

Literacy & Learning Conference Presentations 2024

Titles & Descriptions

Maria Walther – Keynote: Peace, Joy, and BOOKS!

Together, we'll take a peek into primary, intermediate, and middle-school classrooms to discover intentional ways to foster literate citizenship. Then, I'll share ten different techniques to promote books along with the joy and power of reading. Leave this session with practical ideas to engage even your most vulnerable readers.

Maria Walther – Read Alouds: Building Knowledge and Boosting Comprehension

Do you enjoy reading aloud? Great news! Current research gives this high-leverage practice its stamp of approval. Join Maria to discover practical ideas for ramping up your interactive read alouds to increase learners' listening comprehension and build their knowledge about a wide variety of topics. Leave with a long list of picture books that will enrich and extend your literacy instruction.

Amy Davis – Picture books and strategies to develop visualization skills in young learners and reluctant readers

Visualization is the cognitive process in which images are retrieved from memory without retinal input and based on readers' perception and experiences. Skilled readers create images while reading while others may struggle. The purpose of this presentation is to introduce practitioners to five picture books that lend themselves to teaching visualization. Each book is paired with a specific instructional strategy to introduce the skill, grades kindergarten to third grade, or to use with struggling readers or EL students.

Dr. David Purpura (Purdue) – Reading Between the Numbers: Using Dialogic Reading Techniques to Enhance Children's Early Math Skills.

In this session, Dr. Purpura will lay a foundation of what early math skills are (including how highly language-based they are), how to incorporate them into picture book reading, and how to enhance the reading experience through dialogic reading. Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite children's book to use as part of one of the activities.

Youjin Yang (EIU) – Integrating social-emotional development and literacy. Social-emotional development in early childhood developmental stage is very important. Social-emotional wellness in early childhood will influence school success and social relationships in adulthood. In this session, we'll explore engaging and interactive activities that integrate literacy to promote social-emotional development.

Alexis Jones – Self-Care: Beyond the Superficial

Teachers are working and living in difficult times. There has never been a better time to consider strategies for systemic and personal well-being. But prioritizing self-care can be difficult, especially for the busy new teacher. In this session, we will discuss how self-care goes beyond the bubble bath and yoga mat (though those are good, too!) and includes setting boundaries, self-compassion, and making conscious choices for one's mental and physical well-being.

Denise Reid – Awesome Science Trade Books!

Integrating literacy and science through inquiry allows children to develop a deeper understanding of science knowledge. Science trade books use captivating pictures and present science content in unique and informative presentations. During this session you will be introduced to science trade books and activities to enrich your science instruction, and integrate literacy and science. Resources for using trade books will be shared.