

Sioux Falls Breakout Sessions

Session 1: Wednesday, June 5th - 2:00-2:50 p.m.

Session Name	Room	Grade Level	Presenter	Session Description
<i>"MagicSchool.AI: Transforming Education with Artificial Intelligence" (repeated at 3:00 session)</i>	Ballroom A	PK-12	Belinda Miller	<i>In this presentation, we will introduce MagicSchool.AI, an interactive and immersive educational platform that utilizes artificial intelligence to revolutionize teaching and learning. We will explore the key features and benefits of MagicSchool.AI, demonstrating how it can enhance student engagement, personalize learning, and provide valuable insights for educators.</i>
<i>"Empowering Mentorship: A Workshop for Mentors and Mentees"</i>	Ballroom B	K-12	Sarah & Taylor Burkett	<i>This presentation combines the unique perspectives of a recent graduate of the mentor program with a seasoned mentor, who are also married. In this presentation, mentors will hear what supports are most effective for new teachers from a fourth year, alternative-certification teacher. Mentees will learn how to advocate for what they need to get the most out of their mentor relationship. Topics covered in this session include reflective questioning, effective conversations, and clear communication as well as addressing the immediate needs of new teachers.</i>
<i>"What's my GRADE!?" (repeated at 3:00 session)</i>	Room 1-2	Secondary	Shana Ward & Rebecca Myers	<i>What does your gradebook look like? Do students work for points or is the focus on growing and learning? How can we help parents change their perception? Secondary educators will reflect on their own grading practices and systems. Do your grades really reflect what students know and understand? Discussion will include effective vs. ineffective grading practices, traditional grading scales vs. evidence based grading, assessment, extra credit, and "zero" grades.</i>
<i>"Bridging Teacher Student Clarity"</i>	Room 3	PK-12	Nicole Bisgaard & Jenna Stephens	<i>Do you ever feel like you have too much to teach? Do your students know what they're learning or what they're doing? In this session we will look at how to gain clarity as a teacher and then share that clarity with your students. We will address how we can make a learning target more than something on the whiteboard. Feel good about what you teach, what you assess, and how you collaborate that with your students.</i>
<i>"Teacher Simulation: Managing Classroom Distruptions"</i>	Room 6-7	K-12	David DeJong	<i>You are a teacher in this simulation and play the role of an English teacher striving to be effective despite a consistently disruptive student. The student has a reputation among all teachers as disruptive, but you've worked with him for some time now and have managed to develop a fragile relationship based on a strong personal connection. You're nervous about breaking this trust, but at the same time can't allow his behavior to continue to negatively impact / hijack the entire class.</i>
<i>"Game Time"</i>	Room 8	Primary	Jodi Neuharth	<i>In the age of technology, it is nice to take a step back and teach students how to interact with each other and build social skills while playing a game. I love using games in the classroom so I can hear the student conversations as they learn together and help them learn to win and lose gracefully. I will share some of the students' favorite games. Everything from cards, dice, homemade games to purchased classics.</i>

"Magic Tricks: Building the Foundation for Success!" (repeated at 4:00)	Room 9	PK-12	Amie Kuxhaus	Watching a classroom run smoothly with positive student/teacher interaction almost looks like magic! This presentation will offer tips and tricks for effective classroom management, focusing on four core elements: procedures, transitions, behaviors, and relationships. Whether you are an experienced educator seeking new strategies or a novice teacher aiming to establish a strong foundation, strategies will be shared that provide practical techniques and key principles for creating a positive and engaging learning environment. Learn how to set clear expectations, manage smooth transitions, reinforce positive student behaviors, and build strong teacher-student relationships. Discover the importance of involving parents and caregivers that builds your classroom community. Join us for an enlightening journey into the world of classroom management and equip yourself with the tools to enhance both your teaching and your students' learning experiences.
"Technology in the Music Room" (Two Hour Session)	Room 10	Music - All Levels	Kim Bruguier	Technology in the music room is always evolving and changing. We will first learn about school accessible music composition sites, and other music tech tools. (Bandlab, garageband, chrome music lab) Then we will work collaboratively to share out and build a list of our favorite tech integrations for music education that participants can then take home and put to use. Break outs by content and grade level so everyone can benefit! This session will be tailored to those in attendance as well.
"Kids These Days" (repeated at 4:00)	Room 11-12	K-12	Cotton Koch	The session will be an introduction to the book titled Kids These Days by Dr. Judy Carrington. If you are a person who believes you have never met a "bad kid" or you believe that kids don't seek attention, they seek connections, then this session might be worth your time. We will learn that students need to dysregulate (lid flipping) in order to learn how to regulate. We will learn a little about the brain and how trauma and grief create barriers in learning. If all goes well, you leave with a book study idea and then the conference was a success!
"Leveraging Canvas for Teaching & Learning"	Room 14	6-12	Stefanie Gross & Andrew Koch	Does your school district utilize Canvas as a Learning Management System? Are you eager to learn new ways to leverage Canvas to support teaching and learning? Good news, you're in luck! Come join us for a session that will model how to use multiple Canvas tools and then provide time to practice using those tools in your own Canvas courses. Our goal is to demonstrate best practice strategies for supporting student learning and streamlining accessibility for stakeholders who are engaging with students in learning. Note: This session is intended for teachers whose school districts are already using Canvas as a Learning Management System.
Session 2: Wednesday, June 5th - 3:00-3:50 p.m.				
Session Name	Room	Grade Level	Presenter	Session Description
"MagicSchool.AI: Transforming Education with Artificial Intelligence" (repeat from 2:00 session)	Ballroom A	PK-12	Belinda Miller	In this presentation, we will introduce MagicSchool.AI, an interactive and immersive educational platform that utilizes artificial intelligence to revolutionize teaching and learning. We will explore the key features and benefits of MagicSchool.AI, demonstrating how it can enhance student engagement, personalize learning, and provide valuable insights for educators.

<p>"Curiosity Unleashed: The Art of Questioning in the Secondary Classroom"</p>	<p>Ballroom B</p>	<p>6-12</p>	<p>Sarah & Taylor Burkett</p>	<p><i>Discover powerful questioning strategies to foster inquiry-based learning in both traditional classroom settings and specialized courses, such as lab-based and Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes. This session is designed to equip teachers with dynamic tools and techniques to inspire student curiosity, critical thinking, and active participation through the skillful art of questioning. Explore innovative approaches that transcend subject boundaries and empower educators to create an environment where every question sparks a new adventure in learning.</i></p>
<p>"What's my GRADE!?" (repeat from 2:00 session)</p>	<p>Room 1-2</p>	<p>Secondary</p>	<p>Shana Ward & Rebecca Myers</p>	<p><i>What does your gradebook look like? Do students work for points or is the focus on growing and learning? How can we help parents change their perception? Secondary educators will reflect on their own grading practices and systems. Do your grades really reflect what students know and understand? Discussion will include effective vs. ineffective grading practices, traditional grading scales vs. evidence based grading, assessment, extra credit, and "zero" grades.</i></p>
<p>"Why Kids Aren't Retaining Math Skills and What To Do About It: A Practical Intervention-Based Solution For Any Teacher" (two hour session)</p>	<p>Room 3</p>	<p>Grades 3-8</p>	<p>Emily Tomkins & Sally Tomkins</p>	<p><i>In this thought-provoking presentation titled "Why Kids Aren't Retaining Math Skills and What to do About It: A Practical Intervention-Based Solution for Any Teacher," we address the critical issue of learning retention in mathematics education. Recognizing the challenge of maintaining students' mathematical proficiency, the presentation emphasizes a holistic approach that combines research-backed strategies to boost engagement and enhance long-term memory. By incorporating spaced practice using Google Quiz, educators can leverage technology to implement a spaced repetition system, reinforcing mathematical concepts over time and solidifying understanding. The session will also underscore the importance of hands-on manipulatives, allowing students to interact with abstract mathematical ideas in a tangible way, fostering deeper comprehension and engagement. Embracing the mantra of "go slow to go fast," the presentation will advocate for a deliberate and incremental teaching approach, emphasizing the significance of laying strong foundations before advancing to more complex concepts. By incorporating this principle into classroom instruction, teachers can pave the way for sustained learning and improved retention. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to create a dynamic and effective math learning environment, fostering student engagement, and equipping educators with tools to address the challenge of retaining mathematical skills in today's classrooms.</i></p>
<p>"Teacher Simulation: Building a Positive Classroom Environment"</p>	<p>Room 6-7</p>	<p>K-12</p>	<p>Dr. David DeJong</p>	<p><i>One morning, you notice one of your students arrive who is usually energetic and cheerful, but who seems down and disengaged today, and then disruptive. How will you engage him? After working through scenarios with him, on the next day, one of your students makes fun of another in a very public way. How will you address it?</i></p>
<p>"Literature in Math"</p>	<p>Room 8</p>	<p>Primary</p>	<p>Jodi Neuharth</p>	<p><i>Finding time to fit everything in a school day can be challenging so why not combine reading and math? I will share several different books I use in my math lessons including my favorites Bedtime Math, Greedy Triangle, and \$1.00 Word Book.</i></p>

<p>"Cultivating Student Motivation with Teacher Credibility" (two hour session)</p>	<p>Room 9</p>	<p>K-12</p>	<p>Anne Moege & Sara Steckel</p>	<p>Every day that we have an opportunity to help our students grow their learning, we may also experience student resistance and apathy. For the past few years, we have studied teacher/author Dave Stuart, Jr.'s 5 Key Beliefs and how they can affect student motivation. Join us to learn about the key belief of credibility, its influence on our students, and simple strategies we have successfully experimented with to cultivate motivation within our students. Come with an open mind and willingness to reflect and discuss!</p>
<p>"Building Team Chemistry Connections for the Classroom - Plus Self-Regulation Supports for Staff and Students" (two hour session)</p>	<p>Room 11-12</p>	<p>K-12</p>	<p>Teresa Hunt</p>	<p>Building a positive climate and culture at school is imperative for student learning. I will share activities and programming we have implemented over my 30 years as a school counselor, class teacher and Student Council advisor. Activities will focus on building connections with students and staff; engaging student learners to achieve high expectations; there will be some PBIS program ideas on teaching expectations such as the Tiger Pride Passport, games on getting to know you activities; gauging how inviting your school is; Open House Highlights; No-tardy parties; expectations for attendance at last day event parties; grade level and class level incentives around state mandated testing; how to anonymously share care and concern of your classmates; the "Minute Meeting" idea anyone can use to gauge mindful, mental health, the TLC box where we check and connect with kids; the "Missing Homework Ticket" idea; and Kudos program for staff and Sunshine activities for teachers to add a little fun to the teacher life.</p>

Session 3: Wednesday, June 5th - 4:00-4:50 p.m.

Session Name	Room	Grade Level	Presenter	Session Description
<p>"Teacher-Parent Communication: Building Your Confidence Through Skill Development"</p>	<p>Ballroom A</p>	<p>7-12</p>	<p>Kama Konda-Varilek</p>	<p>Are you a teacher who has ever hesitated to reach out to a student's parent or guardian? You're not alone, especially if you're an early career educator (ECE). While teacher-parent communication (TPC) is recognized as a professional responsibility, it is often more closely associated with elementary teachers. Less is known about how secondary educators navigate communication and develop communication skills with parents. This workshop will begin with an overview of Dr. Konda-Varilek's research findings, shedding light on the unique dynamics of TPC in the secondary education context. The session will then transition into an interactive segment focused on honing communication skills. Participants will gain practical strategies and insights on effectively communicating with parents of secondary students. Whether you're a seasoned educator or just starting your career, this workshop aims to equip you with the tools and confidence to establish meaningful connections with parents, ultimately enhancing the educational experience for secondary students.</p>
<p>"Beyond the Books: AI-Powered Teaching"</p>	<p>Ballroom B</p>	<p>6-12</p>	<p>Sarah Burkett & Nancy East</p>	<p>In this session, educators will delve into the dynamic realm of integrating AI into the classroom. Explore practical strategies and innovative approaches that harness the power of artificial intelligence while centering students in the learning process. Discover how AI can enhance student engagement, streamline administrative tasks, and open doors to new educational possibilities while elevating student analysis within existing strategies and assignments.</p>

"Grade Less Collaborate More"	Room 1-2	6-12	Nicole Bisgaard & Rebecca Myers	What should a grade represent? Effort? Participation? Behavior? Knowledge? In this session we will explore where our current grading system originated, where we are currently at, and the disadvantages it can pose for our most vulnerable populations. We will discuss what best practices we should strive to follow and how we can craft our assessment and policies to ensure student learning is reflected in their grade.
"Teacher Simulation: Parent - Teacher Conferences"	Room 6-7	K-12	Dr. David DeJong	The central issue of this sim is communication between a teacher and a parent about the performance of the student. The problem of practice is that parent-teacher conferences can end up being difficult conversations for the teacher if the teacher assumes the conversation is about the performance of the student while the parent wants it to be about the performance of the teacher.
"Magic Tricks: Building the Foundation for Success!" (repeat from 2:00)	Room 9	PK-12	Amie Kuxhaus	Watching a classroom run smoothly with positive student/teacher interaction almost looks like magic! This presentation will offer tips and tricks for effective classroom management, focusing on four core elements: procedures, transitions, behaviors, and relationships. Whether you are an experienced educator seeking new strategies or a novice teacher aiming to establish a strong foundation, strategies will be shared that provide practical techniques and key principles for creating a positive and engaging learning environment. Learn how to set clear expectations, manage smooth transitions, reinforce positive student behaviors, and build strong teacher-student relationships. Discover the importance of involving parents and caregivers that builds your classroom community. Join us for an enlightening journey into the world of classroom management and equip yourself with the tools to enhance both your teaching and your students' learning experiences.
"Life in the General Music Room"	Room 10	Music - All Levels	Kim Bruguier	Life in the general music classroom is non-stop, physically active, exciting, loud, and FUN! How to build a classroom of safe music exploration and independent learners! Short time fillers, brain breaks, quick and easy songs and music games, how to incorporate manipulatives and centers, a timeline when prepping concerts, transition times, unique ideas for both with and without technology, and folkdances!
"Kids These Days" (repeat from 2:00)	Room 11-12	K-12	Cotton Koch	The session will be an introduction to the book titled Kids These Days by Dr. Judy Carrington. If you are a person who believes you have never met a "bad kid" or you believe that kids don't seek attention, they seek connections, then this session might be worth your time. We will learn that students need to dysregulate (lid flipping) in order to learn how to regulate. We will learn a little about the brain and how trauma and grief create barriers in learning. If all goes well, you leave with a book study idea and then the conference was a success!
Wednesday, June 5th - 5:00-8:00 PM (Exhibit Hall 1-2) - Banquet & Keynote Speaker, Jonathan Alsheimer				
Thursday, June 6th - 8:00-9:00 AM (Exhibit Hall 1-2) Breakfast & Keynote Speaker, George Hawkins (Breakfast buffet begins at 7:00 AM.)				
Session 4: Thursday, June 6th - 9:00-9:50 a.m.				

Session Name	Room	Grade Level	Presenter	Session Description
"That Teacher" <i>(repeated at 10:00)</i>	Ballroom A	K-12	Jonathan Alsheimer	"That Teacher" is an inspiring message and workshop session. Jonathan Alsheimer motivates educators to reignite that flame to be "that teacher," with a focus on classroom strategies to help teachers build relationships. Engage in conversations around unit and lesson plan development, simple activities, and lesson ideas to enhance student engagement and the overall learning experience for kids. This workshop is packed with ideas for teachers!
"The Dynamic Duo: Your Guide to Navigating a Beneficial Teacher-Paraprofessional Partnership" <i>(repeated at 11:00)</i>	Ballroom B	PreK-12	Lisa Parry	Working successfully with a paraprofessional is just one of many experiences our formal educations may not have prepared us for. This situation can be tricky for teachers because we are trained to lead students, not adults. (Things can especially challenging when a teacher is paired with a paraprofessional who is older and/or has more experience.) Join me in an exploration of the mindsets, moves, and messages necessary for a mutually-beneficial teacher/paraprofessional relationship so we are ready, willing, and able to show up as 1/2 of a dynamic duo!
"From Good to Great" <i>(repeated at 11:00)</i>	Room 1-2	PreK-12	Stefanie Gross	Through interactive discussions and practical activities, this session aims to equip educators with the skills needed to create a classroom environment where students are actively engaged, motivated, and eager to contribute to meaningful class discussions. Whether you are a seasoned educator or a newcomer to the field, this session offers valuable strategies to enhance your instructional approach and cultivate a vibrant and intellectually stimulating learning atmosphere. Join us as we embark on a journey to transform classrooms into hubs of collaboration and dynamic discourse!
"Classrooms that Make a Difference" <i>(repeated at 11:00)</i>	Room 3	PreK-12	Janelle Huber	Classroom management and organization are intertwined. While effective classroom management practices influence positive student behaviors; organized classrooms allow for successful learning to occur in an efficient, safe environment. In this session, you will be given classroom management ideas that have effectively worked along with some organization tips and tricks.
"Beat Teacher Burnout" <i>(repeated at 10:00)</i>	Room 6-7	PreK-12	Jennifer Nedrebo & Jackie Richey	We will share what teacher burnout is, the statistics, and how to do "fewer things, better" so that we can "love teaching again."
"Time to Teach: Taking Back Your Classroom!" <i>(two hour session)</i>	Room 8	K-12	Bobbi Maher	It is time to reclaim your classroom! Low-level disruptions are stealing precious instruction time. You can be the best content instructor, but without the ability to control the classroom, the best lessons have no impact. In this session, learn how to avoid the "debate bait" and how to diffuse start-up attempts to sidetrack instruction. Leave this session encouraged and challenged to implement research-based, time-tested strategies and techniques that will change your classroom immediately!
"Art-Inclusive Note Taking and Review Strategies"	Room 9	PreK-12	Dakota Lincoln	Unleash your creativity with innovative note-taking techniques that incorporate art. This presentation will show you strategies to make your students' notes and review days more engaging, memorable, and effective through visual and artistic approaches. You'll gain valuable insights to transform your note-taking into a dynamic and creative process and leave with fresh ideas for your students!

"Exploring Computer Science" (repeated at 11:00)	Room 10	7-12	Tina Belden	<i>Exploring Computer Science (ECS) is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus on the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. This course is a great pathway into offering more computer science topics in your school, and could be designed for an upper elementary/middle school classroom all the way to a senior class. The curriculum is currently free for all schools to use. This course aligns to the standards in the South Dakota CTE course: Introduction to Information Technology (10003).</i>
"Youth Suicide Prevention" (repeated at 10:00)	Room 11-12	PreK-12	Jordan Mounga	<i>Mental health problems are common, recurrent and can be serious. It is important to understand the various roles we have in relation to youth. This presentation will provide the most current data, warning signs, how to help and resources.</i>
"Using AI to Increase Educator Efficiency" (two hour session)	Room 13	PreK-12	Andrew Ley & Nicole Uhre-Balk	<i>During this interactive session, we will explore how to responsibly integrate AI tools into your workflow to save you hours of time. Through an educational use demonstration, AI playground, and World Cafe discussion, participants will leave with an awareness of how AI can be responsibly used for lesson planning, resource creation, differentiation, and countless other tasks.</i>
"Getting Comfortable With Uncomfortable Conversations" (repeated at 10:00)	Room 14	PreK-12	Kari Lena-Helling & Chelsea Greenfield	<i>Families are key partners in student success, yet our own discomfort can get in the way of collaborating. Do you overthink what you should and shouldn't say? Do you worry what their response will be? What if this family has had ongoing frustrations with the district and it is taken out on you? Let's acknowledge our discomfort, but not allow it to keep us from providing comprehensive academic/behavioral support through family collaboration. In this session, we will discuss strategies to assist you in your conversations with families. The skills we will focus on include: reflective listening, reflecting feeling statements, open-ended questions, affirmations, summarizing, and nonverbal communication. These skills are also helpful in situations that require de-escalation. You will leave this session with practical steps that will increase your confidence in your ability to communicate with your students' families.</i>
Session 5: Thursday, June 6th - 10:00-10:50 a.m.				
Session Name	Room	Grade Level	Presenter	Session Description
"That Teacher" (repeat from 9:00)	Ballroom A		Jonathan Alsheimer	<i>"That Teacher" is an inspiring message and workshop session. Jonathan Alsheimer motivates educators to reignite that flame to be "that teacher," with a focus on classroom strategies to help teachers build relationships. Engage in conversations around unit and lesson plan development, simple activities, and lesson ideas to enhance student engagement and the overall learning experience for kids. This workshop is packed with ideas for teachers!</i>

<p align="center">"Poverty Escape Room Simulation" (two hour session)</p>	<p align="center">Ballroom B</p>	<p align="center">PreK-12</p>	<p align="center">Angie Lynch</p>	<p><i>The Poverty Escape Room isn't a traditional simulation. More and more groups are asking for a smaller group training to experience an understanding of the crisis of poverty, so the Poverty Escape Room was developed. We all know you can't truly "escape" poverty, but could you survive a day in the life of someone in the crisis of poverty? In the Poverty Escape Room Simulation, participants experience one day of the life of an individual who lives in poverty, experience firsthand the barriers those living in poverty are asked to navigate each day and will then be asked to discuss the simulation experience with other participants. The hope is to bring awareness of how poverty impacts those students we work with on a daily basis and to begin conversations around supports we, as educators, might need as we continue our journey in providing afterschool experiences.</i></p>
<p align="center">"Thanks for the Feedback!"</p>	<p align="center">Room 1-2</p>	<p align="center">PreK-12</p>	<p align="center">Stefanie Gross</p>	<p><i>Join us for an engaging and insightful professional development session designed to empower educators in recognizing and leveraging their unique personality traits as receivers of feedback. This workshop is divided into two parts, each focusing on key aspects of feedback, self-awareness, and communication. By the end of this session, participants will not only have a deeper understanding of their own feedback reception tendencies but also explore how to engage in meaningful conversations that promote professional development and collaboration within the educational community. Join us on a journey towards becoming more reflective and resilient educators!</i></p>
<p align="center">"Welcoming All Children"</p>	<p align="center">Room 3</p>	<p align="center">PreK-12</p>	<p align="center">Janelle Huber</p>	<p><i>Do you believe that EVERY child has the right to be in general education classrooms and have their needs met? How can we meet so many different needs? In this breakout session you will hear the perspective of a mom and teacher regarding the overwhelming success of children with needs. You will leave this session with ideas on how to effectively make inclusion work in a general education classroom.</i></p>
<p align="center">"Beat Teacher Burnout" (repeat from 9:00)</p>	<p align="center">Room 6-7</p>	<p align="center">PreK-12</p>	<p align="center">Jennifer Nedrebo & Jackie Richey</p>	<p><i>We will share what teacher burnout is, the statistics, and how to do "fewer things, better" so that we can "love teaching again."</i></p>
<p align="center">"Teaching Math to Middle Grades with Easy to Find Manipulatives"</p>	<p align="center">Room 9</p>	<p align="center">7-12</p>	<p align="center">Rachelle DeBeer & Lucas Trooien</p>	<p><i>Do you have boxes of math manipulatives that you inherited, or are you on a fixed budget and need some math manipulatives? We are going to demonstrate a few 5th-7th grade math standards that focus on integer manipulation (inequalities, absolute values, multiplying, combining like terms and solving basic equations) with colored counters, checkers, algebra tiles, cups and a deck of cards. Maybe dust off some of those boxes in the back of your storage cupboard, or you can design your own lessons with a few household supplies if don't have any goodies in the back of your closet.</i></p>
<p align="center">"You've Got a Friend in Me: Collaborating with Your School Librarian"</p>	<p align="center">Room 10</p>	<p align="center">Middle & High School</p>	<p align="center">Jean Kirschenman</p>	<p><i>While every school library is different, teachers should know how to tap the vast potential for collaboration with a school librarian. Participants will discover a variety of activities, lessons, sub plans, and team teaching opportunities—all through a lens of shared standards and goals with the school library.</i></p>
<p align="center">"Youth Suicide Prevention" (repeat from 10:00)</p>	<p align="center">Room 11-12</p>	<p align="center">PreK-12</p>	<p align="center">Jordan Mounga</p>	<p><i>Mental health problems are common, recurrent and can be serious. It is important to understand the various roles we have in relation to youth. This presentation will provide the most current data, warning signs, how to help and resources.</i></p>

<p>"Getting Comfortable With Uncomfortable Conversations" (repeat from 9:00)</p>	<p>Room 14</p>	<p>PreK-12</p>	<p>Kari Lena-Helling & Chelsea Greenfield</p>	<p>Families are key partners in student success, yet our own discomfort can get in the way of collaborating. Do you overthink what you should and shouldn't say? Do you worry what their response will be? What if this family has had ongoing frustrations with the district and it is taken out on you? Let's acknowledge our discomfort, but not allow it to keep us from providing comprehensive academic/behavioral support through family collaboration. In this session, we will discuss strategies to assist you in your conversations with families. The skills we will focus on include: reflective listening, reflecting feeling statements, open-ended questions, affirmations, summarizing, and nonverbal communication. These skills are also helpful in situations that require de-escalation. You will leave this session with practical steps that will increase your confidence in your ability to communicate with your students' families.</p>
<p>Session 6: Thursday, June 6th - 11:00-11:50 a.m.</p>				
<p>Session Name</p>	<p>Room</p>	<p>Grade Level</p>	<p>Presenter</p>	<p>Session Description</p>
<p>"The Dynamic Duo: Your Guide to Navigating a Beneficial Teacher-Paraprofessional Partnership" (repeat from 9:00)</p>	<p>Ballroom A</p>	<p>PreK-12</p>	<p>Lisa Parry</p>	<p>Working successfully with a paraprofessional is just one of many experiences our formal educations may not have prepared us for. This situation can be tricky for teachers because we are trained to lead students, not adults. (Things can especially challenging when a teacher is paired with a paraprofessional who is older and/or has more experience.) Join me in an exploration of the mindsets, moves, and messages necessary for a mutually-beneficial teacher/paraprofessional relationship so we are ready, willing, and able to show up as 1/2 of a dynamic duo!</p>
<p>"From Good to Great" (repeat from 9:00)</p>	<p>Room 1-2</p>	<p>PreK-12</p>	<p>Stefanie Gross</p>	<p>Through interactive discussions and practical activities, this session aims to equip educators with the skills needed to create a classroom environment where students are actively engaged, motivated, and eager to contribute to meaningful class discussions. Whether you are a seasoned educator or a newcomer to the field, this session offers valuable strategies to enhance your instructional approach and cultivate a vibrant and intellectually stimulating learning atmosphere. Join us as we embark on a journey to transform classrooms into hubs of collaboration and dynamic discourse!</p>
<p>"Classrooms that Make a Difference" (repeat from 9:00)</p>	<p>Room 3</p>	<p>PreK-12</p>	<p>Janelle Huber</p>	<p>Classroom management and organization are intertwined. While effective classroom management practices influence positive student behaviors; organized classrooms allow for successful learning to occur in an efficient, safe environment. In this session, you will be given classroom management ideas that have effectively worked along with some organization tips and tricks.</p>
<p>"Let's Help Students Realize that Math Isn't Yucky!"</p>	<p>Room 6-7</p>	<p>K-8</p>	<p>Kevin Smith</p>	<p>In this session, you'll learn about several games & activities that you can do with students to show them that math isn't yucky! You'll have a chance to see several games and activities in action from Mathigon, Math for Love, Youcubed, Desmos, and more. The games and activities are easy to integrate into your existing math class to keep students excited about math.</p>

<p align="center">"Exploring Computer Science" (repeat from 9:00)</p>	<p align="center">Room 8</p>	<p align="center">7-12</p>	<p align="center">Tina Belden</p>	<p><i>Exploring Computer Science (ECS) is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus on the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. This course is a great pathway into offering more computer science topics in your school, and could be designed for an upper elementary/middle school classroom all the way to a senior class. The curriculum is currently free for all schools to use. This course aligns to the standards in the South Dakota CTE course: Introduction to Information Technology (10003).</i></p>
<p align="center">"Do the Differentiation Dance"</p>	<p align="center">Room 9</p>	<p align="center">5-12</p>	<p align="center">Rise Jongeling</p>	<p><i>Ms. Jongeling, a dedicated Biology educator from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, presents "Differentiation in the Classroom: Working with Special Needs."- Do the Differentiation Dance In this succinct yet informative overview, Ms. J delves into the critical aspects of understanding and utilizing Individualized Education Plan (IEPs) to address diverse needs. The outline covers the identification of specific needs, offers insights into modifying activities and assignments, and practical strategies for differentiation. Ms. J also incorporates real-life case studies and emphasizes the importance of ongoing professional development for educators. Join Ms. J in this session for a valuable exploration of creating inclusive learning environments.</i></p>
<p align="center">"A Medley of Teen Books to Enhance Your Curriculum: Lit Circles, Book Projects, and Independent Reading"</p>	<p align="center">Room 10</p>	<p align="center">Middle & High School</p>	<p align="center">Jean Kirschenman</p>	<p><i>This presentation will help you offer student voice and choice with lit circles or independent reading lists where students make their own selections, based on their values, reading level, and interests. You will learn titles of hundreds of books by topic or theme, along with ideas and resources that you can use right away. Get ready for tons of titles—presented in a fast-paced but organized manner.</i></p>
<p align="center">"Resources to Support the Well-Being of School Aged Youth"</p>	<p align="center">Room 11-12</p>	<p align="center">PreK-12</p>	<p align="center">Vanessa Barnes</p>	<p><i>Did you know that there is an entire array of resources available through state agencies to support schools and educators to address the well-being of students? This session will be a panel discussing these resources including the promotion of mental health awareness to reduce stigma and provide tools for staff and students to identify and refer youth in need; training opportunities for students, educators and families; school safety tools; and treatment services.</i></p>
<p align="center">"Great Expectations!"</p>	<p align="center">Room 14</p>	<p align="center">PreK-12</p>	<p align="center">Kari Lena-Helling & Chelsea Greenfield</p>	<p><i>Your first year in the classroom can be very intimidating. We want to help ease some of those concerns by educating new teachers about classroom management skills that work for us each school year. We will walk you through the best way (that we have found) to set up a classroom to lessen minor behaviors. Come learn from two engaging school counselors who love their jobs and love collaborating with others!</i></p>