

**Tuesday Sessions**  
**Room assignments will be made soon**  
**8:30 – 9:15**

*Behind the Curtain: The Governors School for the Arts*

*Jason C. Brooks – Director, Governors School for the Arts*

The Governors School for the Arts Summer intensive program is a three-week arts residential summer experience, which brings together over 500+ rising juniors and seniors from across Kentucky. This immersive experience is a cornerstone of Kentucky's cultural landscape, offering in-depth training in nine art forms: Creative Writing, Dance, Design, Drama, Film & Photography, Instrumental Music, Musical Theatre, Visual Art, and Vocal Music. Come and gain a greater understanding on the inner workings of GSA as we shift the artistic landscape of the commonwealth.

*Effective Questioning and Discussion for Depth and Complexity*

*Denise Ahlquist, Senior Academic Consultant, Great Books Foundation*

Rich, genuinely complex texts prompt curiosity and support students' development as readers and thinkers. When all students then engage in high-quality questioning and discussion of such objects of inquiry, teachers identify and support more diverse learners who exhibit unusual talents for creative/critical thinking, depth of understanding, and interpersonal leadership. Shared Inquiry is used in a wide range of settings across Kentucky; implementation examples and practical tips will be shared.

*Taking Instruction to the Next Level with the Arts*

*Cynthia Warner Arts Education Director Kentucky Arts Council*

Arts education is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students. Studies have shown that the arts motivate students, improve attitudes, and bring students to school. And yet, despite the impressive benefits of arts education, not every student has access to these quality learning experiences. The Kentucky Arts Council is here to help fund arts experiences through our teaching artists residencies and field trip reimbursement arts education grant programs. The arts can deepen learning across the curriculum, and we have teaching artists that can assist teachers in doing that while directly working with students in dynamic ways. Learn how to complete an outstanding grant application so that your students can learn more about the creative process and discover their own artistic abilities. Additionally, learn more about Poetry Out Loud, an annual poetry recitation competition.

*Always Look on the Bright Side of Life: Supporting Social-Emotional Learning with E-Books*

*Kristi Hayes, Ed.S., Alisa Whitt, Niyetta Williams-Hill, Ed.D.*

The social-emotional wellbeing of our gifted learners is a fundamental component of their overall success. In this interactive session, Gifted Itinerant Teachers from Jefferson County Public Schools will share their creation of digital books aimed to support gifted students both intellectually and emotionally.

*Soar Beyond, Teach smart & Engage all tomorrow*

*Danita Cobble, Digital Learning Coach Bullitt County Schools*

Let's "Go Beyond" to learn how to incorporate technology and EduProtocols into your classroom. Work Smarter not Harder with EduProtocols. Lift off with ideas ready to implement in your class tomorrow! Make simple changes in your lessons that will increase student engagement with these easy to implement strategies. Launch EduProtocols with ideas you can use in any content or grade level tomorrow.

**9:30 – 10:15**

*Partnering with Families for Student Success*

*Sharon Mofield-Boswell, District FACE Liaison, FCPS*

In today's educational landscape, the partnership between schools and families is more crucial than ever for fostering student success. This presentation delves into the pivotal role families play in enhancing students' academic and personal growth. Grounded in the latest research and practical strategies, we will explore how educators and administrators can cultivate meaningful, collaborative relationships with families to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment. The session will begin by examining the foundational theories behind family engagement, emphasizing the work of experts like Dr. Karen Mapp, who highlights the importance of building trust and mutual respect between families and schools. We will discuss key components of effective family-school partnerships, including communication strategies, cultural responsiveness, and the co-creation of educational goals. Participants will gain insights into various models and frameworks that have successfully integrated family engagement into the fabric of educational institutions. Case studies from diverse school districts, including Fayette County Public Schools, will illustrate best practices and innovative approaches to involving families in the educational process. Interactive activities will provide attendees with hands-on experience in developing action plans tailored to their unique school communities. These plans will focus on creating welcoming school climates, utilizing community resources, and leveraging technology to enhance communication and collaboration. By the end of the presentation, participants will have a toolkit of strategies to foster strong family-school partnerships, understand the impact of family engagement on student achievement, and be prepared to implement these strategies in their own settings. Join us in redefining the pathway to student success through effective family engagement, and leave inspired to build lasting, impactful relationships with the families in your educational community.

*Leading with Impact: Strategies for Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders Today*

*Kimberly Clayton-Code, Sara Runge, Associate Professor, Northern Kentucky University*

In today's ever-evolving VUCA world, the need for strong, visionary leaders has never been more critical. Join us for an interactive session designed specifically for educators and gifted education advocates. We will focus on cultivating leadership qualities in gifted students, equipping them with the skills and mindset needed to become the innovators and changemakers of the future. In this session, participants will explore evidence-based strategies and practical approaches to foster leadership potential in gifted learners. We will delve into methods for identifying and nurturing leadership traits, creating supportive and challenging environments, and providing opportunities for gifted students to develop their unique strengths. Key topics include Developing Leadership Potential: Learn strategies and tools to develop leadership qualities in gifted students through various assessment tools and techniques. Cultivating a Growth Mindset: Discover strategies to encourage a growth mindset, resilience, and a passion for lifelong learning in gifted individuals. Mentorship and Role Models: Understand the importance of mentorship and how to connect gifted students with role models who can inspire and guide them. This includes strategies for workforce and career explorations. Service Learning and Community Involvement: Learn how to incorporate service-learning projects and community involvement to provide real-world leadership experiences. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and hands-on activities and toolkits, attendees will gain valuable insights and practical tools to implement in their own settings. This session aims to empower educators to unlock the leadership potential within their gifted students, preparing them to make a significant impact in their schools, communities, and beyond.

*Unlocking Potential through the Arts: Arts-Integration & Gifted Learning*

*Dr. Ashley Perkins, Educational Programs Specialist, English Language Arts Specialist with the Collaborative for Teaching and Learning, Jessie Thompson, Supervisor for Gifted & Talented and Advance Program with Jefferson County Public Schools, Tiffani Morrison, Gifted and Talented Coach with Jefferson County Public Schools*

*Panel Facilitator: Emily Wilson, VP Partnerships and Engagement with the Collaborative for Teaching and Learning*

Join our Arts-Integration and Gifted Learning experts for a dynamic conversation on how integrating the arts into gifted literacy instruction can provide access, challenge, and joy for both students and educators. Key Highlights: Insights from Dr. Ashley Perkins: With years of experience in arts-integrated learning, Dr. Perkins will share her expertise in designing learning opportunities that are "...observed as a joyful experience as instruction is designed to align with children's natural curiosities by providing them with

context, autonomy through choices, guided explorations and multiple forms of expression through the arts" (Haslip & Gullo, 2017). Implementation Strategy from Jessie Thompson & Tiffani Morrison: Learn from Jessie Thompson, Supervisor for Gifted & Talented and Advance Program, and Tiffani Morrison, Gifted and Talented Coach, as they share how they've transformed an arts-integrated approach from concept to reality in one of the nation's largest school districts.

*Teaching depth and complexity through picture books*

*Natalie Schmitt, IU Southeast, JCPS*

Elementary teachers are often intimidated by implementing depth and complexity strategies with young learners. In this session, an overview of the strategies will be shared, as well as specific lesson ideas for introducing these strategies to students through the use of engaging picture books, graphic organizers, media clips and more. Attendees will walk away with a catalog of books directly related to each strategy.

*Cluster Grouping Using Local Norms Creates Inclusive Gifted Services*

*Dina Brulles, PhD, Arizona State University*

*Kim Lansdowne, PhD, Arizona State University*

Cluster grouping has become the de-facto method for serving gifted learners throughout much of the country. The model, when used along with two additional current trends—administering universal testing and using building norms—completes the process of increasing inclusion in gifted services. An effective gifted cluster model emerges from the school's student population. This process begins with an identification system that removes subjectivity and potential bias. Once the identification process is complete, school-based teams determine the ability and achievement levels of all students in the grade level. The team then composes cluster groups and classroom placements based on this data. Lastly, administration develops a plan to train and support gifted cluster groups with an emphasis on culturally responsive teaching. The procedures outlined here describe how cluster grouping can be viewed as structured autonomy. The cluster grouping structure is established. Schools have the autonomy to create classroom compositions based on the number of students identified as having high ability who would benefit from advanced learning opportunities. Given the wide range of learning levels in schools, educators must determine which students at each school are farthest removed from the norm in both directions. They then create a balance of achievement and ability across all classes in the grade level. This session lays the groundwork for developing and supporting an effective and inclusive cluster-grouping model in any school or district.

**10:30 – 11:15**

*The Impact of The Talent Identification Program of Kentucky*

*Jennifer Wilson, Coordinator for TIP-KY Tyler Clark, Assistant Director of Operations, The Center for Gifted Studies Julia Roberts, Executive Director, The Center for Gifted Studies*

The Talent Identification Program of Kentucky (TIP-KY) is having an impact on high potential and high ability students throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky and beyond. This session will discuss how the program's above-level assessments help educators and families lift students' academic ceilings and offer recommendations to continue challenging students.

*BAMS-Authentic Educational Opportunities and their Impact on Student Success*

*Mrs. Stephanie Lewis-Teacher at the Bullitt Advanced Math and Science program Miss Payton Coogle-Teacher at the Bullitt Advanced Math and Science program Current students in the Bullitt Advanced Math and Science program*

BAMS is a data driven program that utilizes traditional teaching methods, hybrid educational programs, and authentic learning experiences to provide students with a well-rounded education that prepares them for college and career. Students take nine classes per year, engage with professional mentors in the fields of engineering, environmental sciences, and social sciences to complete long term projects. During this session, a brief overview of the program will be presented but the bulk of the session will be students discussing how these authentic learning experiences have given students opportunities to grow both academically and personally in ways that would not have been possible otherwise.

*Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS): Enhancing Visual and Historical Literacy*  
*Elsie Merlie, Teacher Resources Manager, Kentucky Historical Society*

Discover how KHS utilizes Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) to deliver art-infused history lessons that enhance students' visual literacy, historical understanding, and critical thinking skills. We will provide helpful tips for designing VTS lessons tailored for gifted students. Participants will have the opportunity to explore KHS's extensive research library and digital collections, providing a rich repository of resources to support the VTS methodology.

*Bourbon, Bridles, and Basketball: Harnessing Kentucky's Spirit to Creatively Think About the Future*  
*Justin Mitchell - Simpson County Schools*

Dive into Kentucky's unique cultural landscape, where the craftsmanship of bourbon, the excitement of horse racing, and the energy of basketball become powerful tools for creative thinking. In this session, we'll explore how these iconic Kentucky symbols can inspire gifted students to think critically about the future, using practical, classroom-ready strategies rooted in the Bluegrass State's rich heritage. In this transformative session, educators will be equipped with the keys to unraveling the tapestry of tomorrow. No crystal ball required; just an adept understanding of trends and patterns that serve as constellations in the vast universe of possibilities. This isn't about predicting the future—it's about crafting it. Just as forecasters predict sales, weather, and the economy by deciphering trends and patterns, we aim to empower students to envision and address the challenges of tomorrow. Let Kentucky's rich heritage—bourbon, horse racing, and basketball—be our muse as we explore how to cultivate a future-focused mindset in our learners. In this session, I will demonstrate practical ways to foster creativity in the gifted classroom with advice from Torrance (1978, 1988), Renzulli & Reis (1994), Hennessey (2004), and Alsamani (2019). Using Kentucky's storied traditions as a foundation, we'll unlock strategies that allow students to think critically and creatively about the world around them. Join me as we transcend the boundaries of conventional teaching, delving into a realm where creativity is the compass pointing toward uncharted territories. Prepare to witness the birth of practical strategies that not only embrace the evolving world but also ignite the spark of creative thinking in the hearts and minds of our gifted learners. Let's reimagine education as a dynamic force, shaping the future through a lens uniquely crafted by the rich cultural narratives of Kentucky.

*Innovate, Engage, Empower: Harnessing AI to Enhance Gifted Education*

*Shannon Eastep - Senior Lecturer/Instructional Technology Coordinator, Northern Kentucky University*

In this session, participants will explore how AI is being seamlessly integrated into familiar educational tools, enhancing their functionality and boosting classroom efficiency. Many platforms that educators have used for years, such as Canva, Padlet, Quizizz, and Formative, now come equipped with AI-driven features designed to streamline lesson creation, assessment, and engagement. We'll dive into examples such as Padlet's AI-powered content generation tools that simplify brainstorming and collaboration, and Canva's AI features for visual storytelling. Additionally, we will explore how Quizizz and Formative now leverage AI to generate personalized quizzes and assessments based on student performance data. These AI enhancements make it easier for teachers to differentiate instruction, provide real-time feedback, and create engaging learning experiences. This session will provide a hands-on demonstration of these new features, offering participants an opportunity to explore how AI can transform these long-standing tools into cutting-edge resources for modern classrooms. Educators will leave with practical strategies to integrate AI into their existing workflows, enhancing both teaching and learning outcomes.

**11:30-12:15**

*Connecting Across the Commonwealth - University Faculty Lunch Break*  
*Facilitator: Kimberly Clayton-Code*

University Faculty are invited to bring their box lunches and come to the lobby to the right of the elevators. During this informal lunch break, you will have a chance to talk with other faculty members.

*Talent Detectives: Uncovering and Identifying High Potential Students”*

*Kathie Anderson - Gifted Education Program Consultant, Kentucky Department of Education*

In this session, participants will learn about effective practices for identifying students for the Gifted and Talented (GT) program, including Primary Talent Pool (PTP). Participants will discuss frequently asked questions regarding identifying GT students. Regulation requirements will be reviewed with participants to assist them in determining screening and identification resources.

*Gifted Tricks: PBLs, Critical/Creative Thinking & other DOK 3-4 strategies*

*Ben Bache, Content Manager for the PBL Project,*

FREE BOOKS! This session will explore how Depth of Knowledge 3-4 strategies (transferring knowledge, making abstract connections, and using content in the real-world) can support DOK 1-2 instruction (facts and key concepts). We will focus on strategies such as PBLs, Critical/Creative Thinking, Deductive Reasoning, and more. Books will be provided with ready-to-use exercises for the classroom.

*Ballet Bound: A Pathway Into the World of Ballet*

*Stacey Blakeman, Director of Community Engagement, Louisville Ballet*

Louisville Ballet believes that children should have access to high quality dance education and training regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, or socio-economic status. Now entering its fifth year of operation, Ballet Bound is an initiative of Louisville Ballet providing young dancers from all across Greater Louisville the opportunity to study classical ballet free of charge in a professional setting. Ballet Bound was designed to create access and build diversity in the world of ballet while serving as a pathway for dancers to The Louisville Ballet School, Louisville Ballet Studio Company and eventually a career with Louisville Ballet. Each summer, Louisville Ballet hosts an Audition Tour in partnership with Olmsted Parks in search of 20 young dancers (ages 7-9) to fill our Ballet Bound Community Class, which is a one year tuition-free program that operates in Louisville Ballet’s downtown studios. From this community class, students then have the opportunity to matriculate through The Louisville Ballet School on a Continuing Ballet Bound Scholarship, in which they are eligible to receive free training until high school graduation and be ready to embark on their journey as a professional dancer. To date, 17 students who have graduated from the Ballet Bound Community Program are on 100% scholarship at The Louisville Ballet School, and three of those students just entered the Pre-Professional Training Program, receiving their first pair of pointe shoes in summer of 2024. An additional five students who have graduated from the community class are on partial scholarship at the ballet school.

*Beastly Blends: The Magic of Scranimal Making*

*Jennifer Stith*

Join us for an engaging and hands-on Professional Learning session designed to inspire and challenge gifted students through the art of creative writing and hybrid creature creation. This session, suitable for students from 4th to 8th grade (and even younger with some support), will focus on crafting “Scranimals” – imaginative creatures that blend different animals into unique, fantastical beings. Participants will explore fun, interactive lessons that cater to various types of gifted students, including those with general intellectual abilities, visual arts talents, and creative thinking skills. Through a series of dynamic activities, students will enhance their storytelling abilities, artistic expression, and inventive thinking. Whether your students are budding writers, aspiring artists, or creative thinkers, this session promises to ignite their imaginations and provide them with the tools to create their own mythical menagerie. Come prepared to dive into a world where creativity knows no bounds!

*Increasing Equity & Diversity in Gifted Identification: An Innovative Approach*

*Dina Brulles, PhD, Arizona State University*

*Kim Lansdowne, PhD, Arizona State University*

Racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic inequality in gifted education is widespread. While most educators recognize the inequities in identifying and serving gifted learners of diversity and students living in poverty, few have rectified this issue. The identification process that is typically used puts too much emphasis on knowledge of the English language and academic achievement, which are tremendous obstacles for students of diversity and those with limited opportunity and background knowledge. Schools commonly seek out high-achieving students to include in their gifted services while overlooking students with high potential who are not yet achieving at levels commensurate with their ability. Despite continued attention to the disparity from leading experts, the problem continues to plague the field. The obstacles are well-established. What is the solution? Helping schools more effectively and equitably identify gifted students is critical to improving outcomes for all students and is the central point of this session. This session will expand participants' understanding of equitable identification processes, the crucial importance of culturally-free assessments, and practical, effective strategies for identifying students. Once identified, the presenter will share approaches for working with high-potential students in classrooms and gifted education programs.

**12:30 – 1:15**

*Championing Rural, Gifted Learners: 5 Tips and Tricks*

*Olivia Jarrell, PhD*

Educators and administrators in rural districts are familiar with the challenges of meeting the needs of their most gifted students with the resources and staff available in their schools. An excerpt of key findings from a qualitative research study in three rural Appalachian school districts, this session aims to provide # tips to support your gifted students using the resources you have on hand. Examples from the study and connections to literature will be provided for each of the tips. Creativity, flexibility, and intentionality are key to supporting gifted learners in rural settings.

*Teaching With Rigor Not RIGAMORTIS*

*Lisa Onusaitis*

This session will showcase ideas for how to meet the needs of GT and/or high achievers in a short class period. Different thinking skills and activities will be shared. This is very practical for newcomers as well as the gifted veterans! Importance of Teaching Different Thinking Skills: Teaching different thinking skills equips students with the tools they need to navigate a complex, ever-changing world. By developing critical, creative, analytical, and reflective thinking skills, students become more adaptable and resilient. They learn how to approach problems from multiple angles, consider diverse perspectives, and make well-informed decisions. Additionally, these skills prepare students for future academic challenges, and career demands. Recognizing the importance of incorporating various thinking skills into the curriculum helps promote well-rounded student development. Critical, creative, analytical, and reflective thinking each play a distinct role in enhancing students' cognitive abilities. A balanced approach ensures that students are not just acquiring knowledge but also learning how to think effectively in different situations. Different students may excel in different types of thinking skills. Some may be more analytical, while others may shine in creative thinking. Understanding this can guide a teacher in differentiating instruction and providing opportunities for all students to engage in and develop their strengths while also improving in areas where they may be less confident. Teaching thinking skills also involves encouraging students to reflect on their own learning processes. A teacher can model this by reflecting on the lesson itself, identifying what worked well and what can be improved. Continuous reflection ensures that teaching methods evolve to meet students' needs, and it reinforces the value of reflective thinking as a lifelong skill for both students and teachers.

*Promoting Grit and Perseverance Through Puzzling*

*Amanda Harris, Ed. S. Talent and Gifted Teacher, Shelby County Public School*

Come learn how Breakout EDU supports 21st-century learners! We will discuss the power of "Yet," the importance of learning through productive struggle, and how you can foster perseverance and grit using Breakout EDU puzzles. There will also be time for questions and answers.

*70 Integrating Math and Science for a Sustainable Planet*

*Jamie-Marie Miller, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education, Eastern Kentucky University*

Effective STEM-based lessons for gifted students can start with natural math/science integration to discover more about the world around us. In this hands-on, inquiry-based workshop, participants will participate in innovative activities that illustrate the science and math behind real-world ecology concepts such as carrying capacity in nature, natural resource use, and how humans are forever changing Earth's landscape, habitats and biodiversity. Presented strategies include creating representational mathematical models with manipulatives, cooperative group problem-solving challenges, graphing and analysis, and role-playing simulations. The presented activities build students' understanding and skills in algebraic patterns and functions, decimals, fractions and ratios, linear measurement, as well as number operations and problem solving. The activities incorporate data on trends in the environment, global demographics and natural resource use, and seek to enhance their data literacy and critical thinking skills related to data. Manipulatives are used to illustrate concepts for visual learners. Receive lesson plans with ideas for differentiation, all linked to state standards.

*Enhancing Learning for Gifted Students Using Digital Tools*

*Ashley Marker- Digital Learning Coach: Bullitt County Public Schools*

*Stefanie Kleinholter- Digital Learning Coach: Bullitt County Public Schools*

Enhancing Learning for Gifted Students Using Digital Too is a presentation focused on exploring how educators can leverage technology to create engaging, personalized, and challenging learning experiences for gifted students. It will cover various digital tools that support advanced learning, differentiation, and creativity, offering strategies to foster critical thinking, collaboration, and self-directed learning. The presentation will also highlight the importance of integrating technology to meet the unique needs of gifted learners and empower them to reach their full potential.

**1:30-2:15**

*Summer Discovery: Enriching Talented Youth Through University-Partnered Experiences*

*Jiliane McArdle, Eastern Kentucky University,*

*Anne Calloway Dacci, Gifted Services Coordinator, Model Laboratory Schools at EKU*

The Summer Discovery for Talented Youth at Eastern Kentucky University provides a summer enrichment experience for gifted middle grades students while serving as a clinical site for aspiring gifted educators across Eastern Kentucky University's service region. Presenters will share Summer Discovery participant and practitioner experiences and support the planning of university partnerships in attendee service regions.

*EduProtocols: Where your NEW Adventure Begins*

*Christie Turbeville, Digital Learning Coach, Bullitt County Public Schools*

Tired of feeling like YOU are doing all the work? Your new ADVENTURE using EduProtocols begins today! "Shift the workload" back to your students! Come EXPERIENCE a variety of instructional lesson frames firsthand then FLY away with templates for Repuzzler, Frayer, Sketch & Tell, Thick Slides, Chatterbox & SO MANY MORE

*SpeakNess: Transform your Public Speaking Ability for Greater Impact*

*Nicholas Lambe, Impact Speaker Education Speaker, Educator, Speaker*

Public speaking skills are amongst the greatest gift that you can give to yourself. Which in turn becomes one of the greatest gifts that you can share with others. The ability to speak more effectively allows you to SHOW UP. Fitness is defined as the condition of being physically fit & healthy & the quality of being

suitable to fulfill a certain role or task. SPEAKness is the condition of being able to speak effectively & the quality of being able to show up impactfully on all the stages of your life, with clients, with family, in your community. This unique & engaging presentation will provide the beginning steps to improving your SpeakNess. With an immersive and experiential perspective into public speaking skills. From how to use your voice to telling dynamic personal stories, this talk will open doors to greater impact professionally and personally

*Dynamic Duos: Elevating Literacy Through Paired Texts*

*Genny Jenkins, GT Resource Teacher, FCPS*

Making connections aids retention, helps strengthen contextual understanding, and makes learning more real for students. This session will focus on resources to up your game in Paired Text for yourself and for the teachers you work with.

*AI: The new child in education (panel)*

*Shannon Estep, Gera Nelson, Kimberly Clayton-Code, Kim Nettleton, Lesia Lennex, Michael Kessinger, and Danita Cobble*

This panel discussion brings together a team from higher education to explore the current state and future potential of artificial intelligence (AI). With AI shaping our role as educators and everyday life, this session will dive into the opportunities it presents, the challenges it poses, and the ethical considerations that must be addressed. From personalized learning and AI-powered tutoring systems, AI is reshaping how students learn and teachers teach. This panel discussion aims to provide a balanced view of the promises and challenges of AI in education, offering practical guidance for educators and thoughtful consideration of the ethical implications. Various topics will be presented by the panel with opportunities for discussion from the audience. It is our hope that a wealth of information will be shared and then applied after the conference is over.