Monday, June 29, 2020

9:00 am - 10:15 am

Welcome & Kick-Off
Debra Wilson, President, SAIS

Keynote Session: Dealing With Difficult Parents
Rob Evans and Michael Thompson
Ninety-five percent of parents are loving and concerned people who only want their child to be known, understood, and well taught. Five percent of parents, for reasons of their own mental disorders or troubled lives, must act out their difficulties on the school. Hear suggestions for managing the aggressive-intimidating parent, the anxious-incompetent parent, and the denying-unresponsive parent. Learn how to build better alliances with all parents, especially in these times of uncertainty.

10:15 am - 10:30 am

{Break}

10:30 am - 11:30 am

Concurrent Session Choices:

- Three Reasons to Replace Department Chairs With Instructional Coaches
  Brad Rathgeber, CEO, One Schoolhouse
  Learn why coaching builds a culture of growth, encourages difficult conversations, and motivates staff. Understand a model for faculty coaching and the ties to faculty evaluation. Explore ways to introduce coaching in your school.

- Legal Concerns in Student Mental Health
  Debra Wilson, President, SAIS
  What are the confidentiality and privacy concerns around student information, assessments, and services received? What kinds of questions can be asked on an admission application, or during a prospective student interview pertaining to mental health concerns? Independent school educators need to be aware of important legal issues when working with students and families. This session discusses policies and procedures unique to the independent setting.

- Defining and Refining the Administrative Assistant Role
  Pam Herath, Leadership and Culture Consultant, Herath Consulting
  Being an administrative assistant is what you do; it is not who you are. The framework for this session explores four primary questions: What matters most? What does it look like? What makes it hard to bring that which matters to fruition? What are the tools and strategies necessary to address challenges? Regardless of the challenges you face – communication, expectations, dealing with difficult people, balance and boundaries – this session will provide an increased sense of empowerment and clarity as well as the tools to be more effective and fulfilled.
-Fall 2020: Repurposing Your Community Engagement and Social Impact Programs as a Result of COVID-19
Laura Day, Executive Director, Institute of Social Impact, Hockaday School
Blake Kohn, Executive Director, National Network of Schools in Partnerships
What preparations do you need to take now to prepare for the fall? How can you repurpose your community engagement and partnership programs to maintain their outcomes while considering the limitations COVID-19 will place on their integrity? Hear concrete examples from the National Network of Schools in Partnerships and the Institute for Social Impact at Hockaday School on ways to shift your programs so your students still have authentic experiences with your community partners.

11:30 am - 11:45 am  
{Break}

11:45 am - 12:30 pm  
Cohort Groups
Join your predetermined cohort group (based on role and school size) where you will develop a sense of belonging, a shared purpose, and a network that will support you throughout the school year. Introduce yourself to the group and share areas where you have expertise, and areas where you could use some advice and guidance.

12:30 pm - 1:15 pm  
{Lunch Break}

1:15 pm - 2:15 pm  
Concurrent Session Choices:
- Common Mental Health Disorders Seen in Our Schools
  Melodie Frick, Counseling Program Director, Western Carolina University
  Students of all ages experience mental health disorders. As the number of diagnoses increase, it is imperative for school counselors to be aware of symptoms that students experience. We will discuss symptoms of common mental health disorders seen in children and adolescents, an overview of medications used for these disorders, and strategies to educate students, teachers, school personnel, and parents to help with early detection and intervention.

- Organization Tips & Tricks
  Sheri Burkeen, Director of Professional Development, SAIS
  Save time and your sanity when you organize your desk and your day. Identify systems and procedures for paper and digital files. Create a plan of action for your return to campus or your distance learning home office.

- Incorporating Assessment Data Into Teacher Professional Development Conversations
  Thomas Rochon, President, ERB
  Understanding effectiveness of the curriculum and overseeing faculty discussions of any areas needing review are among the most important duties of a division head. But where to focus? Assessment data can provide valuable hints about the most valuable areas of emphasis for curricular review, teacher professional development, and apportionment of time in the classroom. This session will focus on real assessment data gathered over time within a number of schools to illustrate how those data might be used in the collaborative dialog between department chairs and teachers.

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm  
{Break}
Concurrent Session Choices:

- **Designing and Building Hybrid Courses**
  *Brad Rathgeber, CEO, One Schoolhouse*
  With the situation more fluid heading into next year and an expectation that some learning may happen on-campus and some learning will almost certainly have to be online, now is the time to develop a hybrid learning model. Hybrid learning allows for maximum flexibility between online and on-campus instruction. Highly functional hybrid environments include a robust design, a common platform for learning, and a consistent user experience for teachers, students, and families.

- **Deans as Culture Keepers**
  *Pam Herath, Leadership and Culture Consultant, Herath Consulting*
  Deans wear many hats: disciplinarian, advisor, teacher, and more. Regardless of their specific job descriptions deans are, by default, the leaders and culture keepers of the school. This session brings intentionality to this role. Start by exploring your why and then deep dive into the building blocks of consciously creating the culture you desire for your student body and faculty.

- **Spreadsheet Tips for the Busy Admin Assistant**
  *Clay Gibney, Director of Technology, SAIS*
  Administrative assistants are often required to be proficient in a variety of tools and programs. Spreadsheets are definitely on that list. This session will look at a variety of time-saving tricks in both Google Sheets and Microsoft Excel. Each productivity tip will be demonstrated on both platforms. Target audience: beginner to medium skill level.

3:30 pm - 3:45 pm  
{Break}

3:45 pm - 4:45 pm  
**Cohort Groups**
Join your cohort group to debrief today's sessions. Share key takeaways from sessions you attended and hear about other choice sessions. Discuss how cohort members can help each other in areas of need. Identify three possible roundtable topics you would like to see offered in tomorrow's roundtable session.

4:45 pm - 5:45 pm  
**Virtual Happy Hour**
Grab your beverage of choice and join us for fun conversation and networking.

6:00 pm  
**On Your Own – Virtual Screening of Screenagers: The Next Chapter**
This is the follow-up to *Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age.* Filmmaker and physician Dr. Delaney Ruston takes the conversation around screens and teens to the next level with *Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER: Uncovering Skills for Stress Resilience*—a film that examines the science behind teen’s emotional challenges, the interplay of social media, and most importantly, what can be done in our schools and homes to help them build crucial skills to navigate stress, anxiety, and depression in our digital age. *Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER* shows many ways parents, counselors, and educators can help teens build crucial skills for navigating stress, anxiety, and depression. There will be an opportunity to discuss the film on Wednesday at 10:15 am.
Welcome Back
Debra Wilson, President, SAIS

Keynote Session: Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
Patricia Dailey Lewis, Executive Director, Beau Biden Foundation
During this session designed for adults on the front lines of child protection, participants will learn about mandatory reporting statutes, the different forms of abuse and neglect, how to recognize the signs of abuse and neglect in virtual learning environments, and how and when to make a report.

10:15 am - 10:30 am  
{Break}

Concurrent Session Choices:
Peggy Campbell-Rush, Head of Lower School, Bolles School
Hear tips and tricks to stay sane, happy, and healthy in the job. Discuss ways to handle problems that arise and how to not compromise your value system. Learn what to expect and what they don’t tell you during the interview process. Gain a new sense of confidence and plenty of ideas for a successful school year.

- Adolescence Is Hard Work
Michael Thompson
There are five developmental challenges which every adolescent must meet. There are no shortcuts and no exemptions, and these challenges are, from a psychological point of view, very strenuous. At the same time, most adolescents meet them with grace and ingenuity. Despite the images of rebellious and antisocial adolescents in the popular media, fully two-thirds of children have smooth or stepwise patterns of growth during the teen-age years, only one-third a tumultuous pattern. Learn how to support students as they enter and move through this stage of life.

11:30 am - 11:45 am  
{Break}

11:45 am - 12:15 pm  
Roundtable Discussions
Topics for the roundtable discussions will be crowd sourced from the cohort groups and shared with attendees during the Tuesday morning welcome. Choose a topic that most interests you.

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm  
{Lunch Break}
Concurrent Session Choices:

- **It's a Trip! Motivational Interviewing: The GPS of a Student's Brain**
  
  *Tamara Hamilton, School Counselor, Cliff Valley School*
  
  There are many reasons why students are less engaged, and engagement is everything! Anxiety, stress, learning issues, mood, temperament, as well as a variety of other factors can have an impact on a student’s drive. The “unmotivated” student can be challenging, but with the right approach, we can empower those students to make constructive and positive changes. Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an evidence-based approach to engaging students, strengthening their intrinsic motivation, and building personal agency. Discuss the neuroscience of motivation, learn the principles of MI, practice applying MI strategies, and analyze your practice for implementing MI in your school community.

- **Surviving and Thriving in Challenging Times**
  
  *Rob Evans*
  
  Life in schools grows ever more complex. Expectations keep rising, not just in academic areas but in social and behavioral areas, as well. New initiatives and pressures arrive every year—along with new criticisms. How can you respond constructively? How can you maintain morale, energy, and competence? This session explores the range and complexity of changes in curriculum, pedagogy, special needs, and non-academic areas. Learn specific strategies for both facing up to and not being overcome by harsh realities. Reflect on ways to focus your goals, steps that have helped during stressful times, and current strengths as a professional community.

2:00 pm - 2:15 pm  
{Break}

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm  
**Cohort Groups**

Join your cohort group to debrief today’s sessions. Share key takeaways from sessions you attended and hear about other sessions. Discuss how you can help each other move forward to the start of a new school year.

**Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

9:00 am - 10:00 am  
**Concurrent Session Choices:**

- **Strategies for Measuring and Improving Students' Learning & Retention in the Fall**
  
  *Kimberly Carraway, Cognitive Learning Specialist, The Carraway Center for Teaching & Learning*
  
  As schools return in the fall, a greater emphasis will need to be placed on evaluating where students are, how to individualize to students’ needs, and how to meet those needs through live and virtual tools. This session will focus on practical action steps administrators and teachers can implement to reduce learning loss, evaluate students’ needs and adjust curriculum and instructional strategies to meet those needs. Discussion will include core subjects in addition to skill-based areas, managing expectations, active learning strategies, and purposefully designed assessments.
- Creating a Sustainable, Purpose Driven SEL Advisory/Guidance Program

*Rachael Lee, Lower and Middle School Guidance Counselor, Frederica Academy*

Guidance and advisory programs have the potential to help students create meaningful relationships with an adult advocate and a sense of belonging with their peers. Providing a safe, engaging environment where students connect, have fun, and give back to the community meets the appropriate developmental needs students have at a precarious stage of life. Research shows that the experience of belonging and being connected strengthens academic achievement, improves mental and emotional health, and enhances the over-all school experience. We will share a model for establishing a purposeful and engaging lower school guidance and middle and upper advisory program that centers on social and emotional learning as the caveat for academic and relational success in school.

-The New Normal: Coming Back After the Curve

*Chris Joffe, Founder and CEO, Joffe Emergency Services*

This session will focus on the best practices for returning to school after COVID-19. We will outline the top three to five areas of focus, discuss strategies for keeping schools safe, and provide a list of action items for each school to take as we continue to grapple with the challenges of returning to school in the fall.

10:00 am - 10:15 am  
*{Break}*

10:15 am - 11:15 am  
**Concurrent Session Choices:**

- **Deep Dive Into Reopening Your School**

  *Chris Joffe, Founder and CEO, Joffe Emergency Services*

  This session will use Joffe’s school reopening templates as a starting point for your own documents. This interactive session will be led by industry experts with the goal to publish your own emergency plan around COVID-19, or at the very least have a clear action plan for developing one. During this session you will be able to ask for documentation and/or templates that have been produced by Joffe. Attendees are encouraged to have a copy of their current crisis plan available during the session. If you plan to attend this workshop, we strongly suggest attending the first session, The New Normal: Coming Back After The Curve.

- **Risk Management in the New Normal**

  *Debra Wilson, President, SAIS*

  Risk management is an issue many schools wrestle with on a good year, but COVID-19 is already demanding that we think about it differently. How does risk management work in a school? How do we manage conflicting guidelines? What kinds of risks are readily manageable, and what does that look like? Come join this interactive session to discuss issues and share possible solutions.

- **Screenagers: The Next Chapter Movie Discussion**

  *Sheri Burkeen, Director of Professional Development, SAIS*

  After viewing the film, did you learn something new or different? What issues most concerned you? What can you do in your school to promote mental health? How do screens affect stress, anxiety, and depression among teens? Did this change when we suddenly moved to remote learning? Are all screens created equal?

11:15 am - 11:30 pm  
*{Break}*
Speaker Led Group Discussions
A chance to continue the conversation and get answers to your lingering questions. Speakers from earlier sessions will lead a small group discussion on a topic related to their session. Choose the topic that interests you most.

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
{Lunch Break}

Keynote Session: Supporting Educators as They Support Children: “Why” and “How-to” From Resilience Research
Nina Kumar, Co-Founder and CEO, Authentic Connections
Suniya Luthar, Co-Founder and Chief Research Officer, Authentic Connections
The COVID-19 crisis has triggered unique and dynamic issues affecting mental health. It is crucial to meet challenges responsively in order to foster resilience. The session will describe how to identify and address critical mental health concerns in school communities amid the shift to distance learning, as well as the top areas for improvement commonly found in distance learning contexts. Learn best practices for fostering resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic from decades of resilience research, and get specific strategies, which are currently being implemented in schools, to foster well-being.

2:00 pm - 2:15 pm
{Break}

Final Cohort Groups
Join your cohort group to debrief today’s sessions and make plans for the coming year. What did you learn this week that you want to implement in the fall? Where will you need support from your group? How can you be a source of strength and encouragement to others?

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm
{Break}

Closing Session
Gather for a brief wrap-up and access info for conference recordings and speaker resources.

*Schedule is subject to change.*