



St. Johns County School District
Annual Professional Learning Conference

September 25, 2026

Secondary Science

Location: Nease High School



Welcome and Opening Presentation 8:00-8:10 All Teachers Location: Auditorium	
6-8 Science Teachers	9-12 Science Teachers
Keynote: <i>Engaging Students in Vocabulary</i> Dr. Jackson 8:15-9:35 Location: Cafeteria	Keynote: <i>Students' Ideas Matter</i> Page Keeley 8:15-9:35 Location: Auditorium
Keynote: <i>Students' Ideas Matter</i> Page Keeley 9:45-11:00 Location: Auditorium	Keynote: <i>Engaging Students in Vocabulary</i> Dr. Jackson 9:45-11:00 Location: Cafeteria
Lunch 11:00-12:30	
Choice Session 1 12:30-1:20 Various Locations <i>*see back</i>	
Choice Session 2 1:30-2:20 Various Locations <i>*see back</i>	
Choice Session 3 2:30-3:20 Various Locations <i>*see back</i>	

Session and Audience	Audience	Location	Presenter
Choice Session 1: 12:30-1:20			
Classroom Management for New Teachers	New Teachers	H-102	Tina Willis (TCHS)
Engagement Strategies	Grades 6-12	H-103	Frank Spinner (BHS)
ESE: SJCSD	Grades 6-12	H-120	District ESE Specialist
Grade Cam	Grades 6-12	H-111	Chris Hines (PIA)
Increasing Motivation	Grades 6-12	H-105	Jason Lauer (CHS)
Interactive Notebooks	Grades 6-12	H-123	Robert Dean (BTHS) and Kristina Harvey (SMS)
Sensemaking	Grades 6-12	H-115	Ed Myers (LMS)
Stations in Science	Grades 6-12	H-117	Kortney Marcano (PMHS)
STEM Fair Coordinator Training <i>*attend during Choice 1 or Choice 2</i>	All STEM Fair Coordinators	E-102	Steve Kirsche
Choice Session 2: 1:30-2:20			
Classroom Management for New Teachers	New Teachers	H-102	Tina Willis (TCHS)
Engagement Strategies	Grades 6-12	H-103	Frank Spinner (BHS)
ESE: SJCSD	Grades 6-12	H-120	District ESE Specialist
Grade Cam	Grades 6-12	H-111	Chris Hines (PIA)
Increasing Motivation	Grades 6-12	H-105	Jason Lauer (CHS)
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Stations in Science	Grades 6-12	H-117	Kortney Marcano (PMHS)
STEM Fair Coordinator Training <i>*attend during Choice 1 or Choice 2</i>	All STEM Fair Coordinators	E-102	Steve Kirsche
Choice Session 3: 2:30-3:20			
Classroom Management for New Teachers	New Teachers	H-102	Tina Willis (TCHS)
Engagement Strategies	Grades 6-12	H-103	Frank Spinner (BHS)
ESE: SJCSD	Grades 6-12	H-120	District ESE Specialist
Grade Cam	Grades 6-12	H-111	Chris Hines (PIA)
Increasing Motivation	Grades 6-12	H-105	Jason Lauer (CHS)
Interactive Notebooks	Grades 6-12	H-123	Robert Dean (BTHS) and Kristina Harvey (SMS)
Sensemaking	Grades 6-12	H-115	Ed Myers (LMS)
Stations in Science	Grades 6-12	H-117	Kortney Marcano (PMHS)

Choice Session Descriptions

Session Topic	Target Audience	Session Description
SJCSD: From Breaking Barriers to Breakthroughs: Differentiating for Students with Autism	Grades 6-12	Students with autism often face unique challenges that can impact their engagement, learning, and independence in the classroom. This interactive session will explore practical strategies for identifying and removing barriers to learning through purposeful differentiation and effective scaffolding. Participants will learn how to support communication and executive functioning, increase student participation, and promote meaningful access to grade-level content. Through real-world examples educators will leave with actionable tools to create more inclusive learning environments and foster greater success for students with autism.
STEM Fair Coordinator Training	All STEM Fair Coordinators	Essential guidance and operational resources for new and returning School STEM Fair Coordinators. Ensure your school's fair runs smoothly and meets all current safety, scientific review, and entry standards. Each STEM Fair Coordinator should try to attend one of the sessions.
Classroom Management for New Teachers	New Teachers	This presentation provides educators with practical strategies for creating effective and well-managed classrooms by focusing on four key areas: the classroom environment, teacher-student relationships, teacher-parent partnerships, and curriculum management. Participants are encouraged to reflect on their current practices while exploring approaches to building respectful classroom cultures, promoting student engagement and accountability, addressing behavior proactively, fostering meaningful relationships, and maximizing learning opportunities to support student success.
Grade Cam	Grades 6-12	Cut down your grading time and get actionable student data instantly. In this session, you will learn the fundamentals of GradeCam—from scanning forms to setting up keys. Beyond the technical setup, we'll explore creative ways to integrate GradeCam into everyday instruction.
Interactive Notebooks	Grades 6-12	Transform standard notetaking into dynamic tools for scientific thinking. Led by experienced secondary science educators, this session explores classroom-tested strategies for setting up and managing interactive science notebooks in middle and high school.

Sensemaking	Grades 6-12	Move students from simply learning about science to actively figuring it out. In this session, you'll explore what scientific sensemaking looks like in practice and how it shifts the classroom culture from passive listening to authentic curiosity.
Engagement Strategies	Grades 6-12	Discover high-impact engagement routines that transform quiet observers into active scientists. We'll explore hands-on protocols, collaborative talk structures, and interactive checks for understanding that work seamlessly in any science discipline.
Increasing Motivation	Grades 6-12	Discover a powerful, classroom-tested engagement strategy that naturally pulls students into the content and drives deeper participation.
Using Stations in Science for Small Group Instruction	Grades 6-12	Transform your science classroom through the power of station rotations. This practical session focuses on structuring effective small-group instruction that addresses diverse learner needs while keeping students fully engaged.