

# elevAte

ST. PAUL, MN 2025

FEAT.  
MR.  
GREG



GERRY  
BROOKS



JACK  
HARTMANN!



AND  
MANY  
MORE!

INTERCONTINENTAL  
SAINT PAUL  
RIVERFRONT

JUN 29-JUL 1

# WHO WE ARE

**ELEVATE! is the premiere professional development for primary Pre-K - 2nd grade educators. Our selection of highly accomplished national speakers are either current teachers, administrators, specialists, coaches or consultants working in schools.**



**Founded in  
Research**

**All ELEVATE conference sessions are based on research and/or evidence-based content and practices, and guaranteed to be presented in a way that engages attendees in hands-on activities and models instructional best-practices.**



**Next Day  
Implementation**

**Every session you attend will provide you with lesson ideas and activity resources that you can take back to your classroom and use immediately!**



**Vetted  
Speakers**

**At ELEVATE, we set the bar high! All presenters are required to support their presentation content with current research, model best-practice instructional methods, incorporate active-engagement strategies within their sessions, and provide complementary lesson plans/activities for attendees to take back and use immediately in their classrooms.**

# Topics Covered at ELEVATE! ST. PAUL



**Science of Reading**



**Data Driven Instruction**



**School Culture**



**English Language Arts**



**Fine Motor**



**School Leadership**



**Math**



**Classroom Management**



**Play Based Learning**



**The Arts**



**STEAM**



**Writing**



**Science**



**Social Emotional Learning**



**Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Accessibility**



**ESL**

# Featuring...



Keynote by

**Mr.  
Greg**



Keynote by

**Gerry  
Brooks**

# Featuring...

Performance by

**Jack  
Hartmann**



Special Evening  
Social Event

**Feat. DJ  
Dustin**

More info  
coming soon!



# JOIN US IN ST. PAUL, MN!



## LOCATION & HOTEL

**InterContinental Saint Paul  
Riverfront**

11 E Kellogg Blvd  
St Paul, MN 55101

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**We have discounted room rates!  
Limited rooms available so be  
sure to book your room as soon  
as possible.**

[SPECIAL RATE  
HOTEL LINK](#)

Ticket		Price
Early Bird General Admission	Tickets available until Nov. 15th or when we sell out - whichever comes first.	\$325
Discounted General Admission	Limited Tickets Available	\$400
General Admission	Until Sold Out	\$500

Available Now!

**DID YOU KNOW...**  
**WE ACCEPT  
PURCHASE  
ORDERS!**



**TO PAY BY P.O.**

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**IMPORTANT INFO**

- Complete THIS online form in it's entirety. (To be completed by 1 person for the entire PO)
- Upload your actual PO using the link provided on the form. If you do not have your PO yet, STOP and get it completed.
- After you have submitted your PO using our form. We'll email an invoice to you within 72 hours. Payment is due within 30 days. (no exceptions to this due date)

**SUBMITTING THIS REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION IS NOT GUARANTEE OF REGISTRATION. REGISTRATION IS ONLY CONFIRMED UPON ACTUAL PAYMENT OF THE INVOICE.**

**QUESTIONS, EMAIL US AT**  
**CONTACT@ELEVATEYOURCLASSROOM.COM**

**DOWNLOAD OUR W9 - CLICK HERE**

# WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND ELEVATE

- Join a growing community of over 100k primary educators who follow Elevate Your Classroom and co-founder Mr. Greg Smedley-Warren.
- Learn from award-winning and nationally recognized classroom educators and educational leaders who remain practitioners in schools across the country.
- Participate in conference sessions founded in research and created with the teacher in mind.
- Enjoy keynotes and inspiration from nationally renowned educators like Mr. Greg, Gerry Brooks, and Jack Hartmann.
- Specific administrator sessions so school and district leaders can support the work you are doing.
- Network and stay connected with fellow primary educators and leaders as you experience a world-class conference that will provide immediate takeaways for your classroom.





# WHAT YOU GET AT ELEVATE!



Over two days of lively and enriching sessions across content areas



Certificate for 12 Contact Hours of Professional Development.



An Elevate Your Classroom t-shirt



Swag bags that include a clipfolio, a beautiful teacher tote bag, and freebies from our sponsors



A giant vendor hall for you to learn about the latest products and services for your classroom and personal well-being



Time to meet and chat with presenters and Discounts for future in-person and virtual Elevate! events



England 20



Phoenix 2024



Nashville 2024



d



Las 2024



Nashville 2024

# ON THE MAIN STAGE

## #HappyClassrooms



By Greg Smedley-Warren | Keynote

An inspirational message about the lessons our students teach us each day in the classroom. In this uplifting message, Mr. Greg will share stories from his classroom and the lessons he has learned and how they can be implemented in other classrooms. The #happyclassrooms is a way for teachers around the world to share positive experiences from their own classrooms. Mr. Greg will describe in detail the mission of this hashtag and how it relates to your teacher's attitudes toward education and their classroom.

### About Greg

Meet Greg Smedley-Warren, affectionately known as "Mr. Greg," an experienced, current kindergarten educator and the creative mind behind The Kindergarten Smorgasboard. With an impressive 19-year teaching journey, Greg's expertise spans various grade levels, including a brief stint in fifth grade and two years in second grade. However, it was a reluctant transition to kindergarten that unveiled his true passion and calling.

Never wanting to teach kindergarteners, Greg's journey took a turn when he discovered an instant connection on the very first day of kindergarten. From that moment on, he knew kindergarten was his calling. Beyond the classroom, Greg is a family man, cherishing moments with his loved ones in Nashville, Tennessee. Alongside his husband Jason, fondly referred to as "The Mister," Greg shares his home with their daughter, Adelynn, and their dog, Dolly.

Recognized as the 2014 Teacher of the Year, Greg's influence extends far beyond his classroom walls, as an international speaker, presenter, and co-founder of the ELEVATE! conference for teachers. A passionate curriculum developer, Greg's dedication to educational excellence shines through in all his endeavors, driven by his unwavering commitment to empowering both students and fellow educators alike.

# St. Paul Keynote

## Personal Climate and Culture. The Choice is Yours.



By Gerry Brooks | Keynote

Gerry will inspire you and make you laugh, as he shares advice and practical ideas that will help you focus on personal and school climate and culture. He will challenge you to be the best you can be in all aspects of your personal and professional life, and how that will allow you to support your students, their parents, and your coworkers in the best way possible.

### About Gerry

Gerry Brooks is a veteran educator in Lexington, Kentucky. His educational experience includes six years in the classroom, two years as an intervention specialist, and 12 years as an administrator.

He is a passionate public speaker whose focus is on encouraging and helping teachers improve their instructional abilities. He also has a desire to help administrators successfully lead their staff.

An encouraging speaker, he has spoken to educational groups all around the nation. His focus is on encouraging teachers to improve their instruction through personal climate and culture strategies. He desires to help administrators focus on how to lead all staff in a positive and constructive manner.

## Dance Party w/ Jack Hartmann



### With Jack Hartmann | Entertainment

Let Music Make Learning Fun! Jack sings live and demonstrates fun and creative movements to a wide variety of early childhood topics including: language development and phonological awareness skills, basic math with counting and number skills, spatial awareness, patterning and more. And, fun skill-building songs on social and behavioral management are also included. This presentation is very uplifting and interactive and offers a great variety of Jack's best songs.

### About Jack

Jack Hartmann's Super Fun Learning Songs are all about making learning even more fun with the very best in children's educational music. Jack's music is research-based and teacher approved to focus on helping children learn important state, national and early childhood standards. All of Jack's songs and videos engage children with not only great educational content, but with cool beats kids love and fun movements.

Jack Hartmann received his BA in Child Psychology from the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL and his MA degree in Clinical Psychology from Assumption College in Worcester, MA.

Jack began his career of working with autistic children at Shands Teaching Hospital in Gainesville, Florida and then he worked as a social worker with delinquent youth in St. Petersburg, Florida and in psychiatry at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jack has presented his wonderful children's music at teacher workshops and conferences in almost every state in the United States. He has been a keynote and workshop leader at the annual NAEYC and the National Head Start conferences, S.D.E. conferences all across the country and many local and state pre-school, kindergarten and 1st Grade conferences.



Phoenix 2024



Nashville 2024



Phoenix 2024

# IN OUR BREAKOUT ROOMS



Dallas 2024



New England 2023



Nashville 2024

# St. Paul Presenters



## Mary Amoson

Mary is an enthusiastic and passionate current Kindergarten teacher from Georgia with 19 years of experience. She holds a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education and an Educational Specialist Degree in Instructional Technology. Recently, Mary earned an endorsement in Dyslexia. In addition to teaching full-time, Mary finds joy presenting to educators across the country for more than 15 years. She loves sharing engaging ideas, hands-on activities, and rigorous content that has worked with her own kindergartners through her website, Sharing Kindergarten. Mary is committed to instilling passion in teachers because she believes that passion is truly the secret to increasing learning and achievement.

### **Mary's sessions:**

**Session 1 - SOAR with HFW (Sight) Words**

**Session 2 - Integrating Science and Social Studies**

**Session 3 - Games Galore!**



## Keri Brown

Keri is a K-2 interventionist, national speaker, author and curriculum creator from Alabama. With over 17 years in education, she previously taught both kindergarten and 1st grade. She's all about mixing hands-on activities with research based ideas. Thriving to be a lifelong learner, she is always on the lookout for fresh ways to engage her students and help fellow educators. She shares her teaching ideas and what she's learned along the way through her platform, Enchanted Kinder Garden.

### **Keri's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Time to Simplify Your Reading Centers**

**Session 2 - Cracking the Code to Math Centers**

**Session 3 - Let's Write! 7 Big Ideas with a BIG Writing Impact**



## Jake Daggett

Jake is an Ohio native who began his teaching career in Milwaukee, WI in 2015. Having specialized in literacy instruction, Jake built a following on social media for his engaging and rhythmic phonics lessons and evidence-based structured literacy lessons, even landing him on The Kelly Clarkson Show in January 2024. Throughout his career, Jake has taught PreK, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades, and has recently stepped into the role of Foundational Literacy Director for a choice school in Milwaukee, WI. In addition, Jake co-teaches an online Science of Reading Course for Elevate Your Classroom. In his spare time, Jake presents nationally for conferences such as Unlocking SOR, IL ASCD, and Plain Talk. He is thrilled to be returning for year 3 of Elevate!

### **Jake's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Dictation: Reimagining Spelling Instruction**

**Session 2 - Differentiating a Phonics Block for Below, Above, and Multilingual Learners**

**Session 3 - Management Moves: Multi-Sensory Strategies for 100% Engagement**

# St. Paul Presenters



## Edward DeShazer

Edward has been in education for 18 years. He is currently the Executive Director of Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy (GHTCA.) GHTCA is a private K-8 school in Milwaukee, WI. Under his leadership, GHTCA went from a one-star school ranking to a four-star school in six years. In 2021, he was nominated by BizTimes as the Notable Minority Executive in Wisconsin. In 2023, he was nominated as a Notable BIPOC Executive in Wisconsin.

### Edward's sessions:

**Session 1 - Building Bridges**

**Session 2 - From Compliance to Community: 5 Keys to a Thriving School Culture**



## Dr. Adam Dovico

Adam Dovico is an accomplished teacher, curriculum facilitator, principal, professor, speaker, and author. For the past two decades, he has taught students of all ages through his engaging and rigorous teaching style. He has also provided professional development for educators from around the world through his keynotes, workshops, and books. You can often find Adam standing on a table or chair dressed in one of his signature outrageous and amusing suits. He has been recognized by organizations such as the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund, Learning for Justice, and the Atlanta Falcons for his leadership and teaching, and he continues to work for greater equity in schools through his antiracist and culturally responsive pedagogy. You can learn more about Adam's teaching and leadership online at [adamdovico.com](http://adamdovico.com), on social media @adamdovico, or in his books: Inside the Trenches, The Limitless School, and When Kids Lead.

### Adam's sessions:

**Conflict, Crucial Conversations, and Creative Solutions**



# St. Paul Presenters



## Holly Ehle

Holly is a full-time educator who has over 20 years of experience teaching kindergarten and serving as an early literacy specialist. She currently has the very unique opportunity of teaching both beginning readers AND pre-service teachers in her new position as a Professor of Reading Science, teaching both in the college classroom and in the university's science of reading pre-k - 4th grade model school program. Holly is passionate about student engagement, differentiated instruction, early literacy, and educational neuroscience. She is currently wrapping up her Ph.D. in Reading, Language, & Literacy with a specialization in Educational Neuroscience and loves helping teachers better understand exactly how the brain learns when beginning to read and write. Professionally, her mission is to teach EVERY child to be a proficient reader and writer, including those with dyslexia and/or other learning challenges. Outside of the classroom, her mission is to help teachers bridge the gap between research and practice in fun and engaging ways. Holly is also dedicated to giving back to educators who work so hard in the classroom, and it was this shared passion that forged her connection with the Kindergarten Smorgasboard/ELEVATE team.

### **Holly's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Reading Block Revolution**

**Session 2 - Write From the Start: Guiding our Littlest Learners Through the Writing Process (in a developmentally appropriate AND science-aligned way!)**



## Kim Jordano

Kimberly Jordano brings over 35 years of teaching experience to her kindergarten classroom in the Los Alamitos School District in California. As a master teacher and language arts mentor, she holds a master's degree in English as a Second Language (ESL). In addition to her full-time role as a kindergarten teacher, Kimberly is a national presenter and content creator, sharing her insights and ideas daily on Instagram and her Facebook page, Kinderbykim. Her goal is to keep the JOY in kindergarten experience while teaching the standards in a meaningful, child-centered way. You can find all of her creative teacher resource materials at [teacherspayteachers.com/kinderbykim](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/kinderbykim) and on Hey, Teach! at [schoolgirlstyle.com](https://www.schoolgirlstyle.com)

### **Kim's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Let's Streamline Your Literacy Centers!**

**Session 2 - Retelling Strategies that Stick!**

# St. Paul Presenters



## Katie Knight

Katie Knight teaches 1st grade and loves to share her hacks, plans and ideas! Katie welcomes you in, gets real, has you laughing, and helps you feeling energized and equipped to take action! Katie speaks nationally at conferences, and you can find her on social media, Teachers Pay Teachers and her blog, under Teacher To The Core!

### **Katie's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Katie Knight and the 7 tips to 🎵 Wiggle While You Work! 🎵**

**Session 2 - Recess Referee**

**Session 3 - Data Bros**



## Carlanda Miller

Carlanda Miller, also known as The Magical Teacher, is a distinguished educator with 13 years of experience across various grade levels and leadership roles. She leads nationwide Professional Development and delivers inspiring keynotes to students and educators. Carlanda's innovative teaching methods have earned her recognition, including being named FUSD's Elementary Teacher of the Year for the 2017-18 school year, California's 2018 Celebrity Educator of the Year, finalist for FUSD's Excellence in Education for 2021-22, and honored as one of Walt Disney World's 50 Most Innovative Educators. Carlanda is also a children's book author and a LEGO Education Ambassador, championing learning through play and inspiring creativity and critical thinking in students.

### **Carlanda's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Building a Strong Foundation: Classroom Management with Routines & Procedures**

**Session 2 - Adventure on the Story Mat: A Problem-Solving Journey!**

**Session 3 - Learning Through Play: From Observation to Instructional Impact**

# St. Paul Presenters



## Ashley Moore

Ashley Moore is a Principal of an Elementary / Middle School in Maryland. Her leadership journey began with her teaching career in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, covering grades 3 through 12 serving as a General and Special Education teacher. After serving as a teacher, Moore entered the administrative realm as an Assistant Principal. Her experiences include general, special education, and specialized programming. As an administrator, she has implemented school-wide programs such as Accelerated Learning, Gifted and Talented, Arts Integration, and STEM. Moore's diverse experiences have also led to her national certification as a Principal mentor. Committed to her personal mission of "doing what's best for kids" and the belief that "all students can learn and achieve," she looks forward to utilizing her skills to assist others with their leadership journey.

### **Ashley's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Taking a "Coach Approach" to School Leadership**

**Session 2 - The Retention Revolution: How to Keep Your Team Vibing & Thriving**



## Crystal Oswald

Crystal Oswald is a district service coach in the North Shore of Chicago. She works with a variety of schools as an instructional coach with an emphasis on Social Emotional Learning and literacy. Prior to this position, she was an SEL Curriculum and Instruction Specialist for 3 years and an elementary school teacher (grades 1-5) for 14 years. In her spare time, you can find her hanging out with family and friends, reading, golfing, or doing home improvements.

### **Crystal's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Paving the Way with SEL: Creating a Systemic Approach**

**Session 2 - The SEL Blueprint: Cultivating a Supportive Culture for Teachers and Students**



## Alexia Pendleton

Alexia Pendleton is a Kindergarten teacher in Atlantic City, NJ, where she was named teacher of the year for the 2020-2021 school year. She is a wife, mother, hip hop choreographer, and fitness instructor. Known as the @dancerteacher on social media, she loves empowering educators with her high energy sessions. She loves to encourage, motivate, and uplift students, teachers, and administrators for absolute excellence in education!

### **Alexia's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Healing Hearts: Creating Trauma-Informed Classrooms with Joy**

**Session 2 - Stronger Together: Building Families and Communities**

**Session 3 - Developing Feeling Vocabulary in a Community Meeting**

# St. Paul Presenters



## Abigail Peterson

Abigail Peterson is a current Instructional Coach, supporting teachers within their individual K-5 classrooms. She is a K-8 Nevada licensed teacher, national speaker and creator of the educational brand, Kindergarten Chaos, LLC. After teaching Second Grade, she had the opportunity to teach Kindergarten and immediately fell in love with it. She lives in Las Vegas, NV with her husband and is looking forward to a brand-new, grandbaby this year!

### **Abigail's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Anchoring Learning with Anchor Charts**

**Session 2 - Teaching on a Dollar Budget: Shopping Dollar Tree, Target Dollar Spot, & Others**

**Session 3 - Differentiating for Little Learners with Small Group Instruction**



## Jackie Powell

Jackie Powell is a K-5 Reading Interventionist in Middle Tennessee. She has over 20 years experience in grades K-3. She has a passion for working with students and helping them become their best. She is passionate about creating positive classroom and school culture. You can reach her at [mcpowellso44@gmail.com](mailto:mcpowellso44@gmail.com) or on Twitter and Instagram @MsPowellsOwis.

### **Jackie's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Games, Games, Games: Engaging Students Through Intentional Games**



## Whitney Ramirez

Whitney Ramirez is a first and second grade teacher in San Diego, CA. Currently in her twelfth year of teaching, Whitney has taught five different grade levels, experienced a variety of school cultures, and worked with many unique teaching personalities. She loves public speaking, and even had a moment where she made it to the third audition round at American Idol (way back in 2010!). She also has two Master's degrees, and was a DI collegiate athlete, playing lacrosse at St. Mary's College of CA. There are things that she learned on the field that have made her a better leader and teacher.

### **Whitney's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Math Outside the Curriculum**

**Session 2 - A Writing Piece in a Week**

**Session 3 - Seamless & Simple STEAM**

# St. Paul Presenters



## Mr. Greg Smedley-Warren

Meet Greg Smedley-Warren, also known as “Mr. Greg,” a seasoned kindergarten teacher and creator of The Kindergarten Smorgasboard. With 19 years of teaching experience across various grades, Greg discovered his true passion in kindergarten. Outside the classroom, Greg lives in Nashville with his husband, Jason, their daughter, Adelynn, and their dog, Dolly. A former Teacher of the Year, Greg is also an international speaker, curriculum developer, and co-founder of the ELEVATE! conference, dedicated to empowering educators everywhere.

### Mr. Greg’s sessions:

**Session 1 - Explore, Excite, Discover**

**Session 2 - Data Bros.**

**Session 3 - Teaching on a Dollar Budget: Shopping Dollar Tree, Target Dollar Spot, & Others**

**Session 4 - Energizing Your Day With Morning Meeting**



## Debrice Smith-Hill

My name is Debrice Smith-Hill, and I hail from the beautiful island of the Bahamas, currently residing in Florida. With 20 years of experience as an educator, I have taught first, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. For the past eight years, I have been a first-grade teacher, and I can confidently say that first grade is indeed the best grade ever. Presently, I work as an instructional coach for students in kindergarten through sixth grade, and I absolutely adore this position because I have the best of both worlds teaching teachers and students. Additionally, I have had the honor of being a keynote speaker and presenter at various conferences. My passion for reading and phonics runs deep, as I believe it is the essential key to unlocking a successful education. I am committed to fostering an inclusive and dynamic learning environment where every student feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential. My journey as an educator has been incredibly rewarding, and I look forward to continuing to make a positive impact in the lives of my students and fellow educator.

### Debrice’s sessions:

**Session 1 - From Letters to Words**

**Session 2 - Unlocking Math Lessons**

# St. Paul Presenters



## Hilary Statum

Hilary Statum is an ESL teacher and Reading Instructor in Middle Tennessee with over 15 years of experience at the school she attended. She has experience teaching kindergarten, first, transitional-first, second, fourth, and fifth graders! She is the published author of two books, *Solar System for Kids* and *Kindergarten Activity Book: Unicorns* and the face behind *Pencils to Pigtails*, a blog for parents and teachers. She holds a Master's Degree in Instructional Leadership and enjoys coordinating and teaching her school district's free parent English class. Her favorite days are spent with her two young girls and baby boy, husband, parents, siblings, and the rest of her very large extended family. You can connect with Hilary on all social media platforms using the handle @pencilstopigtails.

### **Hilary's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Playful Numbers: Engaging and Effective Math Games**

**Session 2 - Hilary's Literacy Lab**

**Session 3 - Learning through Play: Creating Joyful Classrooms**



## LeAnna Wolkis-Goldstein

LeAnna Wolkis Goldstein is an energetic and passionate Kindergarten Teacher from Arizona with over 25 years of teaching experience. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Arizona State University, a Master's Degree from NAU, an Early Childhood Endorsement and achieved the rigorous advanced credentials of National Board Certification. While teaching in her award-winning classroom, The "Wolkis Wonderland," she designs mini hands-on center based stations that are brought to life with novel realia. As a nationally recognized presenter, LeAnna empowers educators to create cooperative learning environments utilizing music, movement & manipulatives that foster 100% student engagement. Follow along inside LeAnna's magical experiences on Instagram: @wolkiswonderland Twitter: @WolkisWonders and her website: Wolkis Wonders

### **LeAnna's sessions:**

**Session 1 - Elevated Engagement ... Activated!**

**Session 2 - Hands-On Harmony: Blending Fine Motor Development with Sensory Exploration**

**Session 3 - Move to the Music!**

# St. Paul Sessions

At Elevate you get to create your own schedule. The following pages contain all of the breakout sessions available for you to choose from.



## SCIENCE OF READING

### Dictation: Reimagining Spelling Instruction

By Jake Daggett | [Science of Reading](#)

Are we still doing spelling tests? How does dictation work, and how often should I be doing it? What is the research behind it? Join Jake as he answers all these questions and more about the shift from memory-based spelling tests to daily dictation practice. Explore the importance of a speech to print approach, and get hands-on practice with key sound to spelling strategies for K-2 readers.

### Differentiating a Phonics Block for Below, Above, and Multilingual Learners

By Jake Daggett | [Science of Reading](#)

We've done a great job getting the word out about having a strong, interactive Tier 1 phonics block. But what about below and above level learners? What about multilingual learners? How do we analyze spelling data to make choices? Join Jake as he unpacks research from Wiley Blevins and Linnea Ehri and models differentiation in action during your daily phonics instruction.

## SOAR with HFW (Sight) Words

By **Mary Amoson** | **Science of Reading**

Replenish your supply of fresh, new ideas for HFW (sight) word games and activities kids LOVE to play! Let's dive into what are sight words and High-frequency words, as well as what the Science of Reading research is telling us. Learning to read words has never been so much fun! Mary sends you home with kid-tested and teacher-approved sight word games to try tomorrow. This session includes a digital make-and-take download. THIS SESSION IS A TEACHER'S FAVORITE.





# St. Paul Sessions



ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
ARTS

## Reading Block Revolution

By Holly Ehle | [ELA](#)

Unleash the full potential of your reading instruction with "Reading Block Revolution"! This dynamic professional development session is designed for educators who are well-versed in science-of-reading aligned practices but are ready to break free from the constraints of scripted and routine programs. Discover how to revolutionize your reading block with engaging activities, innovative tech tools, games, and hands-on experiences that will captivate your students and make learning to read an adventure. In this session, you'll learn how to maintain the integrity of evidence-based reading instruction while infusing your lessons with creativity and excitement. Whether you're looking to energize your daily routines, introduce new digital resources, or incorporate interactive, multisensory activities, "Reading Block Revolution" will equip you with practical strategies to transform your classroom into a vibrant hub of literacy learning. Join us and take your reading instruction to the next level, where every student is motivated, engaged, and eager to read!



# St. Paul Sessions

A circular portrait of Kim Jordano, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a pink sweater, smiling and pointing towards the camera.

## Let's Streamline Your Literacy Centers

By Kim Jordano | ELA

Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed trying to keep your Kindergarteners engaged without constantly running to their assistance? Kimberly will show you how she sets up her classroom for her literacy centers. Everything from organizational tips, and easy to prep hands on activities that promote confidence and independence with your little learners. Kimberly will share lots of easy to implement activities for letters, sounds and sight words that will reinforce the skills you have taught. All these activities are child tested to be engaging and standards based! Most importantly they will enable you to pull children for small group instruction!

A circular portrait of Kim Jordano, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a pink sweater, smiling and pointing towards the camera.

## Retelling Strategies that Stick!

By Kim Jordano | ELA

Did you know re-telling is a great comprehension strategy? During this session you will learn some creative ways to implement in your classroom. Kim introduces strategies to get your kindergartners sequencing and re-telling and presenting popular fairy tales, old-time favorite books, and new popular stories. Engage your children through hands-on techniques that are creative, inspiring, and lots of fun too!

A circular portrait of Jackie Powell, a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a blue denim shirt, smiling.

## Games, Games, Games: Engaging Students Through Intentional Games

By Jackie Powell | ELA

Did you know it takes 400 repetitions to build a synapse in the brain according to Dr. Karyn Purvis? However, through play, we can cut that down to 10-20 repetitions. We will explore the use of games to elevate your students' reading skills and engagement. These activities will have your students begging to come to your small group table every day!

## Time to Simplify Your Reading Centers

By Keri Brown | ELA

Dreaming of reading centers that run like a well-oiled machine? This session is your guide to creating engaging and effective reading centers. We'll break down the planning process into manageable steps, exploring creative skill-building activities and efficient organization strategies. Discover tips for teaching students how to navigate centers independently, maximizing their learning time. Leave equipped with practical tools and a fresh perspective on simplifying your reading centers and empowering your students to become independent learners!



# St. Paul Sessions



## WRITING

**Write From the Start: Guiding our Littlest Learners Through the Writing Process (in a developmentally appropriate AND science-aligned way!)**



**By Holly Ehle | Writing**

This session will transform your approach to writing instruction for primary students by replacing the traditional Writer's Workshop with a research-based method that aligns with children's cognitive and physical development. You'll explore an innovative approach that focuses on short, engaging bursts of instruction, eliminating the need for long daily writing periods. By using techniques like collaborative writing and teacher-led pen control, students can focus on key writing skills without cognitive overload. The process is broken into four steps—THINK-PLAN-WRITE-REVISE—taught in short, structured sessions across a week. Join us to learn how to implement this "Science of Writing" approach and make writing easier and more enjoyable for young learners.

**Dictation: Reimagining Spelling Instruction**



**By Jake Daggett | Writing**

Are we still doing spelling tests? How does dictation work, and how often should I be doing it? What is the research behind it? Join Jake as he answers all these questions and more about the shift from memory-based spelling tests to daily dictation practice. Explore the importance of a speech to print approach, and get hands-on practice with key sound to spelling strategies for K-2 readers.

# St. Paul Sessions



## From Letters to Words

By **Debrice Smith-Hill** | **Writing**

Join Debrice as she explores how to ignite the creativity and imagination of young writers in your classroom. This engaging workshop will provide hands-on strategies and activities that foster a love for storytelling and writing in preschool students. Learn how to create a supportive environment that builds confidence, encourages self-expression, and empowers students to discover their unique voices. Walk away with practical tools to nurture a lifelong passion for writing, helping the next generation of authors blossom into confident and expressive storytellers.



## A Writing Piece in a Week

By **Whitney Ramirez** | **Writing**

Teaching writing in the primary grades can feel overwhelming, and at times can be daunting. But the writing process does not have to be scary! In this session, you will get tips for how to run your writing block in a way that you and your students are able to complete a writing piece in a week! You will also learn strategies on how to manage writing conferences with your students. You will leave this session feeling confident and ready to write with your class!



## Let's Write! 7 Ideas with a BIG Writing Impact

By **Keri Brown** | **Writing**

Want to see your students brimming with confidence and excitement to write? This session equips you with 7 powerful yet easy-to-implement ideas that will impact their writing journey. Discover strategies to help them tackle unknown words, generate broader topics, overcome the "blank page" blues, and begin creating their own books. Leave with practical tools and inspiration to nurture a generation of independent young writers in your classroom!

# St. Paul Sessions



MATH



## Cracking the Code to Math Centers

By Keri Brown | **Math**

Cracking the Code to Math Centers – Feeling overwhelmed by managing math centers? This session is your key to unlocking a smooth-running, engaging learning environment. We'll go over a step-by-step process, from effective student assessment and grouping strategies to small group instruction and independent center activities. Gain valuable insights on teaching students center procedures and discover a playbook of ready-to-use center ideas for various math skills. Leave equipped with the knowledge and resources to transform your math centers into a place where students thrive!



## Math Outside the Curriculum

By Whitney Ramirez | **Math**

Do you dread teaching math? Are you looking to spice up your math block? Whether you're a new teacher just starting out or a veteran teacher looking for new ideas, in this session you will learn how to take math off the page and create hands on, engaging, and standards based math lessons and centers. You will also learn tips and strategies to help you plan and organize your math block like a pro!

# St. Paul Sessions



## Playful Numbers: Engaging and Effective Math Games

By Hilary Statum | Math

In this interactive session, you will learn why game-based learning helps make abstract concepts tangible and fun for early learners. Get YOUR game on with hands-on activities and demonstrations of various math games covering essential skills. You'll head back to the classroom with a checklist of game ideas, templates, and materials to implement these games immediately!



## Adventure on the Story Mat: A Problem-Solving Journey!

By Carlanda Miller | Math

Adventure awaits in the world of story mats, where learning is transformed into a thrilling quest of hands-on learning and collaboration. Don't miss out on this chance to make data collection and problem solving a fun and memorable experience for your students with Carlanda Miller. We'll explore the power of using story mats to transform ordinary data collection into an epic quest. Learn how to use these vibrant, interactive mats to engage students in real-world scenarios that promotes productive talk and the use of problem-solving skills. By the end of the session, teachers will be well-prepared to use story mats as a powerful tool to engage their students in problem-solving, and active learning, ultimately enhancing the overall educational experience and fostering a love for critical thinking and exploration while collecting data.



## Unlocking Math Lessons

By Debrice Smith-Hill | Math

Unlock the potential of your math lessons with this dynamic session designed to help you create a supportive and engaging learning environment. You'll discover how to make math meaningful through real-life examples, hands-on activities, and technology integration. Learn how to differentiate instruction to meet the diverse needs of your students, use visual aids and diagrams to enhance understanding, and practice problem-solving in ways that boost confidence.

# St. Paul Sessions



## CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

### Katie Knight and the 7 tips to 🎵 Wiggle While You Work! 🎵



#### By Katie Knight | Classroom Management

Move aside Snow White, come and spend time with Katie Knight and learn 7 tips for helping your students successfully Wiggle While They Work! Since our students are between 60–80 months old, we need ideas to inspire and engage while learning how to avoid the poison apples of a classroom gone wild!

### Recess Referee



#### By Katie Knight | Classroom Management

Student-on-Student conflicts happen both in and out of the classroom. Sometimes students come back from recess or specials, so mad at each other, that figuring out what happened feels like a full-contact sport! Helping kids resolve those conflicts and bounce back can make you feel like less like a teacher and more a Recess Referee! This session will give you tools to help kids calmly, and QUICKLY solve their conflicts, so you can get back to teaching and they can get back into a learning mindset!



# St. Paul Sessions

## Building a Strong Foundation: Classroom Management with Routines and Procedures



By **Carlanda Miller** | **Classroom Management**

Join Carlanda as your lead architect in this hands-on session on classroom management. Carlanda will share her blueprint—routines, procedures, and strategies—that have helped her construct a well-organized classroom environment, even through the most challenging projects, including the pandemic. These foundational tools will help shift the responsibility and accountability from you to your students!

This construction-themed session focuses on building and creating a strong foundation for classroom management, emphasizing the importance of planning and structure in creating a successful learning environment.



**DATA DRIVEN  
INSTRUCTION**

## Data Bros.



By **Mr. Greg & Katie Knight** | **Data**

This session will help teachers win at the game of data. Mr. Greg and Katie Knight will share classroom-tested and research-based ideas to help you get your data fast, understand reports to take instructional action, and celebrate learning growth. All ideas and resources shared will work no matter what program your school uses!

# St. Paul Sessions



## ENGAGEMENT



### Management Moves: Multi-Sensory Strategies for 100% Engagement

By **Jake Daggett** | Engagement

In this day and age, motivation, engagement, and executive functioning go hand in hand. If we want to get to academic achievement, it is crucial that we give students multiple ways to respond. In Jake's session, join the party and practice essential classroom engagement strategies for tier 1 that tap into all different modalities. Get ready to clap, stomp, repeat, and chant your way to 100% class participation during whole group lessons.



### Elevated Engagement ... Activated!

By **LeAnna Wolkis-Goldstein** | Engagement

Supercharge your classroom with dynamic engagement strategies that help sustain attention & captivate young minds. Come explore a variety of techniques that ignite curiosity, foster active participation, and create an "All Hands On Deck" type of learning environment. Perfect for educators looking for practical tools to inspire and maintain unforgettable, active learning adventures in their classrooms!

# St. Paul Sessions



**DIVERSITY, EQUITY,  
INCLUSIVITY, AND  
ACCESSIBILITY**

## Healing Hearts: Creating Trauma-Informed Classrooms with Joy

**By Alexia Pendleton | [D.E.I.A.](#)**

This session is designed to help educators support students who have experienced trauma. This session combines essential trauma-informed practices with joyful and engaging activities to create a safe and nurturing learning environment for all children. Understanding and addressing the impact of trauma is crucial for fostering resilience and emotional well-being in students. By incorporating trauma-informed approaches, educators can build classrooms where every child feels seen, heard, and supported.



# St. Paul Sessions



S.T.E.A.M.



## Seamless & Simple STEAM

By Whitney Ramirez | STEAM

Are you looking for more ways to weave STEAM into your day? In this session, you will learn tips on how to implement hands-on learning activities that allow students to plan, build and create meaningful connections to their learning. You will also learn strategies on how to connect STEAM to literacy, social studies, and math.



## Explore, Excite, Discover

By Mr. Greg Smedley-Warren | STEAM

Embark on a journey of discovery in this session, where you'll uncover simple, classroom-proven ideas, activities, and games that captivate and motivate students. From sensory learning, to math and literacy activities, games, and inspiring art projects, you'll gain a wealth of ideas and inspiration to infuse energy into your classroom.

# St. Paul Sessions



**SCIENCE &  
SOCIAL STUDIES**

## Integrating Science and Social Studies

**By Mary Amoson | S & SS**

Replenish your supply of fresh ideas and hands-on activities for making science content and social studies topics meaningful to little learners. Attend this session to see how to integrate multiple content areas into science and social studies while making learning fun for your class. STEM activities, art projects, and games will help your students learn like never before! (I can divide this into a Sci and separate SS session as well.)

## Hilary's Literacy Lab

**By Hilary Statum | S & SS**

Do you struggle to find time for science? You aren't alone! In this hands-on session, discover ways to incorporate science into your ELA instructional block. Hilary pairs each low-prep experiment with a fiction or nonfiction text. Find ways to weave in writing skills with exciting experiments. Return to the classroom with confidence in your ability to squeeze in science! (Note: We will complete SOME hands-on experiments during the session since they liked them so much this year but I'm making them as simple as possible!)

# St. Paul Sessions



## SCHOOL CULTURE



### Stronger Together: Building Families and Communities

By Alexia Pendleton | [School Culture](#)

An interactive session dedicated to fostering strong connections between schools, families, and communities. This session provides educators with practical strategies to create an inclusive, supportive, and collaborative classroom environment where everyone feels valued and engaged. In the early childhood years, building strong family and community partnerships is essential for student success. This session will explore innovative approaches to involve families in the educational process and create a sense of community that extends beyond the classroom walls.

# St. Paul Sessions



## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING



### Paving the Way with SEL: Creating a Systemic Approach

By Crystal Oswald | SEL

Join Crystal as she guides you in paving the way for Social Emotional Learning (SEL): Creating a Systemic Approach. Discover how SEL can become more than just another item on your agenda—it can be the foundation of a cohesive educational environment. This session explores strategies to integrate SEL systematically across classrooms, schools, homes, and communities, ensuring that SEL principles are embedded in everyday practices and interactions. Participants will explore essential building blocks that foster SEL competencies, promoting a nurturing environment that supports the holistic development of every child.



### Developing Feeling Vocabulary in a Community Meeting

By Alexia Pendleton | SEL

In this session, we will explore strategies to develop students' feeling vocabulary during community meetings, creating a foundation for social-emotional learning and healthy self-expression. Building a robust feeling vocabulary is essential for young children to articulate their emotions, understand their peers, and navigate social interactions. By incorporating feeling vocabulary into regular community meetings, educators can create a supportive environment where students feel heard and valued.

# St. Paul Sessions



ELL / ESL

## Explore, Excite, Discover



**By Mr. Greg Smedley-Warren | ELL/ESL**

Embark on a journey of discovery in this session, where you'll uncover simple, classroom-proven ideas, activities, and games that captivate and motivate students. From sensory learning, to math and literacy activities, games, and inspiring art projects, you'll gain a wealth of ideas and inspiration to infuse energy into your classroom.

## Differentiating a Phonics Block for Below, Above, and Multilingual Learners

**By Jake Daggett | ELL/ESL**

We've done a great job getting the word out about having a strong, interactive Tier 1 phonics block. But what about below and above level learners? What about multilingual learners? How do we analyze spelling data to make choices? Join Jake as he unpacks research from Wiley Blevins and Linnea Ehri and models differentiation in action during your daily phonics instruction.



# St. Paul Sessions



**FINE MOTOR**

## Hands-On Harmony: Blending Fine Motor Development with Sensory Exploration

**By LeAnna Wolkis-Goldstein | [Fine Motor](#)**

Joyful learning happens when discoveries and explorations are part of your daily instruction. Step into a world where little hands achieve BIG milestones through tactile play & sensory experiences. LeAnna will share enticing tools for hands to interact with while enhancing motor coordination, building brain pathways & experimenting with different textures. Let's journey together and discover how fine motor development and a kinesthetic style of learning can find a way into your daily lessons while laying a foundation for lifelong success.

# St. Paul Sessions



**PLAY BASED  
LEARNING**

## Learning Through Play: From Observation to Instructional Impact

**By Carlanda Miller | PBL**

Learning through play is a very important element in the classroom. It allows students to explore, make connects between the physical world and abstract concepts around them and demonstrate their learning. While students are learning through play teachers can collect powerful data that not only gives a snapshot of what students know but also what information needs to be taught whole class or in small groups. In this session, you will learn through play with Carlanda, practice collecting data and learn how to turn that data into teacher moves in the class.

## Learning through Play: Creating Joyful Classrooms

**By Hilary Statum | PBL**

Play-based learning is powerful and can be a game-changer in your preschool or kindergarten classroom. We'll dive into the research to see how play helps young children learn, from boosting creativity to building social skills. You'll experience fun, hands-on activities and get practical ideas for bringing playful learning into your daily routine. Hilary will share tips for implementing purposeful play and how to encourage students as they discover and explore new concepts. Return to your classroom with new games, strategies, and insights to make learning fun for you AND your students!

# St. Paul Sessions



THE ARTS

## Move to the Music!

By **LeAnna Wolkis-Goldstein** | **The Arts**

This captivating session provides the motivation you need to Revolutionize your classroom into a lively, dynamic space where music and movement are an effective method in focusing student's attention and building memory. Discover how brain breaks, movement minutes, motions & gestures can help with establishing smooth classroom routines, procedures and transitions resulting in reduced downtime, enhanced learning & motivated students!

# St. Paul Sessions



**CROSS  
CURRICULAR**

## Anchoring Learning with Anchor Charts



**By Abigail Peterson | [Cross Curricular](#)**

Find out what anchor charts are and why you should create and use them. Abigail explains how to turn anchor charts into a powerful tool in your classroom and gives you a plethora of ideas for making charts to teach skills and concepts to your Little Learners!

## Teaching on a Dollar Budget: Shopping Dollar Tree, Target Dollar Spot, & Others



**By Mr. Greg and Abbie | [Cross Curricular](#)**

Join Mr. Greg for an exciting, budget-friendly session packed with hands-on teaching ideas and activities that you can easily incorporate into your classroom! In this session, you'll discover creative and engaging ways to use affordable items from stores like Dollar Tree, Target Dollar Spot, and other discount retailers to enhance student learning without breaking the bank. Mr. Greg will share a wide range of tips, tricks, and innovative ideas for creating fun, interactive lessons that capture students' attention and boost engagement. Whether you're a seasoned educator or new to the classroom, you'll walk away with fresh ideas and ready-to-use resources that will inspire your students while keeping your budget in check!

# St. Paul Sessions



## Energizing Your Day With Morning Meeting

By Greg Smedley-Warren | Cross Curricular

I'll show you how 10-20 minutes each morning can change the dynamics of your classroom and make it more like a family. You'll learn the components of morning meetings as well as ideas for greetings, activities & morning messages to use in your classroom starting tomorrow!



## Differentiating for Little Learners with Small Group Instruction

By Abigail Peterson | Cross Curricular

Differentiate your instruction in small groups for Little Learners—without losing your mind! Get ready to firm up your basic understanding of differentiated instruction and adopt a simple lesson framework that will work for all your learners. Abigail also shows you how to use data to drive that instruction and then remediate and extend at your small group table



## Games Galore!

By Mary Amoson | Cross Curricular

Need some fresh, new ideas for games and activities kids LOVE to play and that teach the standards? Don't miss this session! It's loaded with kid-tested and approved games and quick assessment techniques. Learning, practicing, and extending the content in math and ELA will actually be FUN!

**We are excited to introduce:**



**Featuring CHOICE LEADERSHIP  
With Adam Dovico**

As a school leader, you have thousands of choices you make each day. From personnel decisions (who's going to cover that teacherless classroom today?) to small things that matter a lot to people (how quickly can we get the copy machine fixed?), you must consider multiple perspectives and consequences with every choice you make. CHOICE Leadership is all about just that, making decisions around key leadership competencies such as culture, human resources, operations, instruction, coaching, and equity. Join fellow school leaders as we examine, discuss, and construct approaches to tackle real-life scenarios we face in school each day.





**School, district, and aspiring leaders,** come join Dr. Adam Dovico and other renowned school leaders for special leadership sessions at Elevate! Austin. Leaders will come together to work through real-life scenarios that you face each day. We will work collaboratively to find multiple solutions and perspectives that will strengthen your leadership and prepare you for new challenges ahead. You will realize that making informed and brave choices is what leadership is all about!

# Austin Sessions



**SCHOOL  
LEADERSHIP**

## Conflict, Crucial Conversations, and Creative Solutions



**By Adam Dovico | School Leadership**

Get ready to dive into the art of conflict, where even the toughest conversations can turn into opportunities for growth! In this interactive session, you'll discover how to handle those tricky talks with staff, parents, and students like a pro—without losing your cool. We'll sprinkle in some creative solutions to help you solve problems before they become full-blown dramas. By the end, you'll be armed with the confidence and tools to tackle tough situations that come your way!

## Building Bridges



**By Edward DeShazer | School Leadership**

"Building Bridges" is a transformative session dedicated to nurturing and strengthening the relationships within your school's staff. While the focus is often on how educators can connect with students, the bonds between teachers and school leadership are equally vital.



# Austin Sessions



## From Compliance to Community: 5 Keys to a Thriving School Culture

By **Edward DeShazer** | **School Leadership**

Discover how to transform your school from a rigid, factory-like environment to a vibrant community where everyone thrives. In this session, you'll learn five actionable strategies to create a culture of connection, support, and personalized growth for both staff and students.



## Taking a “Coach Approach” to School Leadership

By **Ashley Moore** | **School Leadership**

As the Chief Instructional Leader in your school, teacher development is a key factor that directly impacts student achievement. In this session, we will explore the four types of feedback and the leadership behaviors necessary to provide impactful coaching and feedback to your team. This interactive workshop will show you how to give tailored feedback with confidence, turning everyday moments into powerful coaching opportunities! Join Principal Mo as we learn to give game-changing feedback and unlock the secrets to sparking a growth mindset in your teachers. You'll leave with a toolkit of impactful strategies to boost teacher performance, create a culture of excellence, and make coaching a fun, energizing part of your leadership style!

# Austin Sessions

A circular portrait of Ashley Moore, a woman with long, dark, braided hair, wearing glasses and a dark blazer over a black top. She is smiling and looking towards the camera.

## From Compliance to Community: The Retention Revolution: How to Keep Your Team Vibing & Thriving

By **Ashley Moore** | **School Leadership**

In the midst of a teacher shortage, how do you keep your school team intact? How do you get your team to STAY? Retaining staff is a key priority in maintaining the talent in your school to ultimately impact student achievement. Discover the secrets to keeping your top talent in this engaging session, "The Retention Revolution: How to Keep Your Team Vibing & Thriving." Join Principal Mo as we explore practical strategies to boost teacher satisfaction, prevent turnover, and create a culture that keeps your team motivated and committed. In this session, you'll learn how to spot retention risks and build strong connections within your team. Uncover the key drivers of employee loyalty and walk away with actionable tactics to improve retention immediately. Don't miss this chance to revolutionize how to keep your team vibing and thriving!

A circular portrait of Crystal Oswald, a woman with long, dark hair, wearing a dark, textured sweater. She is smiling and looking towards the camera.

## The SEL Blueprint: Cultivating a Supportive Culture for Teachers and Students

By **Crystal Oswald** | **School Leadership**

Want to elevate a school culture where emotions are as important as equations? Discover how to assess your current SEL framework and build a vision that prioritizes the well-being of both educators and students. You'll learn to assess your school's current SEL framework and envision a desired state that prioritizes the well-being of both educators and students, using CASEL's 10 Schoolwide SEL Indicators as a foundation. Through practical strategies and collaborative discussions, you'll dive into the 10 key indicators, which will guide you in creating a school culture that fosters meaningful connections, enhances engagement, and promotes well-being. Leave with a clear roadmap and actionable steps to transform your SEL practices, inspiring lasting, positive change for your entire community.

# Research Citations

**All ELEVATE conference sessions are based on research. It is one of our requirements to be a speaker for ELEVATE.**

**Below are some of the sources from research that our speakers are using within their classrooms for best instructional practices, and to build their Professional Development sessions for ELEVATE!**

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