



2017 Out-of-School Time Conference

Saturday, November 11, 2017

Workshop Descriptions

(subject to change)

Mindful: A Cool Way to Be!

Children today are often stressed from school and social pressures, as well as home life. Mindfulness is a training of the attention to release stressful thinking and to focus on the here and now, which is often quite pleasant. The presenter will share a variety of activities to help focus attention on the present moment, calming the mind, as well as the scientific research on the benefits of mindfulness to children.

Presenter: Ann Friedman, Ph.D., Mindful Being, PC

The Missing Link: Social-Emotional Learning

Social-emotional learning is described as the process which we learn to recognize and manage emotions, develop positive relationships, create strategies to avoid negative behaviors, make good decisions, and gain the knowledge to behave ethically and responsibly (Vega, 2011). Participants will explore hands-on activities for grades 3-8 which are geared to address some of the Collaboration for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL's) integrated framework. Focus will be on the CASEL framework items of self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness.

Presenter: Denise D. Johnson, Abundance Educational Consulting

Create Creatively Cool Kids!

Need some ideas and tips on how to engage kids in after school programs for all abilities? Learn how to open up children's minds creatively through theater, story-telling, writing, improvisation, music and other wonderful tools that will not only expand the student's minds, but also the teacher's! All learning tips can be applied to students of all abilities. This is a working workshop in a theater setting.

Presenter: Deborah Nowinski, Inclusion in the Arts

Civic Engagement! Now that's Connecting Kids to the World Around them

Teach your kids self-control, optimism and social intelligence by involving them in civic engagement. Participants will learn the importance of engaging students in activities and discussions that focus on a making a social difference.

Presenter: Carolyn Washington, A Smart Consulting

The Science of Relationships

Decades of research have shown that a relationship with a consistent and caring adult, known as a secure attachment, provides the conditions for optimal learning and development. Proven outcomes of such relationships include self-regulation, communication skills, emotional balance, flexibility and the development of insight, empathy, and morality. This workshop explores the impact of secure relationships on learning and what you as an educator can do about it.

Presenter: Sarah Mushlin, FuelEd

Creating the "Cool Factor" in Literacy

During this fun and interactive session, participants will learn character development and association techniques to be on the same level as a child. This session is based on the work of the founder of the iWRITE Literacy Organization, a 12-time, accomplished and published children's author. Learn how to conquer writer's block, inspire students to read and write and even take away tips to enhance your own creative writing and the way you analyze stories. Participants will receive information on writing contests and the opportunity to be a grant recipient for afterschool programs with iWRITE.

Presenter: Melissa Williams, iWrite Literacy Organization

Exploring Stories

In this literature-based, art-integration workshop, the TUTS Community Engagement team will share arts strategies that improve cognitive flexibility, enhance reasoning skills and include multiple modes of learning. Participants will explore a piece of literature through multiple modes of storytelling such as character exploration and story sequencing. Participants will develop practical uses to ignite creativity in their afterschool classrooms, leave with new tools to enhance engagement and learning, and learn about how to partner with Theatre Under the Stars for education programming.

Presenter: Sara Brunow, Rebecca J. Hopp, Theatre Under the Stars

Summer Programming that Works!

A great summer programs can be educational, fun and low cost. Learn how to collaborate with the community, get free or low cost resources for a great program. Start planning your summer program early and kids will sign up months in advance.

Presenter: TaShauna Wardsworth, Afterschool Site Coordinator, Stehlik Elementary

Project Based Learning and STEM Afterschool

Creative! Fun! Engaging! Are these words you want to use to describe your afterschool activities? If so, come experience hands-on project based learning activities from the Children's Museum. Participants will learn what project based learning is and how it can be implemented in their afterschool programs. You will also learn how to create your own project-based learning activities based on STEM concepts!

Presenter: Jen Wilde, Children's Museum of Houston

Exploring Contemporary India through photographs

Literacy Through Photography focuses on developing students' creative self-expression through lessons in creative writing, visual, and media literacy. Literacy Through Photography has prepared a special curricular companion to the 2018 FotoFest Biennial INDIA: Contemporary Photography and New Media Art. The special curriculum introduces contemporary India through TEKS compliant lesson plans geared toward grades 3-8. The entire 2018 Biennial curriculum is available for download via the Literacy Through Photography website.

Presenter: Molly Blanchard, Literacy through Photography at FotoFest International

Inspiring Learning through Science and Art

"After a certain high level of technical skill is achieved, science and art tend to coalesce in esthetics, plasticity, and form. The greatest scientists are always artists as well" - Albert Einstein. We see objects because they reflect light into our eyes. Often the colors that we see are a combination of the light reflected by a mixture of different color molecules. Participants will learn how to integrate science and art activities for grades 3-8 by conducting a paper chromatography experiment and creating cool crafts inspired by nature.

Presenter: Denise D. Johnson, Abundance Educational Consulting