

Schoolwide Best Practices During Remote Learning Event Overview

Keynotes

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Brandon Jones—*The Face of Education: Indisputable Truths We Can No Longer Mask*

Breakouts

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Mandy Barrett—*Elementary School 101 During a Pandemic*

Leigh Colburn & Linda Beggs— *Harnessing the Power of Student Voice to Determine Needed Services*

Joe Cuddemi—*Protocols: Increasing Student Engagement in the Virtual Learning Environment*

Jenn Deinhart—*Coaching Collaborative Teams in a Virtual Setting*

Aaron Hansen—*Intentional Teaching Practices to Help Students Trade a Fixed Mindset for a Growth Mindset*

Brandon Jones—*Prepare for the Unpredictable: The Work of Teams in a Changing Landscape*

Nathaniel Provencio—*Community Connections and Your PLC at Work*

Keynote Session Descriptions

Aaron Hansen

In the Midst of Disruption Lies Opportunity!

The challenges are immense! We are living in and through unprecedented times of change! The ways in which we deliver a high quality education have begun to fundamentally shift out of necessity of circumstance. Educators have been tasked with tremendous responsibility to manage all of these changes. The bright side of having such a responsibility is that we have the opportunity to rethink some of our past paradigms, practices and policies, to make changes we've needed for a long time. The best part is, it's an "educator-led revolution."

In this session, participants discuss three opportunities for making significant changes because of our current disruptive conditions:

- Shift from a focus on compliance and coverage to a focus on learning a few authentic things at a deep level.
- Improve our assessment practices to be a tool for learning.
- Reform our grading practices to support and enhance learning.

Brandon Jones

The Face of Education: Indisputable Truths We Can No Longer Mask

Staring down the long, dark tunnel of the global pandemic has forced educators around the globe to reconsider long-standing priorities of our profession. Questions echo through our minds and our hallways like:

- How do we keep students and staff safe?
- How will we provide for the basic needs of students?
- What will virtual learning look like?
- Who will participate in online learning?
- What is most important to consider when teaching virtually?

In this keynote, Brandon Jones examines remarkably powerful fundamental truths of education while dispelling deceptions, falsehoods, and lies that have been sold in the wake of the changing face of education. Educators have a significant obligation to ensure learning for each student, but the path to fulfilling that responsibility has become noticeably more difficult in recent times. In spite of those challenges, success is possible if we focus our efforts and energy on these few fundamental truths.

Breakout Session Descriptions

Jason Andrews

District Level Leadership During a Pandemic

In August 2020, Education Week described the superintendency “the worst job in education.” Indeed, 2020 posed incredible challenges for school leaders. Yet, we know that in every crisis lies an opportunity. According to the Brookings Institution, “The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in at least one positive thing: a much greater appreciation for the importance of public schools. As parents struggle to work with their children at home due to school closures, public recognition of the essential caretaking role schools play in society has skyrocketed.”

By effectively utilizing the PLC at Work Process, school leaders can deal with the challenges and leverage the opportunities posed by the current pandemic to ensure high levels of learning for all students. In this session, participants will:

- Describe the current reality of schools with regard to the PLC at Work process.
- Develop strategies for leveraging the pandemic to improve outcomes for students.

Mandy Barrett

Elementary School 101 During a Pandemic

- Review the importance of working as a Professional Learning Community
- Explore how the Four Critical Questions secured the work of a school throughout the pandemic
- Discover how to use the Plan, Do, Study, Act Cycle to structure the planning process
- Self Care for Teachers and Students

Leigh Colburn & Linda Beggs

Harnessing the Power of Student Voice to Determine Needed Services

Participants will:

- Learn the basics of whole child and wraparound services.
- Gain insight on the importance of establishing a culture of trust and gathering student voice.
- Learn two processes for gathering student voice that can be facilitated with in-person or remote learners (conversation circles and off-track interviews).

Joe Cuddemi

Protocols: Increasing Student Engagement in the Virtual Learning Environment

Protocols are powerful tools that help facilitate conversations among adults and students in the virtual learning environment. Protocols have a variety of purposes, ranging from educators

examining professional practice and issues to students examining their work, rendering a text, or analyzing successful learning strategies.

In this session, participants will:

- Explore a plethora of protocols and their various purposes.
- Examine proven strategies for using protocols to help facilitate learning in the virtual learning environment.
- Learn how protocols balance voice and increase engagement during the learning process.

Jenn Deinhart

Coaching Collaborative Teams in a Virtual Setting

As an instructional leader in your school, coaches are often at the center of the work of collaborative teams. Since so many educators are now collaborating virtually, we will learn about strategies to overcome common challenges of distance teaming while staying true to the Professional Learning Community at Work process. We will explore protocols and facilitation techniques that support teams in effectively engage in the right work, even at a distance.

In this session we will:

- Discuss the importance of establishing and regularly reflecting on team norms
- Learn how to utilize electronic agendas and digital folders to organize and archive the work of teams
- Explore protocols & strategies that help to elevate team discussions around the four critical questions such as lifting engagement and gathering evidence of student learning in the virtual classroom

Aaron Hansen

Intentional teaching practices to help students trade a fixed mindset for a growth mindset

A number of students are just floating through school. They are going through the motions at best, while some don't even try at all. They see school as a 12-year act of compliance before they enter the "real world". This session explores some of the psychological fear that many students face and how that translates into why some kids don't try. The session will then give teachers practical steps to help their students start to take ownership of their learning journey step by step and become the hero in their own story.

Participants will:

- Explore the psychological principles at play when some kids lose motivation and don't try.
- Learn 6 practical steps they can use to help students face their fears and trade in their fixed-mindset for a growth-mindset.

Brandon Jones

Prepare for the Unpredictable: The Work of Teams in a Changing Landscape

There is a lot of speculation about what the school setting will look like in the future. Although the structures of school may vary, the foundations of learning will remain the same. Working as a highly effective collaborative that embraces the fundamental concepts of the PLC at Work process has never been more important. In this breakout session, Brandon Jones examines the role of one of the most powerful tools available to educators: targeted feedback. When used correctly and consistently, teachers can expect to see marked growth in student learning. Participants learn how to implement effective feedback techniques as well as identify traditional feedback practices that are detrimental to the learning process.

Nathaniel Provencio

Community Connections and Your PLC at Work

In a PLC, every student, teacher, staff member, parent, and family member is vital to the success of the school. With an emphasis on transparency, mutual trust, and clarity of purpose, this session provides a road map to growing community engagement and involvement.

In this session, participants will:

- Gain insight into the importance of parent and family engagement with schools as part of students' success.
- Learn key concepts of the PLC at Work process and how they apply to foster school engagement with families and other community stakeholders.
- Gain strategies to encourage community involvement in goal setting within schools.
- Understand how to overcome the barriers of economically disadvantaged families and communities traditionally underserved by schools.
- Acquire best practices for involving stakeholders in a collaborative process of learning and growth.