



DSU Teach Camp June 6, 2025

Last updated: 6/9/2025

8:00 to 8:55	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kevin Smith - Welcome • Rebecka Peterson, 2023 National Teacher of the Year <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">VIEW RECORDING</div>		
9:00 to 9:50	Session 1		
	Elementary	Middle/High School	All
	Engage to Empower: Making Learning Meaningful to Minimize Behaviors Kirstin Johnson <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">VIEW RECORDING</div> Moderator: Kindra Schneider	Curipod: Interactive Lessons Mary Bitterman <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">VIEW RECORDING</div> Moderator: Megan Schuh	Self-Pacing: Letting Students Drive Their Learning Kate Klug <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">VIEW RECORDING</div> Moderator: Kevin Smith
10:00 to 10:50	Session 2		
	Elementary	Middle/High School	All

	Classroom Routines/Classroom Management Katie Abraham VIEW RECORDING Moderator: Megan Schuh	Lighting Up Learning: A Father-Daughter Approach to Middle School Science Mike O'Connell & Courtney O'Connell VIEW RECORDING Moderator: Katie Anderson	Making the Learning Stick: Using Brain Science to Help Our Students Retain Concepts (K-12) Jen Hunt <i>This session was not recorded.</i> Moderator: Kevin Smith
11:00 to 11:50	Session 3		
	Elementary Managing Challenging Behaviors with Compassion and Structure Michelle Hojer & Erin Szilvasi VIEW RECORDING Moderator: Megan Schuh	Middle/High School Using Science of Reading to Boost Literacy Skills in All Subjects Katie Anderson VIEW RECORDING Moderator: Kindra Schneider	All AI in Action: Empowering K-12 Classrooms Kyle Knips VIEW RECORDING Moderator: Kevin Smith
11:45 to 12:30	LUNCH		
12:30 to 1:20	Session 4		
	Elementary Keepin' it Simple: Making Assessment Accessible, Authentic, Achievable Caleb Langner VIEW RECORDING	Middle/High School Collaborate Session Megan Schuh <i>This session was</i>	All Advanced Canva Kevin Smith VIEW RECORDING

	Moderator: Kindra Schneider	<i>not recorded.</i>	Moderator: Katie Anderson
1:30 to 2:20	Session 5		
	Elementary	Middle/High School	All
	Mathematics Discussions Jessica Rockwood <div>VIEW RECORDING</div> Moderator: Kevin Smith	Teaching the Future: Why Tomorrow's Educators Need Cyber Knowledge Today Fenecia Homan <div>VIEW RECORDING</div> Moderator: Megan Schuh	One Team, One Goal: Gen Ed and SPED Collaboration Abby Jensen <div>VIEW RECORDING</div> Moderator: Kindra Schneider
2:30 to 3:30	Closing Session Kevin Smith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please complete the survey! • Info on CEUs • Grad Credit • PRIZES!! <div>VIEW RECORDING</div>		

Scroll down to read descriptions for each session.



8:15 to 8:55 AM - Opening Session

Welcome and Keynote

Dr. Kevin Smith, Dakota State University

Kevin will provide an overview of the day and give some quick details on how to earn graduate credit.

Rebecka Peterson, 2023 National Teacher of the Year

Defiant Hope: The Power of Small Acts of Love in a Fractured World

This keynote addresses the potential weariness of teachers. Rebecka will focus on the transformative power of small, consistent acts of care, reminding us that hope grows not just through grand gestures but through the steady, faithful presence in the lives of our students and colleagues.

Resources:

[Rebecka's Website](#)

[Presentation Slides](#)

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9:00 to 9:50 AM - Session 1

Engage to Empower: Making Learning Meaningful to Minimize Behaviors

Kirstin Johnson, Madison Elementary

In this session geared toward early childhood and primary educators, discover practical, engaging strategies that reduce off-task behavior and maximize instructional time. Learn how to create meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity, increase student ownership, and build a positive classroom culture. Walk away with ready-to-use ideas that make learning fun, purposeful, and behavior-friendly.

Resources:

[Presentation Slides](#)

Grades: **K-5**

Subjects: **All**

Curipod: Interactive Lessons

Mary Bitterman, Armour Public Schools

Curipod is an AI-powered curriculum and instruction platform that promotes teacher-paced lessons and meaningful student engagement beyond screens. Emphasizing social learning, it fosters curiosity and critical thinking in the classroom. This interactive session will explore Curipod's resources, showcasing how they integrate across curriculum areas. Teachers can generate or adapt standards-aligned lessons using tools like drawing, polling, and open-ended questions. Real-time AI feedback helps students refine their thinking while learning is fresh, ensuring active participation. Curipod protects student data and removes barriers, enabling teachers to enhance the learning experience. Click start and see what your students can achieve!

Resources:

Video - [Get Started with Curipod](#)

Want more?

If you're doing this for credit or you just want to dig deeper on the topics from this session, check out the [Curipod: Interactive Lessons choice board](#).

Grades: **Middle/High School**

Subjects: **All**

Self-Pacing: Letting Students Drive Their Learning

Kate Klug, Modern Classrooms Project

Unlock deeper understanding and increased motivation with self-paced learning. See how letting students control their learning speed can personalize education, reduce frustration, and foster true ownership. Explore the benefits and get ideas to implement in your classroom!

Resources:

[Presentation Slides](#)

Want more?

If you're doing this for credit or you just want to dig deeper on the topics from this session, check out the [Modern Classrooms Course choice board](#).

Grades: **All**

Subjects: **All**

10:00 to 10:50 AM - Session 2

Classroom Routines/Classroom Management

Katie Abraham, Madison Public Schools

This session is all about why classroom management matters. We'll learn how to create a safe and organized space where kids can learn best. You'll see how good routines and clear rules help students feel secure and focused, so you can spend more time teaching. Plus, it helps build better relationships, keeps students engaged, and leads to more success in school.

Grades: **Elementary**

Subjects: **All**

Lighting Up Learning: A Father-Daughter Approach to Middle School Science

Mike O'Connell, Chester Public Schools

Courtney O'Connell, Sioux Valley Public Schools

We're a father-daughter team, both teaching middle school science—grades 6–8 and 7–8—and we're passionate about making science engaging, hands-on, and meaningful for our students. In this session, we'll share our approach to science instruction, highlight a few of our favorite classroom activities (like scrappy circuits and paper circuits), and offer practical strategies that help bring abstract concepts to life. Our goal is to spark ideas and conversations around creating classrooms where students are curious, creative, and excited to learn.

Resources:

[Presentation Slides](#)

Grades: **6-8**

Subjects: **Science**

Making the Learning Stick: Using Brain Science to Help Our Students Retain Concepts (K-12)

Jen Hunt, Founder New Math Minds

We can have incredible objectives aligned to standards, write thorough lesson plans, and execute a flawless lesson delivery, only to have students not recall the information the next

day. What happened? Join us to learn what's going on in the brain. Let's leverage years of research to make their learning sticky!

Resources:

[Contact Info for Jen](#)

Grades: **All grades**

Subjects: **All subjects**

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11:00 to 11:50 AM - Session 3

Managing Challenging Behaviors with Compassion and Structure

Michelle Hojer & Erin Szilvasi, Madison Public Schools

Challenging behaviors can test the patience and skills of even the most experienced professionals. But behind every behavior is a story, a need, or a skill gap waiting to be understood. This session explores how to respond to difficult behaviors with both compassion and structure—creating environments that are safe, predictable, and supportive for everyone involved.

Resources:

[Presentation Slides](#)

Want more?

If you're doing this for credit or you just want to dig deeper on the topics from this session, check out the [Working With Challenging Behaviors choice board](#).

Grades: **K-5**

Subjects: **All**

Using Science of Reading to Boost Literacy Skills in All Subjects

Katie Anderson, Dakota State University

Participants will explore strategies to scaffold vocabulary and comprehension lessons, ensuring all students access, engage with, and comprehend grade-appropriate material. Techniques such as pre-teaching vocabulary, using context-rich instructional methods, and gradually releasing responsibility will be discussed in the context of real classroom

applications. Educators will also learn evidence-based practices to reinforce foundational skills for students who need extra support as they work toward more advanced literacy skills.

Resources:

[Presentation Slides](#)

Want more?

If you're doing this for credit or you just want to dig deeper on the topics from this session, check out the [Integrating Literacy in Every Classroom choice board](#).

Grades: **6-12**

Subjects: **All**

AI in Action: Empowering K–12 Classrooms

Kyle Knips, Technology Integrationist @ Harrisburg

Kyle Knips, District Technology Integrationist for the Harrisburg School District, will share a variety of AI tools designed to support teaching, learning, and productivity across K–12 grade levels. Attendees will discover practical ways to integrate AI to enhance instruction, personalize learning, and streamline tasks for both staff and students. Whether you're just getting started or looking to expand your AI toolkit, this session will offer insights and ready-to-use ideas.

Resources:

[Presentation Slides](#)

Want more?

If you're doing this for credit or you just want to dig deeper on the topics from this session, check out the [AI in Action choice board](#).

Grades: **All**

Subjects: **All**

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12:30 to 1:20 PM - Session 4

Keepin' it Simple: Making Assessment Accessible, Authentic, Achievable

Caleb Langner, Elementary Teacher @ Spencer, Iowa

This session focuses on assessment in Standards-Based Reporting for K–5 educators. We'll explore how to take a standard and connect it to the required content in a way that's both meaningful and engaging for your students. We'll also discuss strategies to keep the process as simple and approachable as possible. And hey—I'm one of those Type B teachers who isn't always super organized. Sometimes, the best learning opportunities happen in the moment and need to be easy to access. I'll share some tools that have helped make our busy teaching lives a little more manageable.

Resources:

[Presentation Slides](#)

Grades: **K-5**

Subjects: **All**

Collaborate Session

Megan Schuh, Dakota State University

This is something new we are trying this year! If you want to attend a session and just talk to other teachers about trending topics, please attend. Megan will facilitate this session, but it won't be a typical presenter-led session. The attendees will decide what they want to talk about. The goal is to give you a chance to collaborate with colleagues on topics you're interested in. Maybe you'll talk about how your school is handling rules around devices, tips for managing students, ideas for using technology, dealing with difficult parents... You decide!

This session will not be recorded.

Grades: **All**

Subjects: **All**

Advanced Canva

Kevin Smith, Dakota State University

Canva is an amazing tool for creating graphics, videos, and other multimedia. In this session, you'll learn how to do some more unique and advanced things using Canva. Here are some of the possible ideas we may explore.

- Creating photobooks for your classroom
- Adding audio "hotspots" to your presentations
- Create a website for your classroom or a specific project
- Use the embedded AI tools to create videos



Want more?

If you're doing this for credit or you just want to dig deeper on the topics from this session, check out the [Canva choice board](#).

Grades: **All**
Subjects: **All**

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1:30 to 2:20 PM - Session 5



Mathematics Discussion

Jessica Rockwood, Instructor @ Greenfield Learning

Participants will learn how to make classroom and group discussions in math purposeful and meaningful for students, allowing them to grow and engage in varying ways. We will discuss the best ways to support language development for all students engaging in math discussions and the use of various tools to support productive discussion.

Resources:

[Presentation Slides](#)

[Questions that promote math discussions](#)

[Classroom Videos](#)

Grades: **K-8**
Subjects: **Math**



Teaching the Future: Why Tomorrow's Educators Need Cyber Knowledge Today

Fenecia Homan, Dakota State University

Technology is evolving faster than ever and today's educators must be equipped not only to teach traditional subjects, but also to guide students in navigating the digital landscape. This session explores how integrating cybersecurity and artificial intelligence into your teaching toolkit can transform the classroom experience and empower students to become responsible, informed digital citizens.

We will talk about resources that you can use in the classroom as well as opportunities through Dakota State and the Governors Cyber Academy for both you and your students.

Grades: **Middle School & High School**

Subjects: **All**

One Team, One Goal: Gen Ed and SPED Collaboration

Abby Jenson, Harrisburg Public Schools

Dive into practical approaches for supporting students on an IEP in a general education classroom. Learn more about how General Education and Special Education teachers can work together to ensure student success.

Resources:

[Presentation Slides](#)

[SD DOE Parent Guide to the SPED Process](#)

Want more?

If you're doing this for credit or you just want to dig deeper on the topics from this session, check out the [Inclusive Classrooms choice board](#).

Grades: **All**

Subjects: **All**

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2:30 to 3:30 PM - Closing Session

Closing Session

Kevin Smith, Dakota State University

- Reflection on the day + Prizes
- Info on CEUs
- Details on graduate credit