



MAKING SPACE

VAIS 2019
LEADING LEARNING
CONFERENCE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019
THE HILTON RICHMOND HOTEL
SHORT PUMP

DRAFT of 2019 PROGRAM

Revised as of July 31

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM

KEYNOTE

Room: Capital E-G

Space For Project Based Learning (PBL)

Schools around the world are adopting career-oriented, project-based, technology-embedded and real-world ideas in education. Those spaces recognize the connections between innovative learning and creativity. Build an understanding of PBL through storytelling, gaining examples while sharing proven, effective and diverse practices for early childhood through adult learners.

To make space for PBL, we must change how educators lead and learn. Get inspired by how we can build on the strengths, interests, and talents of our students and create better learning experiences for all. Explore how to move towards a shared vision of teaching and learning, embrace learning as a process and not an event, and make learning public to share what you are learning and inspire others.

Keynote Speaker: Andre Daughy, Teacher and Consultant

ENGAGE I (BREAKOUT SESSIONS)

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Engage 101

Room: Barron Boardroom

2019 New Teacher Institute Participant Reunion – *for participants of 2019 NTI Only*

Facilitators: Cheryl Gahagan, Assistant Head of School, Lower-School Curriculum and Instruction, Collegiate School and Carey Pohanka, US Academic Instructional Technologist, JK-12 BUILD Coordinator, 8th Grade French Teacher, St. Christopher’s School

Engage 102

Room: Capital E-G

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

Conversation with Andre Daughy

Speaker: Andre Daughy, Teacher, Educational Consultant

Engage 103

Room: Capital A

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

Creating a Culture of Professional Learning

Making time for professional learning is a challenging endeavor for teachers. Between lesson planning, grading, conferences, report cards, etc... there is little time left to dive into professional learning. How can teachers, administrators, and schools gain useful tools to create an engaging and differentiated professional learning environment across the school year? Examine some strategies like Learning Walks, “Pineapple Charts”, Unconferences, “Choice Boards”, Peer Coaching etc., to promote the importance of growth and learning within schools, and all driven by the teachers interests and passions.

Speakers: Jessica Catoggio 4th Grade Teacher, Envision Collegiate Capstone Coordinator, Collegiate School and Dr. Shayne Cooke, Director of Educator Development, World Leadership School

Engage 104

Room: Capital B

Suggested Grade Level: Middle School

Making Space for Students with Learning Differences: Mindfulness, Movement, and Motivation

Rethink strategies that tap into each student’s potential. How can you engage in activities that support mindfulness, movement, and motivation for all students? With the guidance of a Learning Specialist, focus on how these strategies can impact academic experiences in Math and the Humanities. The end result is to create a space that makes learning purposeful, meaningful, and welcoming for all.

Speakers: Ann Bazzarone, Middle School Learning Specialist, Erin Mahony, Middle School Math Teacher and 7th Grade Team Lead and Katie Knicely, Middle School History Teacher, Flint Hill School

Engage 105

Room: Capital C

Suggested Grade Level: Middle School

Girls, Gizmos and Gadgets!

Embolden girls to explore STEM-related challenges, including robotics, engineering, and general sciences. Girls tend to take a back seat in difficult science concepts, such as robotics and engineering, but watch how they gain confidence in completing challenges! Gain some great ideas to challenge all of your students and ensure that engagement with all students.

Speaker: Robin Blake, Middle School Science Teacher, Chesapeake Academy

Engage 106

Room: Capital D

Suggested Grade Level: Lower School

Creative Movement for the Mind & Body

Creative Movement combines music and movement while working on gross motor skills, encouraging imagination, and creating positive energy. Creative movement is also a great way to channel excessive energy and "reset" the brain. Laugh! And even cry as you enlarge your own repertoire from Miss Kim's skits, songs, and presentations. Understand the meaning and importance of vestibular, proprioception, and crossing the midline. Learn how to use props that enhance the creative movement experience. Witness a demonstration of children's YOGA practice through storytelling!

Speaker: Kim Black, Creative Movement Instructor/Children's Ballet Director, The Burlington School/Burlington Dance Center

Engage 107

Room: Henrico A

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

When Tech Discriminates: Hidden Bias in AI and Algorithms

This hand-on session focuses on the role of technology in our lives, examining from a critical perspective the potential negative implications of some common tools and services. Examine recent case studies and digital experiences to uncover hidden bias.

NOTE: Please bring an internet-capable device.

Speakers: Colleen McNeil, Technology Director and Tom Johnson, Technology Teacher, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School

Engage 108

Room: Henrico B

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

Making Space in Curriculum: The Importance of Cultural Competence

The best educational practices include placing student learning at the center of the institutional culture; however, independent school students from underrepresented racial groups are not having the same educational experience as their peers. A significant reason for this disparity is the lack of cultural competence among faculty and staff that results in Whiteness being centered in community culture and curriculum. In the absence of proportional racial and ethnic representation between faculty and students, how can existing faculty and staff be trained to

be responsive to, and supportive of, the different cultural realities and norms of the student body? Gain some strategies.

Speaker: Cheleah Googe, Director Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Beauvoir School, Washington, D.C.

Engage 109

Room: Conrad Room

Suggested Grade Level: Upper School

Counseling or Coaching? Transformative or Transactional?

Is college counseling an endangered species? College counseling has always been about encouraging students to use the college search process to think about who they are and what they care about. Is that approach outdated? Do students and parents today want coaching instead of counseling, strategy instead of advice? How can we transform lives in a transactional world? Join us for a discussion that will explore these questions and seek solutions for balancing these competing paradigms.

Speakers: Brian Leipheimer, Director of College Counseling, Collegiate School and Jim Jump, Upper School Academic Dean & Director of College Counseling, St. Christopher's School

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BREAK WITH SPONSORS

11:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Visit with our generous sponsors while grabbing some refreshments in the hallway outside the main meeting rooms.

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ENGAGE II (BREAKOUT SESSIONS)

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

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Engage 201

Room: Capital E-G

Suggested Grade Level: Upper School

Making Space for Curricular Intersections: Science & Art

Interesting journeys begin at intersections. A Physics teacher and Photography teacher began with a clear collaboration in optics and cameras. Projects have progressed to involve lasers, strobes, filters, VR, drones, etc. They address topics from focal length to developing empathy. What are some examples of these projects? Where is there space for these ideas, students, and time? Come and get inspired to seek out your own intersections!

Speakers: Laura Akesson, Upper School Science Teacher & Bryan Innovation Lab Academic Dean and John Alley, Photography Teacher, Steward School

Engage 202

Room: Capital A

*Suggested Grade Level: Lower School***Making Space for Innovative, Creative Literacy Instruction**

Does your classroom promote a love of literacy? Do your daily language arts lessons include creativity and imagination for your students? This session will equip teachers with the mindset, motivation, and materials to answer yes to these questions. Teaching reading is one of the most complex subjects to teach with often the least amount of support. Teachers will feel confident and competent in making space for innovative literacy instruction for readers of all ages.

Speakers: Kathryn Starke, Literacy Consultant/Author, Creative Minds Publications, LLC

Engage 203

Room: Capital B

*Suggested Grade Level: All Grades***Designing Your Space - What Messages Are You Sending?**

Have you ever thought about what your space says? Whether intentionally or accidentally, our learning spaces and offices send messages to students, parents, and colleagues. In this session we will share key ideas for matching your educational philosophy and goals to the message your space is sending. Participants will leave with ideas for their spaces as well as a design thinking project to redesign their spaces upon return to school.

Speakers: Carey Pohanka, US Academic Instructional Technologist, JK-12 BUILD Coordinator, 8th Grade French Teacher and Jim Jump, Upper School Academic Dean & Director of College Counseling, St. Christopher's School

Engage 204

Room: Capital C

*Suggested Grade Level: Upper School***Into the Wild and Up A Mountain: Developing Outdoor Leadership Skills at Your School**

Where can students across grade levels gather to problem solve, create, and learn for six hours each day? How can they increase their appreciation of our local outdoor environment and the emotional, social, and physical benefits that come from time spent outdoors? Weaving together analysis of varied texts, creative and reflective writing, local history, outdoor skills, leadership, and environmental stewardship, students form a new relationship to the natural world and with one another. Learn about one school's student-driven, experiential, and place-based SEL experience. What should you consider when designing an outdoor leadership experience at your school? How can you include urban and rural hikes, a camping trip, map, compass, and navigation skills, cooking, leave-no-trace and expedition behavior skills, and more?!

Speakers: Sophie Speidel, School Counselor, Robert Clark, Director of Religious Life/Humanities Faculty and Emily Falk, Humanities Faculty, St. Anne's-Belfield School

Engage 205

Room: Capital D

*Suggested Grade Level: Middle and Upper***Outside the Breakout Box: Adventures in Gamification**

If you have an interest in gamification in the classroom, but you're not sure how to get started, this session is for you. You'll learn about the adventure of incorporating custom board games, virtual escape rooms and breakout boxes into instruction, complete with common pitfalls to avoid and tips for success. Secure a list of low- or no-cost materials and resources, adaptable templates, and also have a fun, first-hand “breakout” experience.

Speaker: Mandy Augst, Head Librarian, Trinity Episcopal School

Engage 206

Room: Short Pump

Audience: Heads of School

Executive Coaching for Heads of School or “Beat the Odds: How to Get Past the Sixth Year as a School Head

According to current studies, the average tenure for a Head of School in independent schools is less than six years, and an increasing number of terms end even sooner, to the detriment of both the school and the Head. A Head’s job is not only challenging but isolating, but an experienced former Head of School as executive coach can provide a plan, a healthy “outside” perspective, and continual support to help the new Head develop his or her leadership skills and to develop a lasting legacy at a school. To that end, two experienced Heads and a new Head will “make the case” for executive coaching.

Speakers: David Dougherty, Director, Executive Coaching Team and Dave Davies, Executive Coach/Search Consultant, The Education Group and Rachel Connell, Rector, Chatham Hall

Engage 207

Room: Henrico A

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

Summer School’s Not Just for Students: Using Summer for Effective Faculty Onboarding

New faculty are eager to learn more about the community that they are joining. Fall orientation is already packed full of meetings and too much information. Incorporating an online onboarding course is an opportunity for schools to start a new faculty member’s professional development over the summer when time is less rushed and when everyone can work at their own pace. We designed an online Introduction to Madeira’s course focused on five key values that allow new faculty to explore and reflect on each topic and then to share their discoveries with each other. Our goal is to capitalize on new faculty’s energy and desire to learn more about Madeira and it works!

Speaker: Kathryn McGroarty, Assistant Academic Dean, The Madeira School

Engage 208

Room: Henrico B

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

Faculty Conversations: Buying into Professional Development

Recent research suggests students learn best when they have “buy-in” and ownership of their learning. Last year, we launched the Faculty Conversations program to provide the same type of ownership for teachers. Our optional, teacher-led meetings, centered around specific pedagogical topics, allow colleagues to engage in collective problem-solving and celebrate classroom successes. Hear how discussions have led to significant rethinking of the ways to grade, assign homework, plan experiential learning, and conduct projects. How can you

reimagine professional development and consider the rich resources available to you in your own colleagues?

Speakers: Rebecca Wise, English Teacher & Director of International Student Services, Dr. Anne Mueller, French Teacher and Steve McCarty, English & Economics Teacher, Foxcroft School

Engage 209

Room: Conrad Room

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

Personalized Learning Experiences within the Learning Environment

Interest in personalized learning is rising as students face increasing pressure to develop the skills they need to succeed in school, work and life. But personalized learning is more than using technology to tailor work for individual student's it must involve a customized, holistic mix of activities that provide students with rich and meaningful educational experiences. Strategically designing classrooms to support the successful implementation of personalized learning experiences is key to helping students achieve their objective's and thrive in the future. Join us as we discuss and actively imagine how your learning environments can support your Personalized Learning goals.

Speakers: Lizzie Scott, Regional Education Manager, Steelcase and Christina Rogers, Creative

LUNCH

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

Grab your box lunch in the hallway outside of Capital Ballroom meeting rooms. You are welcome to eat in any of the available meeting rooms. Meet with the sponsors too while you have the chance.

PECHA KUCHA, ROOM: Capital E-G

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Pecha Kucha (PK) is a storytelling format, where a presenter shows 20 slides for 20 seconds of commentary each (6 minutes and 40 seconds total). Watch as some of your VAIS colleagues present their PKs on areas of interest.

PK 1

This Archive Will Go Down in History: Documenting Your School's Past

Every school has a history worth sharing. Archives are a great way to communicate that story with alumni, prospective families and the broader community. In this brief session, attendees will hear from a lone librarian who is developing a school archives program from the ground up with limited funds, space and time. From digitizing to organizing, this session will touch on the key points of the process and recommendations for resources and materials.

Speaker: Mandy Augst, Head Librarian, Trinity Episcopal School

PK 2

Making Space for Failure

As adults, when we learn something new, it is a series of failures - until we get it right. Yet in an era of testing and accountability, student experiences are becoming more driven by outcomes and product and less focused on the process of trial and error required in learning, leading to a decrease in student resilience and an increase in fixed mindset. This session will ask you to evaluate where you are providing opportunities for challenge and failure in your program, and present ideas on how to make your classroom a safe space for students to fail and learn.

Speaker: Erin Coulter, Theater Director, The Hill School

PK 3

Global Concerns of Sustainability: Important Conversations in the Classroom

The genesis was the image of a bloodied straw protruding from a turtle's nostril. Suddenly, plastic straws seemed more like cylinder weapons, shot thoughtlessly into the environment with horrible consequences. Thus, was born the blueprint for a more sustainable school project. Guided by questions about consumption and sustainable solutions, this project fueled our sustainable passions and provided students an opportunity to voice their hopes and dreams for a more environmentally friendly green school for the future. They began to see the school's disposable resources such as plastics, water, horse manure, food, and energy as opportunities to recapture and reuse.

Speaker: Denise Yassine, 5th Grade American History; 6th Grade Global Perspectives; Social Studies Academic Team Lead; 5/6 Team Lead, Congressional School

PK 4

Teachers Should Have an Honorary Degree in Psychology

When confronted by social and emotional situations presented by students, how do we prepare and be ready to respond to these challenges and support our students in the best way possible? Are we responding with best practice or gut feelings and intuition? When we realize that some of our children are having significant challenges, how do we take a holistic approach to caring for their needs? What support do teachers need? Find the answers to these questions!

Speaker: Erin Lee, Faculty, Lower School, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

PK 5

How My Grandmother Inspired Empathy in 8th Grade Boys

Inspired by my grandmother's practice of making food to take to people having a hard time, my class of 8th grade French boys have been making French meals for people we know who are suffering in some way. These small acts of kindness have taught my boys to look beyond

themselves and to help others in need, all while learning about French food and culture. How can you inspire your students to do the same?

Speaker: Carey Pohanka, Upper School Academic Technologist, JK- 12 BUILD Coordinator, 8th Grade French Teacher, St Christopher's School

ENGAGE III BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:45 PM – 2:30 PM

Engage 301

Room: Capital E-G

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

Discussing Difficult Issues Gracefully

In today's politically contentious world, teachers need strong communication skills to engage in conversation about difficult issues without losing their professionalism. Their students also need to learn these important communication skills. This session will give teachers communication tools and on-the-spot experiential practice in discussing difficult issues. Teachers can carry these tools back to their classrooms to share with students and to use with colleagues and parents. The session will offer teachers ways to stay calm in the face of conflict, strategies for teaching important social/emotional skills, and support for teaching an increasingly diverse student body.

Speakers: Mary Riser, Education Advisor, and Marlene Ginsberg, Vice President/Development, Legacy International

Engage 302

Room: Capital A

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

Beyond the Traditional Classroom

How can a teacher support "student-initiated" learning environments for play, creative exploration, decision-making, observation, and making mistakes? Here's the ticket! Beyond the traditional classroom in after school offerings, a community garden program, summer camps, and community outreach programs, that's how! Hear how one teacher fosters the natural curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and the world around them. Learn how you can apply this in your school.

Speaker: Kerry Mills, Director of Beyond the Classroom and A Sabot Summer, Sabot at Stony Point

Engage 303

Room: Capital B

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

Classroom Teachers Giving Technology MERIT

Learn how a team of passionate "techy" teachers work together to form the MERIT team and integrate technology into the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School curriculum and community. The team provides PD, utilizes Learning Management Systems effectively, mentors new or reluctant faculty members, and more. Hear why we were established, the milestones we have surpassed,

and how we became an integral part of our school. Become empowered to create an interdisciplinary team of your own!

Speakers: Rebecca Lee, Middle School English Teacher & MERIT Team Member and Alicia Blowers, Middle School Librarian, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School

Engage 304

Room: Capital C

Suggested Grade Level: Lower School

Schedules and Spaces: Creating a Student-Centered Learning Experience

What factors drive your school's scheduling decisions? What do teachers take into account when arranging their classrooms? In recent years, many schools have moved away from traditional learning schedules and spaces, but what drives those changes? Learn about what children need at each stage of development and how to consider those factors for your own daily schedules and learning spaces. See what one school has done to create a student-centered learning environment that promotes independence and student ownership.

Speaker: Jennifer Street, Head of Lower School, Alexandria Country Day School

Engage 305

Room: Capital D

Suggested Grade Level: Upper School

The Space to Broaden Perspective: Simulations and the “Other”

Delve into the process and benefits of creating and implementing simulations in the classroom. Take a look at a simple one-day simulation to a more complex multi-scenario, multi-day simulation. Explore how taking on the mantle of differing actors in international (or national) scenarios can broaden a student’s ability to see other “truths”, employ strategy, leverage position, and form coalitions to further perceived interests. Also, discuss the importance of incorporating some type of reflection to get the most out the classroom experience.

Speaker: Kristoff Kohlhagen, Upper School Social Sciences Teacher, Flint Hill High School

Engage 306

Room: Henrico A

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

Empty Cup to Full Cup

Our intentions are clear and commendable: empower students, support colleagues, live the mission of our school, be a dependable colleague. What gets in the way are compounding deadlines, expectations, personal and professional commitments, endless to-do lists and running the gauntlet of the academic year. We want to pour from a cup full of energy, compassion, joy, and purpose; yet, our cup is often empty. Come converse and learn 3 strategies to shift from empty to full without strengthening your caffeine habit!

Speaker: Nicole Weyer, Founder, Root to Rise Coaching

Engage 307

Room: Henrico B

Suggested Grade Level: All Grades

The Beautiful Chaos of Project-Based Teaching and Learning – Deepen the Understanding

No matter the age, our students are creative and imaginative. In a traditional classroom environment, those gifts are left untapped. On the other hand, lessons that only scratch the surface with arts and crafts projects, squander opportunities for deep learning. See how to love

the creative hum of project-based learning, guided by well-selected questions, visible learning targets, and teacher-as-facilitator feedback. Learn how to make space to ensure that your students not only enjoy the opportunity to collaborate, communicate, and create, but they will also think critically about the content and deepen their understanding of its connection to themselves and the world.

Speaker: Denise Yassine, 5th Grade American History; 6th Grade Global Perspectives; Social Studies Academic Team Lead; 5/6 Team Lead, Congressional School

Engage 308

Room: Short Pump

VAIS Business Meeting for Heads and Trustees

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION FOR ALL

Room: Capital E-G

Fewer Things, Better: How to Teach with Intentionality

Do you feel like you're always working and yet you're never done (and are never doing enough)? In this keynote session, Angela shares simple mindset shifts that will empower you to give yourself permission to do fewer things, better. Learn 4 questions to ask yourself when deciding what to add, streamline, or eliminate to create more space in your day for innovative teaching strategies. Discover actionable ideas for analyzing and letting go of practices that aren't the best and highest use of your time. You'll walk away from the session knowing how to set clear, realistic goals so you can conquer overwhelm and focus on the right priorities for YOU.

Speaker: Angela Watson, Master Teacher, Author, and Founder of the Cornerstone for Teachers

3:45 PM

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

Must be Present to Win

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Monday, November 9**