

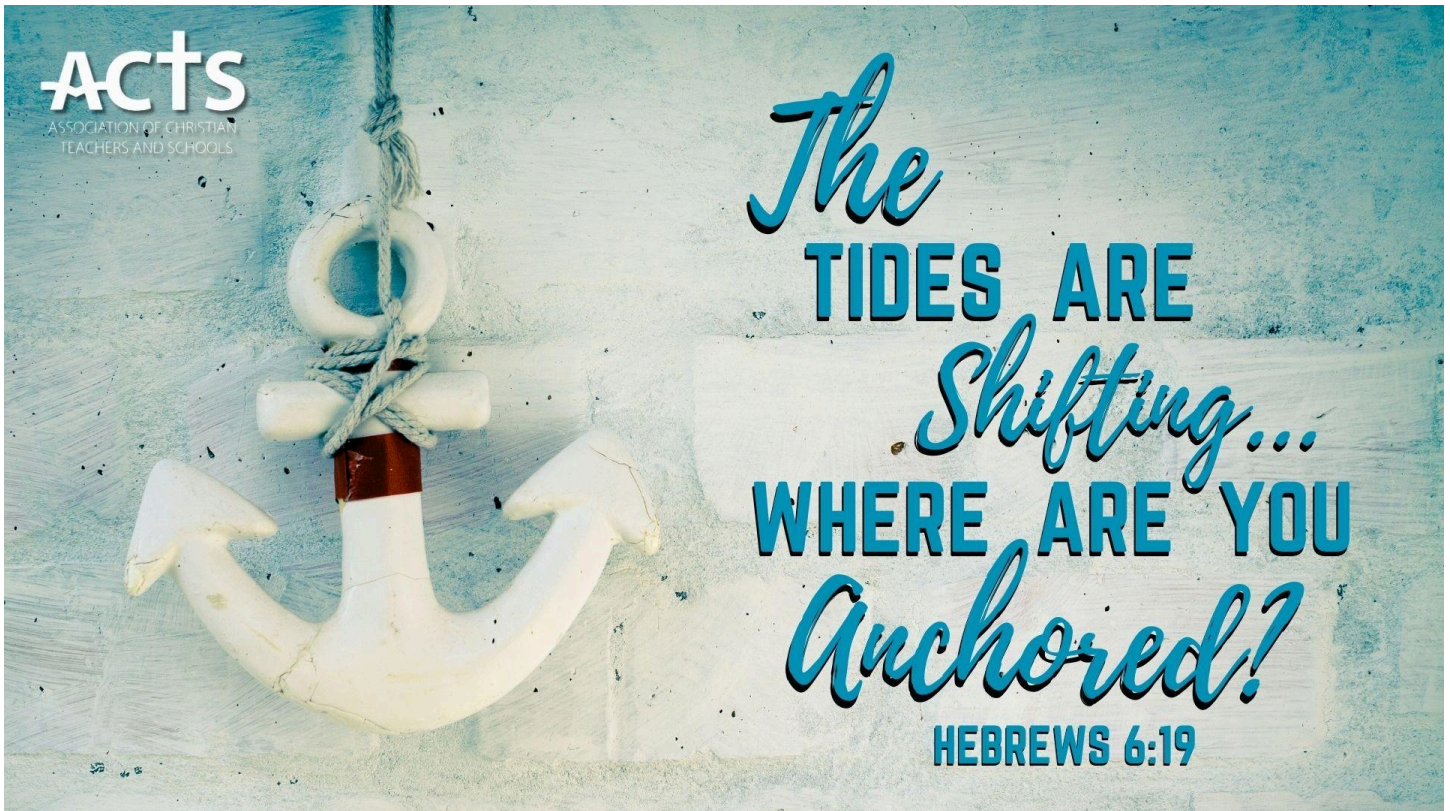


ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN
TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS

Florida Christian Educator Conference

February 17, 2026

Calvary Christian Academy and Preschool
2500 W. Oak Ridge Rd., Orlando FL 32809



Welcome!

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2026 Florida Christian Educator Conference. It is an honor and a privilege to have you join our fellowship today as we gather to sharpen one another for the glory of God. We are excited over the lineup we have in store! The Lord has provided us with truly exceptional speakers for both our keynote sessions and our breakout workshops—men and women of God who are ready to pour into your lives and ministries.

The vision behind this conference is deeply rooted in our shared calling. We are here to provide high-quality, professional development that is both relevant to your classroom and rooted in Biblical excellence. To create a sacred space for networking and fellowship with brothers and sisters who share your precious faith and values. And to fortify our Christian schools through the joyful exchange of wisdom and encouragement among administrators, teachers, and staff.

Our fervent prayer is that this conference serves as a wellspring of refreshment for your soul. May you leave here not only with practical tools for your school but with a renewed spirit, fresh motivation, and a heart on fire for the mission of Christian education.

We are so glad you're here!

In this program:

Schedule for the day
Workshop Session Descriptions
Campus Map

Receiving your Certification Points:

The collection of Certification Point data occurs electronically. Please visit our conference tables in the sanctuary, scan the QR Code, and it will take you to the Google Form for Certification Points. You will need to fill this form out entirely to receive your Certification Points for the day from your school Administrator. Detailed information about sessions attended by school staff will be emailed to the Administrator after the conclusion of the conference.

Schedule for the Day

7:30am - 8:00am

Registration

8:15am - 8:30am

Announcements/Worship

8:30am - 9:15am

Keynote

9:30am -10:30am

Workshop 1

10:40am -11:40am

Workshop 2

11:40am -12:50pm

Lunch (on your own)

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Workshop 3

2:10pm - 3:10pm

Workshop 4

3:15pm - 3:45pm

Closing Keynote



Dear Christian School Leader,

I pray that this letter finds you and your Christian school thriving in today's ever-changing education landscape. These are certainly interesting days. Christian schools, homeschools, and churches nationwide are navigating new challenges as growing numbers of families turn to faith-based education.

At the [Stanley M. Herzog Charitable Foundation](#), our mission is to catalyze and accelerate the development of quality Christ-centered K-12 education so that families and culture flourish. As the leader of a Christian school, homeschool group, or church in Florida, we would like to invite you to a very special one-day **Florida State Christian Education Summit**. Our prayer is that this event will enable you to network with other Florida heads of Christian schools, homeschool groups, and churches, to discuss topics pertinent to leading Christian education in 2026, and to hear about the many free resources available to your organization from the Herzog Foundation.

We are offering two summit locations for your convenience- Fort Lauderdale and Tampa. With your RSVP, the Herzog Foundation will host you on the date, location, and venue noted below. There is no admission fee to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Guests are to arrange and cover their transportation to and from the event. **Please RSVP through the registration link noted below by Thursday, March 5, 2026. (SEE ACTS EMAIL FOR LINKS)**

Guests who need lodging the night before the event may request a complimentary hotel room paid for by the Herzog Foundation. Guests are responsible for submitting this request during the registration process and for notifying the Herzog Foundation promptly if they later need to cancel their room. Complimentary rooms are not guaranteed, are limited to one per organization, and are first-come, first-served basis based on when registration is submitted.

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

When: Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m

Where: Sheraton Suites Fort Lauderdale at Cypress Creek- Fort Lauderdale

Tampa, Florida

When: Thursday, March 26, 2026

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m

Where: The Current Hotel- Tampa

This Florida State Christian Education Summit is only for leaders currently serving as head of school for a Christian school, head of a homeschool group, or pastor of a church within the state. For our team to prepare for this event and to secure your reservation, please RSVP by Thursday, March 5, 2026. Thank you for the important Kingdom work that you do and for facing challenges in a manner that reflects your faith.

Blessings,

Darrell Jones

Herzog Foundation President

Herzog Foundation, 105 NW 188th Street, Smithville, MO 64089, United States

Acts CONFERENCE



CCAP SENIORS 2026 Raising Funds!

Come Support the Graduating Class of 2026

Delicious Snacks for Sale!



- Meat Empanadas
- Chicken Empanadas
- Pizza Empanadas
- Sorullos
- Beef Pasteles
- Sodas
- Coffee
- Water
- Chips
- Candies



All to support our Seniors 2026!

ACTS 2026 FLORIDA CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIO

Pastor Gabby Mejia

In 2001, Pastors Gabby and Petry Mejia transitioned from New York City to Orlando, Florida. Since then, they served as youth pastors for Calvary Church (Iglesia el Calvario), where they led the youth ministry for 10 years. In 2007, the Lord called Pastor Gabby to found a church for the English-speaking population, which resulted in the planting of three congregations.

By 2015, God placed a burden on our pastors' hearts to intentionally reach and serve the lost, the hurting, and the marginalized in the heart of Kissimmee. This calling led to the launch of four churches over a three-year period. In August 2021, Pastors Gabby and Petry were called by God once again with the mission to return as Senior Pastors of Calvary Church in Orlando, FL.

Pastor Gabby Mejia serves as a chaplain for the Kissimmee Police Department, providing spiritual support to minors and the city's police force. He is also the author of the book "Kintsugi: The Miracle Factor." Pastors Gabby and Petry share a deep passion for witnessing how God's power transforms lives. Their three children—Gabrielle, John, and Jonathan—serve alongside them in the ministry. As a family, they affirm with courage and faith that God's blessing and favor will continue every step of the way. They walk forward with enthusiasm, motivated by what God is planning for the future of Calvary Church.

Pastor Gabby is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God. Additionally, he serves as a lead team member for the Church Multiplication Network, part of the Assemblies of God movement in the United States.

To God be all the glory!

Workshop 1: 9:30 to 10:30 am

Algebra You Can See

Room: S232

Presenter: Alex Figueroa, Principal at Integrity Tabernacle Christian Academy, Kissimmee

Audience: Secondary

Algebra doesn't have to feel abstract or intimidating. In this engaging breakout, you'll experience how algebra tiles make expressions, equations, and patterns visible and meaningful. Come ready to explore, ask questions, and leave with tools you can use immediately in your classroom.

"A Well-Oiled Machine": Creating an Orderly and Productive Learning Environment

Room: S231

Presenter: Antonio Hawkins, MS/HS Principal at Central Baptist Christian School, Brandon

Audience: Elementary, Secondary, Electives

Come along, take the journey to creating a learning environment that leads to student success. Classroom structure and an orderly environment is crucial for achievement and spiritual progression. Forming an atmosphere through classroom procedures, expectations and purposed student engagement is vital. Pick up a few tips on how to turn your learning space into a "Well Oiled Machine".

HOW?

Room: W211 and W218

Presenter: Earlene Carte, Administrator at First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

Audience: General

Should how be the question when God tells you to do something? What is your response? How big is your God? Do you trust Him? These are things to ponder.

Supercharged Learning Centers

Room: N201 and N202

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson, Senior National Consultant, BJU Press

Audience: Elementary

Are you tired of juggling rotations during reading time? Rotation one: meet with the teacher—check. Rotation two: independent seatwork—check. But what about rotation three—learning centers? In this session, you'll learn how to structure your reading block for maximum impact and discover easy-to implement learning center ideas that keep students engaged and learning independently. Walk away with practical strategies, time-saving tips, and a tool kit of reproducible ideas designed to make your reading block smoother and more effective than ever.

Sustaining the Motivation of Little Learner

Room: N203 and N204

Presenter: Dr. Julie Madsen, National Consultant at BJU Press

Audience: Elementary, Preschool

Keeping young students consistently engaged and motivated is one of the most joyful and challenging aspects of teaching. This session explores strategies and practical techniques to foster intrinsic motivation in little learners. Participants will gain insights into the developmental needs of early childhood, the role of relationships and environment in sustaining engagement, and how to design meaningful learning experiences that spark curiosity, independence, and persistence.

Breaking Free from Burnout

Room: W215 and W216

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger, Senior National Consultant at BJU Press

Audience: General, Elementary, Secondary, Administration

From first year teachers to veteran teachers, the rate of teacher burnout is rising steadily. Why are teachers feeling exhausted and desiring to leave the profession? How can we as teachers recognize the signs of burnout and how can we reverse this process? How can administrators help teachers avoid burnout before it happens? This workshop will help both teachers and administrators address and deal with burnout.

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

Room: W210 and W212

Presenter: Rebecca Teruel, National Consultant at BJU Press

Audience: Elementary, Secondary

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.

“Faithful, Tired and still Called”

Room: W231 and W217

Presenter: Nancy Nater and Tayralie Vargas, Calvary Christian Academy, Orlando

Audience: Elementary, Secondary, Electives, Administration

This session equips educators with an understanding of burnout from both neuroscience and Scripture, offering practical tools to care for the brain, the heart, and the calling.

Christian Athletics in the Sports World Today

Room: W219 and 220

Presenter: David Stephenson, Director of Development, United States Christian Athletic Association

Audience: General, Administration, Athletics, Support Staff

Why coaches are quitting the profession at such a rapid rate

Workshop 2: 10:40 to 11:40 am

The Israel Course

Room: S232

Presenter: Abel Taye, Curriculum Director, CUFI High School, Christians United For Israel

Audience: Administration, Secondary, Electives

The Israel Course session presents a comprehensive introduction to the very incremental 20-lesson curriculum and instructor's guide designed for private Christian schools, home school associations, and Christian high schoolers across the nation. This course session gives an overview of the curriculum lessons that will cover subject matter from the biblical reasons to support Israel as a Christian, to the history of Israel and the Jewish people, the modern state, what to expect on a college campus, and more!

All Truth is God's Truth: Lessons from the Puritans on Education

Room: S231

Presenter: R.A. Miller, HS Bible Teacher, Central Baptist Christian School, Brandon

Audience: General, Secondary

The Puritans were committed to having a religious focus in education. This fact is unlikely to come as a surprise to anyone. However, these giants of theology were also proponents of a liberal arts education. This presentation draws from the Puritans' view of education, sometimes referred to as Christian humanism, with an emphasis on both biblical integration and the liberal arts.

Catalytic Leadership: Moving Teams to the Next Level

Room: W211 and W218

Presenter: Michelle Pacheco, Headmaster at Pine Castle Christian Academy, Orlando

Audience: Administration

Designed specifically for school administrators, this session explores how leaders can become catalysts who elevate culture, strengthen morale, and move teams beyond survival into sustained excellence. Participants will examine practical strategies for influencing mindset, building momentum, and empowering staff to grow even when conditions are less than ideal.

Who's Running the Show?

Room: N201 and N202

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson, Senior National Consultant, BJU Press

Audience: Elementary

Teachers play many roles in the classroom. One of the most important is being a classroom manager. Learn how to organize your classroom from a biblical perspective to benefit both your students and yourself. If you don't manage your classroom, your students will!

How to Shape Early Childhood Education with a Biblical Worldview

Room: N203 and N204

Presenter: Dr. Julie Madsen, National Consultant, BJU Press

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.

Finding the Right Pieces to Fit the Puzzle: Differentiation in the Secondary Classroom

Room: W215 and W216

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger, Senior National Consultant at BJU Press

Audience: Secondary

How can we design a lesson to reach each student and their very different learning styles? How do we teach those neurodivergent students in our classroom and target each of their learning styles? BJU Press secondary materials can help you teach those students who need a "little extra". This workshop will discuss methods in the differentiation process and incorporating them into your classroom.

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

Room: W210 and W212

Presenter: Rebecca Teruel, National Consultant at 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 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.

Effective Communication

Room: W231 and W217

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

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

The key to success is effective communication whether it is a teacher to students or administration to teachers and staff. In an informational age, asking the right questions becomes more important than giving the right answers. This session will challenge administration and teachers to reconsider how they communicate.

Integrating Biblical Worldview in My Classroom: How, When, Where, Why?

Room: W219 and W220

Presenter: Jonathan Aultman, Director of Accreditation and International Programs, ACTS

Audience: General, Elementary, Secondary, Electives

Five frameworks that can be used in the classroom for Biblical Integration. Examples include the Harder subjects like Math, Art, and Literature.

AI and the Christian School: Truth, Transformation & Tools... Understanding and Using Technology to Enhance the Christian Classroom

Room: W113

Presenter: Steve Lindquist, Executive Director & Sarah Lindquist, Social Media Director, ACTS

Audience: General

The world of Artificial Intelligence has made its way into every sphere of everyday life...what does it look like in the classroom? Can it be used effectively? Is it a pathway to the destruction of the teacher-led lesson? Should we embrace it or run from it screaming? During this session, we will talk through a variety of topics - ethics, practices, questions, platforms, etc.

Workshop 3: 1:00 to 2:00 pm

The Israel Course

Room: S232

Presenter: Abel Taye, Curriculum Director CUFI High School, Christians United For Israel

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

The Israel Course session presents a comprehensive introduction to the very incremental 20-lesson curriculum and instructor's guide designed for private Christian schools, home school associations, and Christian high schoolers across the nation. The session gives an overview of the curriculum lessons that will cover subject matter from the biblical reasons to support Israel as a Christian, to the history of Israel and the Jewish people, the modern state, what to expect on a college campus, and more!

Athletic Culture

Room: S231

Presenter: David Stephenson, Director of Development, United States Christian Athletic Association

Audience: Administration, Secondary, Athletics

Creating a divine Christian Culture within an Athletic Department

Using TerraNova Data to Anchor your Instruction

Room: W211 and W218

Presenter: Christine Kirk, Assessment Solutions Consultant, DRC/TerraNova

Audience: Elementary, Secondary, General, Administration

TerraNova Next provides actionable insights that help us understand student learning and guide instruction. This session will introduce best practices for interpreting test scores, identifying trends, and supporting teachers in using data effectively. Attendees will learn how to view data, analyze growth, support differentiated instruction, and communicate results clearly to parents and staff. We will reflect on how data, when rightly applied, strengthens our mission, anchors our work, and celebrates student progress.

Math beyond the Textbook

Room: N201 and N202

Presenter: Cindy Dickinson, Senior National Consultant, BJU Press

Audience: Elementary

Textbooks are a great resource for helping students to master math concepts, but what about those students who finish with time to spare? Join me to discover ways to take math beyond the textbook. A variety of games, websites, apps, and other resources will be presented.

Effective Leadership

Room: N203 and N204

Presenter: Dr. Julie Madsen, National Consultant, BJU Press

Audience: Administration

This workshop will teach you how to become a successful leader in your school, whether you are a teacher, administrator, or other educational staff. You will leave with practical leadership skills you can implement immediately as you lead the team God entrusted to you.

Overcoming Math Anxiety

Room: W215 and W216

Presenter: Pam Litzenberger, Senior National Consultant at BJU Press

Audience: Elementary, Secondary

25-50% of pre-college students have math anxiety. In this workshop, we will discuss this fear, where it may have originated, and more importantly how we, as their math teachers, can help our students overcome their anxiety. Also discussed will be math myths and how these affect our students.

Reading Groups vs. Whole Class Instruction: Does it really matter?

Room: W210 and W212

Presenters: Rebecca Teruel, National Consultant at BJU Press

Audience: Elementary

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 that 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.

Victory in Difficult Times

Room: W231 and W217

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

Audience: Administration, Preschool

Navigating school and childcare in a dogmatic ungodly society.

Fear in the Classroom: Equipping Educators for a Fear-Free Classroom

Room: W219 and W220

Presenter: Jonathan Aultman, Director of Accreditation and International Programs, ACTS

Audience: General

Recognizing, preventing, and dealing with self-harm among students and staff.

Overcoming Barriers: A Biblical Framework for Student Success

Room: W113

Presenter: Steve Lindquist, Executive Director, ACTS

Audience: General

In an era where students are navigating unprecedented personal, social, and emotional barriers stemming from issues like trauma, poverty, and economic hardship, Christian educators face unique challenges. This session, grounded in the understanding that Christ-centered educators are uniquely positioned to address these burdens with both professional excellence and biblical wisdom, presents ten research-based, Scripture-grounded strategies. These interconnected practices work together to create dynamic learning environments where all students can academically, emotionally, and spiritually thrive, reflecting the hope found in Jeremiah 29:11.

Workshop 4: 2:10 to 3:10 pm

Let Us Not Grow Weary

Room: S232

Presenter: Alex Figueroa, Principal at Integrity Tabernacle Christian Academy, Kissimmee

Audience: Administration, Secondary, Support Staff

"Let us not grow weary in doing good..." (Galatians 6:9) Many teens in today's classrooms are disengaged and lacking support. This session encourages educators to persevere in reaching the unmotivated while equipping them with practical, Christ-centered strategies to reignite motivation in their teenage students. Come be renewed in your calling to stand in the gap and continue sowing seeds that God promises to grow.

Educational Therapy: Optimizing Student Success through Additional Support

Room: S231

Presenter: Barb Elliot, Educational Therapist at Central Baptist Christian School, Brandon

Audience: Administration

This session will explore the benefits of educational therapy in schools, from enhancing classroom learning to providing individualized student intervention.

Administrator Roundtable

Room: W211 and W218

Presenter: Earlene Carte - First Assembly Christian School, Ocala and Steve Lindquist, Executive Director, ACTS

Audience: Administration

Discussion on relevant topics, thoughts, and conversations...along with a great place to network!

AI Assisted Teachers

Room: N201 and N202

Presenter: Nic Ward, Educational Technology Specialist, Maker Educator, Life-long Learner

Audience: Preschool, Elementary, Secondary, Electives

The way to leverage AI to quickly produce materials by using specific tools to support your role as an educator.

What is the "Main Thing" on Your Plate?

Room: N203 and N204

Presenter: Jessica Guntrum, Preschool Director, First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

Audience: Preschool

Each year, there are new laws, new requirements, and new expectations in the early education field. The pressure can become intense in figuring out how to balance the expectations of the children, the parents, the administration, and your school's partnership with numerous agencies. We are going to define the "main thing" and strategize how to keep the "main thing" the main thing.

Student Facilitated Learning

Room: W215 and W216

Presenter: Antonio Hawkins, MS/HS Principal at Central Baptist Christian School, Brandon

Audience: Elementary, Secondary, Electives

Create a learning environment where students facilitate and engage their peers in the process of learning. Empowering peer to peer learning through centers, learning groups and strategically coupling students. Students become stakeholders in their education and motivate classmates to take a more active approach in the learning process. Learn strategies that will aid in better classroom management while simultaneously closing learning gaps.

Professionalism in Coaching and Athletic Administration

Room: W210 and W212

Presenter: David Stephenson, Director of Development, United States Christian Athletic Association

Audience: Administration, Secondary, Athletics

Developing and maintaining professionalism in the Athletic Department

Elementary Roundtable

Room: W231 and W217

Presenter: Christina Parrales, Elementary Team Leader at First Assembly Christian School, Ocala

Audience: Elementary

Discussion on relevant topics, thoughts, and conversations...along with a great place to network!

The Ins and Outs of ACTS Accreditation

Room: W219 and W220

Presenter: Jonathan Aultman, Director of Accreditation and International Programs, ACTS

Audience: General

Is your school looking to go through accreditation for the first time, re-accreditation, or would you like to serve on a team? Come learn what accreditation looks like in a meaningful way!

Calvary Christian Academy & Preschool

Campus Map

