



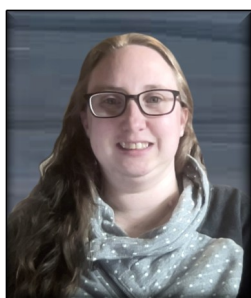
BREAKOUT SESSIONS II

Tuesday, August 4 — 4:05-5:00 pm



Making Faith Integration Intentional This breakout will equip teachers and school leaders to intentionally design Christ-centered classrooms and school culture through meaningful faith integration. Participants will learn how to move beyond isolated spiritual moments and create systems, routines, language, lessons, and relationships that reflect a biblical worldview. Using practical frameworks and real-life case studies, this session will show how faith can shape not only what happens in the classroom, but the entire culture of the school. **Dr. Smith Castillo** is an educator, pastor, and ministry leader serving in Adventist education with a deep passion for shaping students, teachers, and school communities through faith-centered leadership. He holds a BA in Theology with a minor in Biblical Languages, a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling, a Master of Arts in Educational Ministry, and a Doctorate in Ministry Leadership. With experience as a youth pastor, district pastor, religion teacher, principal, and education administrator, he brings a unique blend of pastoral care, educational vision, and practical leadership. Born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New York City, he communicates with warmth, conviction, and cultural depth, inspiring others to see education and ministry as a calling to transform lives for Christ. **Frisco 1**

Closing the Attitude Gap with SBL How do we get students to care about learning? Tips and resources on how SBL can create rigor, focus, and close the attitude gap in learning. **Sarah Shepherd** has been an educator for 13 years and a part of the NAD's Secondary Social Studies Committee. Her mission is to make education an experience for each student who walks through her door. She teaches at Parkview Adventist Academy in Oklahoma City. **Frisco 2**



A Better Tool Built for You! AE-Connect: The New Gradebook and SIS Built for Adventist Schools, by Adventist Educators! AE-Connect has served more than 200 schools over the past three academic years and is a student information system built specifically for Adventist schools. Developed by Adventist educators alongside professional programmers and designers, it was created to meet the unique needs of Adventist education and avoid the limitations often found in systems designed for public-school environments. **Fawn Fahrer** shows how AE-Connect can support your school and enhance your effectiveness as an Adventist educator. With a guest appearance by Martha Ban. **Frisco 3**

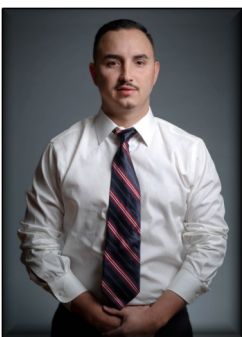


Confessions of Two Robotics Evangelists Learn about the bits and bytes of starting a robotics team: what actually works, what doesn't, and why it matters. Hear real stories and learn practical steps for building "something bigger than bots". In this session attendees will receive guidance for getting started with a First Lego League Challenge team to compete in Adventist Robotics tournaments for the 2026-2027 season. **Renee Otts** serves as principal of Ben-



tonville Adventist School and as the teacher for grades 5-8. She was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2019, and she loves to think outside the box while introducing revolutionary programs. **Priscilla Glasgow** recently joined Adventist Robotics as an Area Coordinator and serves as tournament director of the Ozark FLL Qualifying Tournament in Bentonville, Arkansas. She is a member of the BSAS school board and manages BSAS Robotics. **Frisco 4**

Introduction to UFLI — a Foundational Reading Curriculum Presenter **Carisa Carr** introduces UFLI as a research- and evidence-based foundational reading curriculum that delivers explicit, systematic instruction in the essential skills students need for reading success. Participants will explore how its carefully designed scope and sequence supports both core instruction and targeted intervention, helping students build automaticity and confidence in foundational literacy skills. **Frisco 5**



Building Athletic Culture On Purpose: From Vision to Daily Habits This interactive breakout session will guide attendees through the process of intentionally defining and building a strong athletic culture. Participants will engage in practical exercises and brainstorming activities to identify their program's core values, establish clear standards, and align daily habits with their desired culture. Real examples and systems used within a successful athletic program will be shared to help bridge the gap between vision and execution. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas and a personalized starting point they can implement immediately. **Gabriel Larriu** is an educator, coach, and Athletic Director currently serving at Houston Adventist Academy, his alma mater. He graduated from Southwestern Adventist University in 2014 with a degree in Kinesiology, with an emphasis in Physical Education, and later earned a Master's degree in Athletic Administration from Midwestern State University. Gabriel has served at several Adventist academies, including Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy, South Texas Christian Academy, Burton Adventist Academy, and Houston Adventist Academy. He is a devoted husband and father of three and is passionate about building athletic programs that develop character, discipline, and strong team culture. **Grand Ballroom**

Building a Music Culture in the First Years of a Program (Pre-k — 12) Starting or rebuilding an elementary or secondary school music program can feel overwhelming, especially in small schools with limited resources. In this session, we will explore practical strategies for recruiting students, establishing ensemble traditions, and creating a culture where music becomes an important part of school life. Drawing from experiences in the early years of building a program, participants will leave with ideas they can immediately apply in their own schools. **Ismael Castillo** serves as Director of Music at Houston Adventist Academy, where he leads choral and instrumental programs and develops student musicians across multiple ensembles. In his first four years of teaching, he has focused on building a growing, mission-centered music culture while pursuing graduate studies in sacred music and engaging students in worship and performance. **Frisco 7**





From Vision to Value: Aligning Elementary Budgets with Academic Goals

This session explains the elementary school budget process, showing how strategic goals become financial reality. Participants will learn how revenues are projected, how key costs like staffing are calculated, and how resources are prioritized to drive student success while meeting community and board approval timelines. **Dwayne Mauk** was born in Southern Oregon. He spent 11 years working on an Indian reservation in South Dakota. After earning a BBA from Southwestern Adventist University, he served in treasury and administrative roles with the Dakota Conference, Dakota Adventist Academy, Christian Record Services for the Blind, and Minnesota Conference, while also supporting Maplewood Academy. Since joining the Southwestern Union Conference Treasury team, he has provided support to conferences, academies, church schools, and local churches through AASI, APS, STS, and CTS software.

Comanche

Continuing CSI: Making Your Plan a Living Document Accreditation is not the finish line—it's the beginning of the next cycle of continuous improvement. This breakout session is designed to help school leaders move beyond completing the Continuous School Improvement (CSI) Plan for accreditation and use it as a practical tool for ongoing growth. **Dr. Levi**



Whitcomb has served in Adventist education for over 20 years and currently works as an associate superintendent in the Texas Conference. He cares deeply about building strong relationships, encouraging campus leaders, and supporting schools in meaningful, practical ways. His passion for Adventist education is reflected in his commitment to helping school communities grow stronger through thoughtful leadership and Christ-centered support. **Dr.**

Robyn Grimsley has over 20 years of experience in education, serving in both public and private school settings, and currently serves as an associate superintendent in the Texas Conference. She is passionate about supporting principals and teachers, helping them grow in their practice and feel equipped for success in their roles. She has a deep commitment to Adventist education and to strengthening schools in ways that help students, staff, and families thrive.



Gallant Fox



Building a Culture of Safety: Practical Strategies for Today's Schools

Join us for an engaging breakout session focused on strengthening school safety in today's educational environment. This session will explore practical strategies for prevention, preparedness, and response while fostering a culture where students and staff feel secure and supported. Participants will leave with actionable tools and ideas to enhance safety practices within their own classrooms and campuses. With 17 years of experience in education, including 8 years as a campus administrator overseeing school safety and security, **Travis Irish** brings a strong commitment to creating secure learning environments. He is a ten-year Army veteran and concluded his military service as a personal security detail leader. His combined background in education and military leadership provide a unique perspective on preparedness, risk management, and team coordination. He is vice-principal at Ozark Adventist Academy. **Ranger**





Choice Without Chaos: Instructional Strategies That Bring Learning to Life

Discover practical instructional strategies that increase engagement, deepen thinking, and support diverse learners. Teachers will leave with ready-to-use ideas for voice and choice, differentiation, discussion, and responsible AI integration. *Recommend that teachers bring their laptops. Presenter **Eimeliz Garcia** loves working and teaching outside the box and gets excited every time she gets to share her ideas with others. **Sea Biscuit**

Small Schools: Exploring SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) Explore SOPs that empower you both as an administrator and educator. The goal is to help you work smarter and not harder in your small school multigrade classroom. **Ana Luna** is knowledgeable about multigrade education, especially the working smarter, not harder part. She loves her family—her husband, Mark, of 26 years and daughter, Priscilla. She is very proud of the recent addition to her family, Christian, Priscilla's husband. Ana's ultimate goal is to create a community of multigrade teachers who support one another despite the distance that may separate them. **Traveler**



Educator's Wealth **Wirmin Alcantara** shares how to align your personal finances and retirement strategy with your calling to ministry, so money becomes a tool for mission instead of a source of stress. This session will unpack practical steps for Adventist Educators to build long-term financial security while honoring biblical principles of stewardship. **Whirlaway**

