


2018

PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING
CONFERENCE

FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL EDUCATORS

Wisconsin Council
of Religious & 
Independent Schools
Committed to a Higher Standard

August 10, 2018 | Glacier Canyon Lodge | WI Dells

wcris.staff@wcris.org | 608.287.1224 | wcris.org

DEAR WCRIS TEACHERS,



Recently, an educator was regaling me with tales of good fortune and a nearby listener quipped, “Don’t get too excited, nothing good lasts forever.”

My educator friend aptly replied: “Yes, that’s true. But I’ve also found that the bad things don’t usually last forever either.”

That’s a great insight! We carry it with us here at WCRIS when advocating for private school students, schools, teachers and families.

It came in handy recently as we fought against the legislative clock to update the new teacher lifetime license law to include private school teachers, giving them credit for years worked in private K-12 schools.

The lifetime license was created rather suddenly by well-meaning lawmakers, who didn’t allow sufficient time for input on how the licenses would actually work.

After realizing they mistakenly excluded private school teaching experience, legislators were sympathetic, but not energized enough to fix it, despite WCRIS efforts and support of the DPI.

But that all changed when we activated the WCRIS website advocacy portal. Thanks to efforts from WCRIS teachers, principals and parents across the state, we collectively delivered 1,000 e-mails to state lawmakers in a week.

It was an impressive accomplishment that got lawmakers’ attention and moved our provision through the process. We are now working closely with the DPI to draft the required rules that will make the law work.

Licenses are important, of course. But we also know private school teachers can’t do good work without professional development, which is why we sponsor an annual Professional Learning Conference.

So, thank you for attending and for keeping your skills fresh. While you do that, we’ll keep fighting in Madison and Washington D.C. to protect private K-12 students, teachers and schools.

As we struggle together in the classroom and legislature, it’s likely that unexpected events – both good and bad – will arise. Let’s remember that here on earth none of them lasts forever.

We wish you many blessings in the coming school year as you navigate that reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon".

Sharon Schmeling
WCRIS Executive Director

"...it's likely that unexpected events – both good and bad – will arise. Let's remember that none of them lasts forever."

WHO WE ARE

WCRIS supports the unique **missions** of member schools through **advocacy**, **education** and **partnerships**, to ensure an extraordinary education and **equitable opportunity** for each child.

Since our founding, WCRIS has:

- Helped amend the state constitution to provide equitable busing access for private school children;
- Fought for equitable licensing for private school teachers;
- Advocated for Parental Choice Programs to include religious schools and to expand vouchers statewide;
- Helped create a Wisconsin tax deduction for K-12 tuition expenses, saving private school parents an estimated \$30 million annually;
- Pushed for private school inclusion in School Safety Grants and federal education programs and services;
- Created the \$3,000 Private School Teacher of the Year Award, with the support of the Kohl Foundation;
- Created a public-private partnership with DPI to provide a Wisconsin Private School Ombudsman as required by federal law.

Daily, the WCRIS staff works to:

- Provide professional development and support for private school administrators and teachers;
- Prevent countless laws from being passed that hamper our schools' independence with unneeded regulations and paperwork;
- Save our member schools money by negotiating discounts on products and services that help our schools fulfill their various missions;
- Protect private school students' access to federal ESSA and IDEA programs and services.


Member Benefits

- Access to "Current Events," a timely e-letter with news from Madison and Washington D.C.;
- Reduced registration rates for the WCRIS annual Leadership Conference and Teacher Professional Learning Conference;
- Information and support on accessing federal Title programs;
- Participation in the annual Kohl Foundation competitions that provides more than \$400,000 annually to WCRIS teachers, principals, students and schools;
- Urgent announcements and communications about important updates from the DPI and other state agencies.

WCRIS advocates for over 600 member schools and the families they serve. We continuously assess the needs of our schools so we can align our goals to help them achieve success in providing the highest quality education possible.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8:00 - 9:00 am **Registration and Breakfast**
- 8:50 - 9:00 am **Welcome**
WCRIS Executive Director Sharon Schmeling
- 9:00 - 10:15 am **Morning Intensive Keynote**
Ann Anzalone
- 10:15 - 10:20 am **Passing Period**
- 10:20 - 11:25 am **Workshop Session 1**
Your choice
- 11:25 - 11:30 am **Passing Period**
- 11:30 - 12:35 pm **Workshop Session 2**
Your choice
- 12:35 - 1:35 pm **Luncheon** 
Ted Neitzke
- 1:35 - 1:40 pm **Passing Period**
- 1:40 - 2:45 pm **Workshop Session 3**
Your choice
- 3:00 pm **Ice Cream Treats and Adjoin**



MEET OUR SPEAKERS



Keynote:

Emotional Intelligence and Technology **Ann Anzalone**

Ann Anzalone is a nationally known, dynamic speaker and experienced teacher trainer. She has conducted workshops for K-12 teachers, administrators, and parents, and for businesses and corporations, including General Motors, Ford Motor Corp., and MacMillan McGraw Hill Book Company.

Ann has taught special needs middle and high school students and was honored as an Outstanding Elementary Teacher of America. She serves as a consultant for adult students, parents, and their children regarding learning styles, educational plans, and academic performance.

She teaches graduate classes at Wright State University and has taught at Antioch Midwest University. She has presented at private and public schools across the country, including for the Indiana Non-Public Education Association.

Ann was a big hit as a presenter at the 2018 WCRIS Administrators Conference, earning high praise from principals across the state.

Luncheon:

From One Acorn a Forest is Born **Ted Neitzke**

Ted Neitzke is a private school K-8 graduate and the father of two private school students. He is the CEO of CESA 6 and the former Superintendent for the West Bend School District. Ted is a constant advocate for educational excellence and collaboration, finding himself in Madison working with legislators and partners like WCRIS to improve educational equity. He hosts a weekly “Smart Thinking” podcast that aims to support individuals in their quest for leadership.



Ted is a leader in innovation. He worked with WCRIS to get private schools affordable access to the state Forward Exam. He has worked with teachers and presented at over 50 districts in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. Ted has presented for the DPI and at the 2018 WCRIS Leadership Conference. He comes from a family of public and private school educators.



WORKSHOP SESSION #1

10:20 - 11:25 am

Motivation By Design: Developing Skills For Optimal Learning

Learning is at its best when the learner is motivated and engaged in the learning. Learn six brain secrets to optimize brain function and enhance motivated learning. Motivation is a choice, provided that the underlying executive functioning skills are developed. Learn when and how these skills develop. Discover three best practices to engage students to be motivated by design.

Presenter: Ann Anzalone

Room: Sandstone 89

Love and Logic in Your Classroom

This sectional is designed to help you look at classroom management through a Love and Logic lens. It will give practical examples of how to incorporate strategies that will get students to comply and end power struggles. Relationships, consequences, and empathy are the keys to your successful Love and Logic classroom. Come learn more about how to incorporate the ideas and language involved to create an environment of compliance.

**Presenter: Aaron Bauer & Joshua Bauer, Teachers,
Garden Homes Lutheran School - Milwaukee**

Room: Sandstone 5

Do Something Epic- Build Character and Gamify Your Classroom

Learn about a cross-curricular system that fosters student character development and faculty collaboration. Discover a serious Role Playing Game (RPG) designed by teachers to gamify the classroom. It introduces students to an imaginary world where they assume pretend personas and pursue quests, uncover clues, unlock puzzles, learn to argue clearly, and understand the basics of myth and culture, all within the context of reinforcing classroom concepts. Participants will receive classroom ready materials and tips on how to utilize the format in their own classroom.

No prior gaming experience necessary.

**Presenters: Mike Gotthardt, Head of Middle School History Department
Jim Vaughn, Technology Coordinator, Upper School
Brookfield Academy - Brookfield**

Room: Tundra AB

WORKSHOP SESSION #1

10:20 - 11:25 am

Connecting with Parents: Introduction to Seesaw

Have you ever had a hard time showing parents what students are doing in your classroom? Seesaw is the answer to this problem. Seesaw is a FREE online tool that allows you to share what is happening in your classroom easily with students and parents. This tool is a great way to improve student's ability to explain in words what they are doing. Come and learn how to implement seesaw in your classroom today!

Presenter: James Schlauderaff, Teacher, McDonell Area Catholic School - Chippewa
Room: Tundra CD

Working with Struggling Readers

Classroom teachers are not always aware of how students with reading struggles may operate on a daily basis. This session provides a dyslexia simulation to help create awareness and empathy for the challenges that struggling readers face. It provides strategies, tips and techniques to serve struggling readers. This session applies to both struggling readers and to students with dyslexia.

Presenter: Patsy Dunham, Reading Solutions Coordinator,
Ozaukee Christian School - Ozaukee
Room: Tundra EF

Passion for Urban Education

This will be a fast-moving, strategy-filled, data-driven, "real talk" discussion of the issues facing our urban youth and families. This workshop will challenge leaders, educators, and teachers to be a part of the solution to the educational gap and to connect kids and families with higher ideals and character development that help transcend pop-culture and our narcissistic society.

Presenter: Lance Meyer, Alumni Minister, St. Marcus - Milwaukee
Room: Sandstone 4

More choices 



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Mental Health First Aid

This program was developed by the Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health to educate teachers about mental health. This program has been used to educate over 270 educators in Racine. The main objectives of this workshop are to improve your general knowledge of mental health and the impact of trauma on our students, along with reducing stigma and misunderstanding around mental health. This program will cover strategies that educators can use to increase their effectiveness with students who are experiencing mental health challenges.

Presenters: Laura Vanderheyden, Lead Middle School Counselor, Racine Unified School District - Racine

Trisha Howard, Lead Elementary Counselor, Racine Unified School District - Racine
Julie Hueller, Manager, Racine Unified School District - Racine

Room: Sandstone 6

Encourage Thinking and a Growth Mindset via the Socratic Method

Come see how to turn learning over to students through the use of close reading techniques, and the Socratic seminar. Students can become the leaders of their own learning. It's not as hard as you think! And the rewards students achieve are more valuable than simply learning the "right answer."

Presenter: Justin Kuehl, Literature Teacher and Technology Coach, Notre Dame Middle School - Chippewa

Room: Sandstone 3

WORKSHOP SESSION #2

11:30 - 12:35 pm

Structured Chaos: Engaging Learners in Science Class

Finding the right balance between structure and chaos in the middle school science lab can be tough. In this session, you'll learn how to use note taking strategies and guided instruction as a framework for exploration in the science classroom. Channel your inner middle-schooler and come ready to explore!

Presenter: Katie Miller, Middle School & Technology Teacher, St. John Vianney Catholic School - Janesville

Room: Sandstone 5

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Aaron Bauer & Joshua Bauer, Teachers, Garden Homes Lutheran School - Milwaukee
Room: Sandstone 6

Play to Learn: Spelling Club

Unlock your student's academic potential through short, successful spelling and phonemic sequencing activities. This quick, unique, multi-modality, and data-driven approach to spelling has demonstrated generalized student success through improved reading and writing abilities. As educators, we realize the influence of a strong foundation in phonemic awareness to secure fluency patterns in reading and writing for learning literacy. We have all seen the reluctant student shrivel at the thought of reading aloud or writing just one-word answers for fear of misspelling. These high-interest activities will help your struggling kindergarten through 3rd grade students successfully engage with the confidence to learn and excel in school.

Your students will have so much fun, they will ask for more!

Presenter: Tammy Myers, President, Mrs. Myer's Reading Room - Pleasant
Room: Tundra EF

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Classroom Management in a Crisis

This session will provide you an opportunity to speak with members of the Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of School Safety about questions you may have for classroom management in an unexpected, violent situation. The Office of School Safety staff will provide you with information about threat assessment and reporting, and classroom management during a crisis.

Presenter: Wisconsin Department of Justice, Office of School Safety Staff

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WORKSHOP SESSION #3

1:40 - 2:45 pm

Encourage Thinking and a Growth Mindset via the Socratic Method

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SAVE THE DATE

August 9, 2019

The 2019 Professional Learning Conference will be held on Friday, August 9, 2019, at Glacier Canyon Lodge. The Keynote is Cynthia Tobias, a nationally known expert on teaching and learning styles. She is the author of "Every Child Can Succeed: Making the Most of Your Child's Learning Style." Cynthia is a popular presenter for business, government agencies, public and private schools throughout the U.S. and a featured guest on radio and TV.

Cynthia's corporate clients have included the Seattle Police Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, the International Association of Women Police (IAWP), General Motors, Walt Disney, Merrill Lynch, and BNSF Railroad.

Come join us for an exciting day of learning!

Congratulations to Wisconsin's 2018 Teacher of the Year

Third Grade teacher Erika Galewski was named Wisconsin Private School Teacher of the Year during an all-school assembly at St. Mary's Elementary in Altoona. The La Crosse Diocese teacher received a commemorative plaque from WCRIS and a \$3,000 check from the Herb Kohl Foundation. At the surprise announcement, Galewski was overcome with tearful joy as her family suddenly appeared carrying balloons, flowers and cake. The student body erupted in applause, as local media recorded the event.

Congratulations Erika!

After Conference Resources

Build on and strengthen what you learned today by visiting the WCRIS post-conference resource page of our website. You will find material and powerpoints from today's presenters to continue your professional development. Go to wcris.org under the Professional Development tab.



OUR SPONSORS

Please stop by the exhibitors in the hallway to see what services they offer and how they can support you in the classroom, and in your ongoing professional development.

Thank you for your support:

Creighton University

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Wisconsin Right to Life

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classroom grant awards

Mrs. Myers Reading Room

reading programs and curriculum

**Visit the Wisconsin Right to Life Booth for
Special Conference Pricing on the book:**

50 Years of Saving Lives

This key educational resource for your classroom and school library takes an in-depth look at the history of abortion and right-to-life activism in our state and nation. The 224-page book explores issues rarely found elsewhere, with each chapter covering crucial decades along the way, from the 1960s until today.

Special effort was made in the writing of "50 Years of Saving Lives" to make explanations clear and easy to understand. Topics include: Understanding *Roe v Wade*; The Values-Shift of the 1960's; How Tribalism has Divided our Nation Politically; Planned Parenthood's Margaret Sanger-roots; The Great Awakening brought on by Ultrasound; How right-to-life laws save lives and how Wisconsin's Pro-Life Abortion Law (§ 940.04, which dates back to 1849) will go back into effect when (and if) *Roe v Wade* is overturned. Plus historical milestones of Wisconsin Right to Life's fifty years of life-saving work and history.

**Regularly \$19.99 - Special Conference price \$10. each
or, 30 copies for \$225 + shipping.**

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FACTS | RenWeb powers every part of the educational journey, including:

- Tuition Management
- Financial Aid Assessment
- Payment Forms
- Learning Management System
- Student Information System
- Online Application and Enrollment



Elevate your passion for education.

Whether you're interested in enhancing your skills in the classroom or looking toward a leadership role in education, Creighton University's graduate and professional development programs can help you get there. You'll gain a specialized skill set, stay current with the latest trends in education, and learn how to best serve students through one of our top-ranked graduate programs in education—many of which can be completed entirely online.

- See our graduate program and professional development options at gradschool.creighton.edu/WCRIS



Creighton
UNIVERSITY

Graduate School

Creighton University is a Catholic, Jesuit university located in Omaha, Nebraska. We're committed to excellence in education and the Jesuit principles, meriting recognition as the #1 Regional University in the Midwest from U.S. News and World Report.