

Best Practices Conference for the Christian School™

June
12-14, 2023
Norcross, GA

Co-hosted by Ethos School in collaboration with the Wheaton Academy Institute on the campus of Greater Atlanta Christian School



This Year's Theme: Becoming a Lifelong-Impact School

WHEATON ACADEMY
INSTITUTE

THE BEST PRACTICES CONFERENCE
FOR THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL™

Advancing Christian schooling for the glory of God

Co-hosted by:

ethos
transforming education

A Great Investment

Only \$475 per person, and \$350 for each additional representatives from your school

Travel notes:

- Fly to Atlanta International Airport (ATL)
- Drive to Greater Atlanta Christian School located at 1575 Indian Trail Road, Norcross, GA 30093 approximately 40 minutes from the Atlanta airport.
- You will have free time to explore Atlanta and its surrounding area on Tuesday.

Food and Housing:

- Four meals will be provided including Monday dinner, Tuesday breakfast and lunch, and Wednesday breakfast.
- We have reserved a block of rooms at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast for \$125 per night. Reserve early as these rooms go fast! The reservation block will end on Friday, May 26, 2023, so book in the block before this date. Transportation to and from the Hilton will be available.

Details/Registration:

[Click here for all the details and hotel information](#)

Your Hosts

Dr. Josh Thomason

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Ethos School
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Dr. Gene Frost

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Mr. Phil Strzalka

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Keynote Speakers



Dr. Tim Elmore, Founder & CEO Growing Leaders, Atlanta, GA

Opening Keynote: Marching off the Map: Empowering Students to Take Charge of their Education

Dr. Tim Elmore, founder and CEO of Growing Leaders (www.growingleaders.com), an Atlanta-based non-profit organization created to develop emerging leaders will kick us off with a thought provoking keynote on how leading 21st century students can feel like an adventure into unexplored lands. The natives of these uncharted territories, those born after the turn of the century, hold vastly different attitudes and behaviors toward learning and authority than prior generations. They communicate in rapidly evolving digital languages. They have very short attention spans (8 seconds). They multitask everything — and many even create and maintain multiple personas on social media. The “old maps” we used successfully in education, leadership and parenting to help guide our students through adolescence are now obsolete. We desperately need new strategies on how to navigate this landscape. Using proven research, image-based learning, real-world methods and practical wisdom, attendees will gain principles that will serve as a compass to them — providing direction as they lead the way in this new territory.

Don't Miss His Workshop Immediately Following the Keynote:

Free-Range Teachers: Transforming the Classroom from Apathy to Action

As teachers, we want our students to learn as much as possible. The problem is, our classrooms, courses and curriculum often lead today's students to be less engaged. Out-dated teaching styles promote engagement and ownership (commonly called "metacognition") in the teachers, not the students. While we work hard to create a great experience, most students sit back and wait for us, their teachers, to simplify the material and make it easy for them to digest it. It's time for a new strategy, one that encourages action, rather than apathy. In this session, attendees will learn the power of metacognition, and gain practical ideas for how to implement the principles of metacognition in the classroom.



Dr. Gene Frost, Executive Director Wheaton Academy Foundation, West Chicago, IL

Evening Keynote: The Impact of the Third Wave of Christian Education in America

We are entering a "third wave" of contemporary Christian education in America! The "third wave" provides perhaps the greatest opportunity for Christian schools to make a lifelong impact on students, families, and the life of the Church. To be successful, the Christian school must stop striving to compete with historic public or private schools and instead work toward becoming an "uncommon" Christian school aimed at transforming students' lives and leaving a lasting impact on the families they serve. On Monday evening, Dr. Frost will present his views on the "third wave" of Christian education and what it will take to be successful.

Sessions & Presenters

Vision & Leadership:

Why and How to Lead a Lifelong-Impact School

Dr. Gene Frost, Executive Director
Wheaton Academy Foundation

Case Studies Workshop for Heads of School

Steve Bult, Head of School
Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

Hope is Not a Strategy:

A Path to Your New Strategic Plan

Dr. Brad Schultz, Head of School
Lipscomb Academy, Nashville, TN

Culture: How do you analyze what you have and build what you need?

Phil Strzalka, Executive Director
Wheaton Academy Institute

Developing Leaders and Teams that Thrive

Kori Hockett, Principal
Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

Independent, But Not Alone:

How Networked Christian School Communities Can Expand Your Mission

Dr. Josh Thomason, Executive Director
Ethos School
VP of Finance & Operations
Greater Atlanta Christian School, Norcross, GA

Dr. Paul Cable, Academic Dean
Ethos School
Dean of Students & Bible Chair
Greater Atlanta Christian School, Norcross, GA

The 3rd Wave Christian School Leader: Winning the Battle of Performance Over Hurry

Bill Simmer, Consultant & Executive Coach
Christian School Management

Case Study: Independent, but not alone— impact of networked Christian school communities on your mission

Dr. Lindsey Judd, President
Ezell-Harding Christian School, Antioch, TN

The Importance of Teacher Evaluation and How to Do It Well

Kori Hockett, Principal
Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

Curriculum & Instruction

Free-Range Teachers: Transforming the Classroom from Apathy to Action

Dr. Tim Elmore, Founder & CEO
Growing Leaders

AI and the Future of Education: Leveraging OpenAI's Tools in Schools

Dr. Crystal Downs, PK-12 Instructional Lead Teacher
& HS Dean of Academics
Greater Atlanta Christian School, Norcross, GA

Dr. Betty Morris, Director of Academics &
Teacher Growth
Greater Atlanta Christian School, Norcross, GA
Director of Academics
Ethos

Dr. Derek Wilson, PK-12 Instructional Lead Teacher &
Dean of Technology and Innovation
Greater Atlanta Christian School, Norcross, GA

Imagine the Community Wellness Impact of SEL

Susan Macaluso, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Wheaton Christian Grammar School, Winfield, IL

Developing Enduring Learning Outcomes (ELO) that Equip Students for a Life of Impact

Susan Macaluso, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Wheaton Christian Grammar School, Winfield, IL

Developing Teachers – Your Most Important Resource

Kori Hockett, Principal
Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

The High Impact School: Children Owning Their Own Education

Simon Jeynes, Executive Director
Christian School Management

The State of Bible Teaching in Our Schools – And Why it Must Improve!

Dr. D. Bruce Lockerbie, Chairman
PAIDEIA, Inc.

Onboarding Living Curriculum New Hires: Setting Up People for Success

Betsey Doeblar, Associate Director of Human Resources
Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

School Finance & Promotion

One Step at a Time – A Map to a Successful Advancement Program

Matt Davidson, Superintendent
Timothy Christian Schools, Elmhurst, IL

Measuring & Improving School Impact: Survey Best Practices

Clint Holden, Director
The SchoolRIGHT Group

He Said, She Said: Learn to Build a Network of Parent Ambassadors and Promote Word of Mouth Marketing

Sally Strzalka, Parent Ambassador Coordinator
Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

Know Your Funnel

Amy Hogan, Director of Admissions
Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

Finding the 3rd Wave of Leadership Donors

Simon Jeynes, Executive Director
Christian School Management

Welcoming the 3rd Wave: Christian Inclusion and Organizational Sustainability

Bill Simmer, Consultant & Executive Coach
Christian School Management

Space Matters: Delivering Your Mission through a Well-Designed Facility

Peter Baldwin, Owner/Principal
AMDG Architects, Grand Rapids, MI

Todd Palmer, Senior Architect & Discipline Leader
AMDG Architects, Grand Rapids, MI

Elements of Successful Fundraising

Angel De Leon, Vice President
Mission Advancement

Student Leadership & Spiritual Life

Moving from Teaching to Discipleship: Discipleship Strategies for the Classroom

Doug Franklin, President
LeaderTreks, Wheaton, IL

Pray for Me

Doug Franklin, President
LeaderTreks, Wheaton, IL

Moving Students from Participants to Leaders

Doug Franklin, President
LeaderTreks, Wheaton, IL

The State of Bible Teaching in Our Schools – And Why it Must Improve!

Dr. D. Bruce Lockerbie, Chairman
PAIDEIA, Inc.

Student Discipline as Discipleship

Brad Thornton, Vice Principal
Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

Aligning School Mission with Student Life and Student Accountability

Brad Thornton, Vice Principal
Wheaton Academy, West Chicago, IL

Schedule at a Glance

Monday, June 12th

- Registration begins at noon
- Welcome/Orientation at 1^{PM}
- Keynote by Dr. Tim Elmore
- Afternoon sessions
- Dinner
- Keynote by Dr. Gene Frost

Tuesday, June 13th

- Breakfast, morning sessions, lunch, afternoon sessions and free time after 4^{PM} to explore local attractions

Wednesday, June 14th

- Breakfast, morning sessions
- Conference concludes 11:45^{AM}
- Registration for International Student Program Conference begins

Sponsors

Gold



Silver



Bronze

