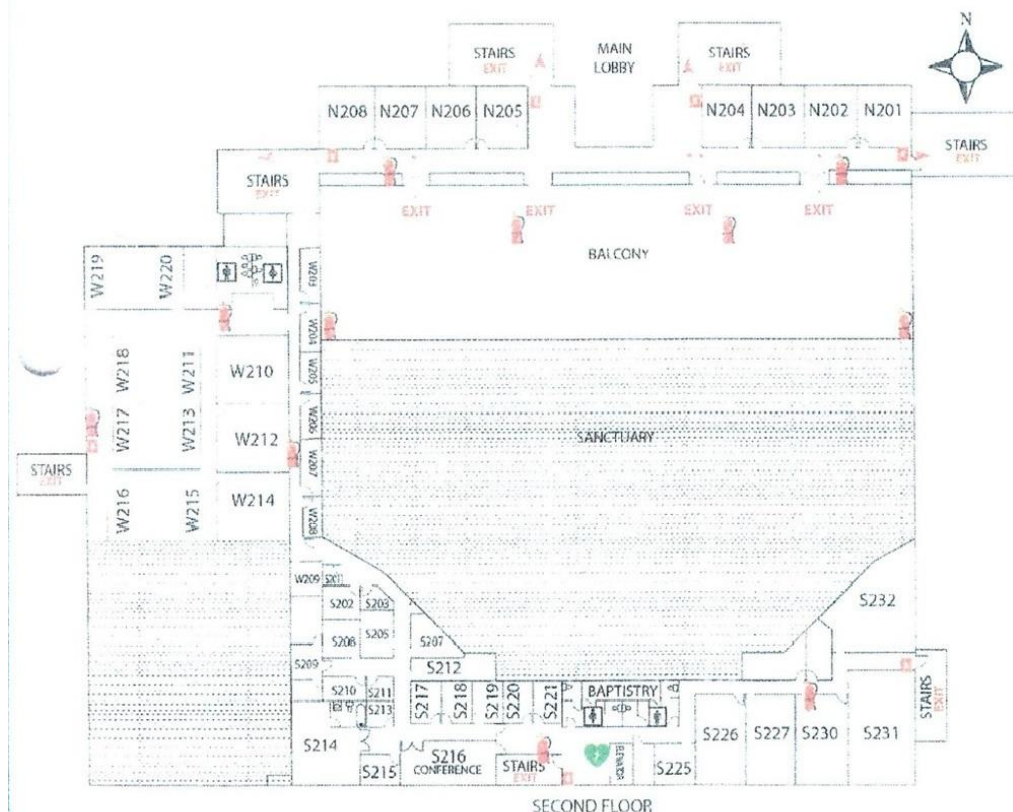
FIRE: Dial "911"
POLICE: Dial "911"

LEGEND:

- Automated External Defibrillator
- Alarm Pull Station
- Fire Extinguisher
- Exit Route
- Alternate Exit Route
- You Are Here

EMERGENCY EXIT ROUTES

Second Floor



EMERGENCY GUIDELINES:

1. Familiarize yourself with all exit locations
2. Know where the fire alarms pull stations are located
3. Evacuate the building and proceed to the designated location when the fire alarm signal (slow whoop) sounds.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

FIRE: Dial "911"
POLICE: Dial "911"

LEGEND:

- Automated External Defibrillator
- Alarm Pull Station
- Fire Extinguisher
- Exit Route
- Alternate Exit Route
- You Are Here