

Keynote Speaker – Wednesday, June 24, 2015
Dr. Naesha Parks
Principal, Evans Elementary School
Author of *The Heart Feels First: A Story of Revival and Recovery*



"She was dead, basically. This was as close to dead as I have seen before."
- Dr. Vinayak Kamath, Cardiothorasic Surgeon

Naesha Parks lost consciousness nine days after the birth of her child. At the hospital, doctors soon discovered that she was experiencing a rare and deadly spontaneous coronary artery dissection, where two of the arteries of her heart had completely split.

While on the operating table, Naesha died. Doctors worked to revive her, but were not optimistic about her outcome. Through her own account and through the contributions of friends, family, doctors, and surgeons, *The Heart Feels First: A Story of Revival and Recovery* is a unique and unprecedented look at what it means to survive and witness a miracle and how life finds a way to transition back into a new normal. (adapted from <http://www.tandemlightpress.com/naeshaparks.html>)

"When I reflect on my journey and what I continue to go through, I do so just knowing that God is just awesome. When you have doctors saying to you, 'I don't understand why you're here, why you're living,' there's someone much bigger than you or me looking out for us."

- Naesha Parks

Dr. Naesha Parks was born and raised in Thomson, Georgia. She has had a number of spiritual encounters which have contributed to her strong faith and belief that all things are possible to those who believe. Her recent encounter left her with an amazing story that she believes was meant to bless the lives of others. Dr. Parks has ten years of experience in Early Childhood Education and Leadership. She received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and her Specialist and Doctoral degrees in Educational Leadership. She is currently serving as an administrator in the Columbia County School System. When she is not working on behalf of her students, teachers and community, she spends her time with her family. She is married to Keenan and they have four children, Chandler, Sydney, Chance and Reese.



Keynote Speaker – Thursday, June 25, 2015

Dr. Zach Kelehear
Georgia Regents University
Dean of the College of Education (effective July 1)

Dr. Kelehear brings a passionate and innovative approach to the Dean's role based on more than 25 years of classroom and administrative experience.

Currently Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and a professor of educational leadership at the University of South Carolina, Dr. Kelehear has also held teaching and leadership positions within Georgia's public school systems. Peers and students have recognized his work throughout his career; from selecting him as Dunwoody High School's "Teacher of the Year" in his first teaching position to awarding him the "Inspirational Teaching Award" at USC in 2009.

Widely published, Dr. Kelehear has focused on instructional leadership. Among his books on leadership are *The Art of Leadership: A Choreography of Human Understanding*, *Instructional Leadership as Art: Connecting ISLLC and Aesthetic Inspiration*, and *Leading without Being Stung: The Instructional Leader Meets the Apiarist*, writing based on very personal experiences.

Five years ago he inherited a family bee-keeping enterprise that goes back to his great-grandfather's days, and he brings as much passion to his hobby as to his professional life.

Dr. Kelehear believes that "effective leading invites teaching that involves experiment, reflection, and refinement," and has said, "If we can imagine, if we can have the courage, we can have the type of schools that are worthy of our children in the 21st century."

Anchor sessions and round table sessions are forth coming.

Literacy Grades K – 5		
Title	Abstract	Presenter(s)
Using Higher Order Thinking to Meet the Needs of Gifted Students	Today's gifted students are the future leaders of our country. However, meeting their academic needs can be very challenging. How can a regular classroom teacher differentiate the learning environment to make it conducive to higher order thinking? This presentation will address the unique needs of the gifted population and offer strategies to help them reach their full potential. Participants will leave with a variety of higher order teaching strategies to use in the classroom.	Christa Arrington Dearing Elementary McDuffie County
Don't Work Harder than Your Students! Use the Gift of Formative Assessment.	Help your students become more aware of their own strengths and learning gaps by integrating formative assessments into your daily teaching toolbox. This interactive hands-on session will dive deep into the assessment of learning and will provide research-based strategies to help you intentionally and easily assess your students' learning (especially in regards to providing text based answers). You will also un-wrap the gift of effective feedback which will motivate your students to work harder.	Judi Wilson Georgia Regents University
Keeping it Real with Differentiation	In this session participants will learn how to teach their students to write a great answer to a CRQ. We will use an acronym to help create extended responses, make group anchor charts, and discuss how to use a rubric to help students get higher scores on their CRQs. With this simple system, students can really take their writing to the next level. All they need is a little practice!	Angie Vernau Sue Reynolds Elementary Richmond County
Their Moment Creating Independent Thinking & Learning- The Instructional Shift	The Intent of this presentation is to explain the 'instructional shifts' of Common Core in 'Teacher Friendly' language and to walk through the instructional shifts within all strands of Literacy. Participants will be presented with a guide and evidence-based practices that will enable shift changes to occur with ease and a true focus. Participants will explore tools that allow students to self-assess, take ownership, and motivate the learner.	Tanya Ansley Glascock County Consolidated Glascock County
Exploring Author's Craft and Structure through an Author's Study	This presentation will model comprehension strategies by examining author's craft and structure and integrating content areas. There will be a focus on fluency and response to literature journals that support comprehension.	Stephanie Jones Louisville Academy Jefferson County
Diving into Shared Reading using Authentic Text	Are you interested in improving your student's motivation and interest in literacy? In this session, the presenters will introduce the components of shared reading by using engaging text and authentic literature that will help students become successful readers. Presenters will model the appropriate research based strategies of complex text, providing the necessary scaffolding of the text to increase student achievement. As a ticket out the door, participants will create a shared reading lesson plan for use in the classroom.	Ginger Parris, Natasha Parker, Dana Williams Jefferson County Elementary Schools Instructional Coaches

Literacy Grades 6 – 8		
Title	Abstract	Presenter(s)
Schoology for Dummies: How to Conduct an Online Classroom	Students are living in a technology-filled world, but some classrooms do not make use of instructional technology. This course will introduce participants to the free online learning platform called Schoology. Schoology allows teachers to enhance student learning using technology that is in the students' hands.	Paul Bloodworth Columbia Middle Columbia County
The Engaging Eight	Tried and True! These "engaging eight" strategies are designed to increase student engagement and offer a variety of formative assessment strategies that are flexible enough to serve all content areas.	Patra O. Griffitt Harlem Middle Columbia County
Getting Them to Talk: Leading Good Class Discussions in Grades 5-12	Talking. It's something that our students love to do. But how can we give them practice in talking so it advances their learning? This session will provide specific strategies that you can use in your classroom to lead productive classroom discussions. Classroom-tested strategies to structure discussions, to facilitate discussions, and to manage student behavior during discussions will be shared.	Susan Edwards Georgia Regents University
Creating Formative Assessments to Guide Differentiation and Instruction for Middle Grades Teachers	This presentation will take you into the world of formative assessments. Researched based formative assessments will be exhibited and practiced. Go back to your classroom with a couple new formative assessments and the knowledge to make more. Be sure to bring a textbook to help with the production of your own formative assessments for 2016-2017 and beyond. Explore how to use the information for grouping and to inform instruction. All subjects and grade levels welcome.	Dr. Susan Cottingham Grovetown Middle Columbia County
Digital Literacy and Classroom Technology	Participants will be learning how to implement technology-rich lessons at the school and classroom level. SAMR is a model designed to help educators integrate technology into teaching and learning. The model aims to enable teachers to design, develop, and integrate digital learning experiences that utilize technology to transform learning experiences to lead to high levels of achievement for students. Other topics covered during this session will include technology-based formative assessment tools, web-based and mobile applications, flipped classrooms, STEM resources, and Google Docs.	Brandy Parker Greenbrier Middle Columbia County

<p>Writing in Middle School for Non-ELA Teachers</p>	<p>With Common Core's emphasis on writing in all content areas, non-ELA teachers often feel overwhelmed in not only the writing process but also the grading process. In this session, participants will learn text-based writing and assessment strategies that can be taken back to the classroom and implemented in any subject area with ease. These strategies can apply to short constructed responses or lengthier extended responses. Examples for all content areas including CTAE classes will be discussed, demonstrated, and practiced so all participants can effectively and confidently implement these strategies in their own classrooms.</p>	<p>Elizabeth DeLong Evans Middle Columbia County</p>

Literacy Grades 9 - 12		
Title	Abstract	Presenter(s)
Killer Ways to Get Kids to Read and Research	This session will focus on getting students actively involved in the collection, analysis, and presentation of research on some of society's most notorious criminals. The goal of this 75-minute session is to showcase one way to take two straight-forward standards and make them interesting, intriguing, and engage the students in the learning process. The session will showcase one culminating project on the judicial branch that could be easily modified for grades 6-12.	Christy L. Donovan Thomson High McDuffie County
"I'm Reading What?!": Cross-curricular Close Reading Strategies for High School Students	This presentation will feature close reading strategies that teachers from all disciplines and content areas can use with their high school level students to increase critical thinking and rigor. These strategies are research-based and help engage students in text-based reading, discussion, and writing, while providing students with structure, support, and differentiated strategies to increase vocabulary acquisition, reading comprehension, reading fluency, reading stamina, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis.	D'Lee Pollock-Moore Thomson High McDuffie County
Building Reading and Writing Capacity Through the Inclusion Model of Instruction	My focus will be on sharing engagement, scaffolding, literacy, and writing strategies and models with other teachers. In addition, I will model how to easily assess inclusion students with the intent of providing timely remediation, and re-teaching. Teachers will have the opportunity to apply the strategies presenting in a supportive environment. I will model each strategy, then have the teachers work on pairs or flexible groups to experience and apply each strategy. Specifically, I will focus on using text sets, building background knowledge, and vocabulary strength within the inclusion class. Regarding writing, I will share successful paired writing, and peer-editing strategies, lesson plans, and rubrics.	Valerie Roberson Jefferson County High Jefferson County
Meaning in Music or How NOT to Frighten Students with Poetry!	This presentation will explain why students are afraid of poetry, and it will explain how to make poetry enjoyable by beginning with music lyrics. Most students have experience with lyrics. Poetry comprehension and inference require students to use most, if not all, of the standards! Because poetry is the most concise and difficult of literature to comprehend and write about, a student who masters poetry becomes more proficient with critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis skills.	Carolyn Giddens Harlem High Columbia County
Technology that Enhances and Engages the Classroom.	This session will focus on the use of technology within the classroom to effectively engage and enhance the students learning experience. Teacher kit, Socrative, Kahoot, Edmodo, Subtext, Remind, and QR codes will be displayed and shown as they have been used in the classroom. Technology such as tablets, Apple TV, and/or Chromecast will also be shown. Please bring your tablets or smart phone for participation purposes.	Steven Jones Greenbrier High Columbia County

<p>Beyond the PowerPoint: Documents and Differentiation in the History Classroom</p>	<p>In this presentation, Crystal Parten will help History teachers learn how to integrate documents and differentiation into their standards-based curriculum. Document-based lessons using primary sources in History is vital to a deep understanding of the content, but it also allows students to work with history instead of just memorizing it. This presentation will address the challenges of time constraints and the variety of learning levels and offer realistic solutions which participants will practice during the session.</p>	<p>Crystal Parten Thomson High McDuffie County</p>
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Math Grades K – 5		
Title	Abstract	Presenter(s)
Shake up instruction using DIFFERENTIATION to make learning fun for all.	Hands-on learning opportunity for teachers to learn how to meet the individual needs of their students through the use of assessments. Teachers will walk away with practical assessment and small group learning ideas.	Kelli Robertson and Nicole Crook Lincoln County Elementary Lincoln County
Talking Number Talks in the Classroom	The purpose of the presentation is to offer participants an opportunity to understand what Number Talks is and how it functions within the classroom (as it pertains to a 4th grade classroom). Additionally, this presentation offers participants the opportunity to leave with viable strategies focusing on how to build numerical reasoning through classroom conversations that accentuate making sense of mathematics.	Tammy Rivers Louisville Academy Jefferson County
CCGPS Preparing for GA Milestones: Why We Need to Change Our Mindset	Our results from previous CRCT tests do not prepare students and parents for the scores we can expect on the GA Milestones test. NAEP scores are more closely aligned with what we can expect, but we need to begin bridging the gap now, not after the scores are in. By making all educators aware of what the students can expect and how to prepare them for this test, we take back control of this "unknown".	Catherine Douglas Lake Forest Hills Richmond County
Mathematics in a Market Day Mini-Society	"Imagine the money you can make." That is the perfect way to grab students' attention with a Market Day Mini-Society Unit. As students make entrepreneurial decisions to design, create, and market a product or service to sell to their classmates, they are developing a deeper conceptual understanding of their math curriculum while embracing the mental challenge of a level four DOK task. This real-world connection embeds student-based purpose in learning while integrating the curriculums.	Tab Purvis Thomson Elementary McDuffie County
Hip, Hip, Array! Math is Fun Today!	"How can students who have no number sense understand multiplication and division? I skipped the pages in the textbook on arrays. I did not have my students use manipulatives. How can students learn and not just memorize math facts?" If any of these situations are you: come in to this class! What happened to change my thoughts about arrays? My gifted kids are highly challenged. My EIP students can use math vocabulary better than gifted students!	Dr. Julie Ann Sibilsky Baker Place Elementary Columbia County
Flipping the Classroom: Developing Mathematical Thinkers One Video at a Time	With the increasing expectations for student growth and increased rigor, it can be challenging for educators to find the time to squeeze in all of the activities and ideas they have. This module will introduce you to Flipping the Classroom and provide you with tools to help you switch what happens inside and outside of your classroom. Flipping the Classroom can help you increase rigor, improve fluency, and create meaningful learning opportunities in your classroom.	Marissa Powers W.E. Freeman Elementary Warren County

Math Grades 6 – 8		
Title	Abstract	Presenter(s)
<p>"Prove it!" Motivating Students to Cite, Explain, and Elaborate</p>	<p>This session will focus on strategies that help students with the daunting task of writing in mathematics classes. The topics covered will help teachers to motivate students when it comes to citing the text, giving reasoning, and supporting reasoning with text-based-evidence; an especially difficult task in math. These research-based strategies will get you moving in the right direction to prepare students for writing effectively across all content areas.</p>	<p>Richard Scott Arenal-Mullen Taliaferro County School Taliaferro County</p>
<p>Blended Learning with Rigor and Focus: Ratios and Proportions</p>	<p>In this session, teachers will be given the opportunity to explore teaching by utilizing stations. They will deepen their understanding of stations and ways to incorporate hands-on activities and writing in mathematics. Attendees will also solve, discuss, and evaluate mathematical activities to determine if it would be useful in a station setting. Through the investigation of different mathematical activities, the participants will perform station activities and explore opportunities for remediation and acceleration.</p>	<p>Kimberly White and Nicole Carpenter Tutt Middle Murphey Middle Richmond County</p>
<p>Flipping Over Math</p>	<p>CoreStandards.org list conceptual understanding as one of rigor's three areas to pursue with equal intensity. CoreStandards.org also states students should "be able to access concepts from a number of perspectives." Flipped lessons provide an opportunity for learning to reach beyond the walls of the traditional classroom providing multiple perspectives on any topic. Participants will learn to locate and create flipped videos to provide students access to concepts from additional perspectives.</p>	<p>Jennifer Armstrong Georgia Regents University</p>
<p>The Mystery of Solving Equations</p>	<p>The discovery of simple, innovative strategies to solve equations that caters to the interest of the students' mind.</p>	<p>Cordaryl C. Middleton Spirit Creek Middle Richmond County</p>
<p>Tech Talk for Teachers</p>	<p>Want to integrate more technology into your daily classroom practices, but are not sure how to get started? Do you find yourself too busy meeting standards and preparing students for high stakes testing? Well, look no further! In this session, you will observe free and easy ways to bring your classroom into the 21st century. You will learn to steer from traditional approaches to learning to a more real-world, project-based approach. It is imperative to teach students how to utilize the technology that exists today, so that they will be better prepared to use those same technologies as they enter a technological society.</p>	<p>Amy Williamson Baker Place Elementary Columbia County</p>
<p>Math, Music and Movement. Helping Students Remember</p>	<p>Teachers will learn simple and easy to use songs and chants to use in their classroom. No musical talents and No musical instruments are required. Students will use hand motions, repetitive chants, and songs to learn and remember formulas, definitions, and math strategies. Songs are geared towards</p>	<p>Brett Cooper Riverside Middle Columbia County</p>

	grades 4-9.	
Math Grades 9 - 12		
Title	Abstract	Presenter(s)
Shifting Gears: Placing Students into the Driver's Seat to Success	Are you tired of playing the "sage on the stage?" Your students are, too! Come in and experience excellent strategies aimed to take the students out of the passenger's seat in your classroom and into the driver's seat to success. Topics covered will include ways to engage students in rigorous mathematical communication with both peers and their teacher as well as ways to aid students in persisting through periods of disequilibrium.	Zachary Martin Greenbrier Middle Columbia County
Station Teaching For Math Mastery	To reach all students, we know that we must provide learning options that address individual learning styles, motivation, and interests. This workshop is designed to provide teachers with an understanding and practical application of instructional strategies that will meet the needs of the varied levels of learners. Participants will be placed in a differentiated setting where they can experience the kinds of strategies that support learning on varied interests, levels, and learning styles. The teaching model of focus during this workshop will be station teaching.	Felicia Cullars Columbia Middle Columbia County
Catch Them With Your Closing!	To clear up any misconceptions, teachers will first discuss what a "closing" is. In the presentation the teachers will be provided a list of research based effective strategies that can be used as closings. The teachers will also participate in many of the strategies throughout the session. Teachers will be provided the materials needed to complete the closing, and some ways it can be fashioned for their classroom.	Cheryl Flowers Sego Middle Richmond County
As the Ball Rolls: Investigating Quadratic Functions	A hands-on activity using graphing calculators and quadratic regression to model quadratic functions generated by rolling a ball. Graphing Calculator Needed!	Amy Freitag Augusta Christian
Incorporating Mathematical Reasoning through Worthwhile Tasks	Inductive and deductive reasoning are critical components in mathematical thinking, yet they are difficult for many teachers to implement effectively. In this presentation, the different roles of inductive and deductive reasoning will be discussed and then participants will have the opportunity to write mathematical tasks in which they are incorporated	Dr. Mark Freitag Georgia Regents University
Teaching Mathematics Through Problem Solving	Problem solving leads to conceptual understanding. Participants will be guided through the steps to implement problem solving into a common core math classroom from selecting tasks at a high level of cognitive demand to implementing them effectively while maintaining the complexity of the tasks. This research-based, best practice session will be linked to the common core standards for mathematical practice, as well as the NCTM process standards and example tasks will be provided.	Dr. Stacie Pettit Georgia Regents University