



Conference Workshops Thursday, October 7

Session 1 11:15 am

“Movement in the Classroom”

Deirdre Mumpower, Arborbrook Christian Academy

Our bodies were made to move! God created our bodies to need movement, flexibility, and exercise. Researchers of both education and neuroscience agree that the mind works better when the body is engaged. Classrooms, though, can be very sedentary places. So, how can we get our students out of their seats in a practical way? Participants in this workshop will learn unique, physical classroom activities that enable engagement of the body and mind.

“The Ministry of Teaching History”

Amy Norman, Arborbrook Christian Academy

Receive a refreshed sense of purpose in your ministry to students as a history teacher. We will dig into who we are as God's servant, how we teach with a Biblical Worldview, and provide peace, perspective, and purpose to students studying history - something they desperately need in today's world. We will see how Charlotte Mason's words as well as scripture spur us on towards this goal. We will allow time for shared inspiration among fellow teachers in this workshop.

“Discovering the Beauty of Pascal’s Triangle”

Mary Newcomb, Redeemer School

In this workshop, we will discuss what teachers already know about Pascal’s triangle and walk through a hands-on activity relating Pascal’s triangle to circles. Teachers will see how a simple table of numbers can have many different applications. Charlotte Mason teaches us that "education is the science of relations." This workshop provides teachers with a framework for helping students explore and make connections on their own. This is a very practical workshop for upper elementary and upper school math teachers.



“Tending the Living Curriculum”

Melanie Walker-Malone, Red Mountain Christian School

There are many perennial reads in our broad and deep curricular feast, books that have remained in place since our inception, books we consider essential and necessary in the life of a learner. However, what Mason educator Eve Anderson called, 'the ideas of the time' has given us pause as we evaluate, weigh, and reconsider some of our book choices for the children in our care. Which books to keep and which to replace with something new, fresh, more honoring?

Join us as we look at Mason's schedules and book lists, as well as her texts on curriculum design, to give us insight as we seek to offer fitting materials, 'for the children's sake.'

Biblical Worldview Integration for Charlotte Mason Schools

Rob and Cindy Shearer, Francis Schaeffer Study Center

In this seminar, we will talk about how to integrate a Biblical Worldview into all the disciplines of a Charlotte Mason Education, particularly in upper school courses in Literature, History, & Science. We come from the perspective that all truth is God's truth, and the Biblical principles should be the foundation for how we approach our subject matter in every course – including science & math. Rob & Cyndy are co-directors of the Francis Schaeffer Study Center in Mt. Juliet TN. Cyndy has taught elementary and high school classes for 20+ years. Rob has taught high school classes in a variety of schools and settings for 20+ years.

“Picture Study: How to See a Painting with Your Heart and Mind”

Melissa Duffy, Perimeter School

CM 101 Workshop

Picture Study? It can be so boring you wish Jesus would return that minute, or it can be so exciting you'll be rating it second only to chocolate. It's one of my favorite study skills and sharing it with a group is the best! While studying a painting, I'll teach you The Eyeball Game, Tableau. I'll help you verbalize what you see, how to recall the painting with your closed eyes, and celebrate the experience. This class is for beginners, but if you enjoy this as much as I do, you are most welcome- just sit in the back row.



Session 2 1:15 pm

“How to Build a School Garden”

Carina Brossy, Arborbrook Christian Academy



School gardens serve as the ultimate living laboratory offering students opportunities for critical thinking, social skill development, sensory experiences and more. Despite the endless benefits, cultivating an effective garden space can be intimidating and costly without the right skills and resources. This session offers tools and tips for successfully launching and/or expanding your school garden. Brown and green thumbs are welcome to attend!

Arborbrook's edible school garden tended by Mrs. Brossy!

“Narration, Assessment Activities, and Math Labs to Engage Your Entire Class”

Robyn Kimball, Arborbrook Christian Academy

This workshop will be divided into two parts. First, we will actively demonstrate several narration activities to transform the classroom dynamic from the typical "chalk and talk" to one where all students are engaged at the same time. Second, we will discuss several hands-on math labs/projects that encourage students to discover math relationships and truths on their own. Not a math teacher? No problem as these activities can be applied to any subject and most grade levels. I'll have my project binders on hand as well for you to steal all the ideas you want! I encourage you to also bring copies of your best projects to share with the group.

“Building Community During the Middle School Years”

Andrew Reinken, Arborbrook Christian Academy

As educators, we are frequently tasked with helping our students grow in more areas than just academics. Many of us desire to lead our students in social and spiritual growth without sacrificing intellectual and cognitive growth. In this workshop, we will talk about the best ways to build relationships and community through a theology of fun in the 5th-8th grade years.



“Engaging in Transformational Conversations about Race through Storytelling”

John Blumenstein, Arborbrook Christian Academy

In this workshop, participants will hear about one Christian school's discovery of storytelling as a powerful medium for discussing racial identity and racial justice in American culture. Cambridge School in Baltimore MD, rooted in Charlotte Mason's educational philosophy and principles, for the past 8 years has been engaging in a creative use of storytelling to deepen friendships that embrace the richness and the wholeness of each person's identity as uniquely created in God's image. Guidance and resources will be provided for schools that wish to consider such a venture for themselves and to discover ways to converse about racial identity and racial justice that transform the hearts and minds of students, parents, teachers, and staff for the glory of God.

“Know and Tell: Narration in the Charlotte Mason Classroom”

Diane Rhoades, Arborbrook Christian Academy

CM 101 Workshop

Narration is a fundamental component in Charlotte Mason's philosophy of education. This workshop will answer some of the questions a classroom teacher faces: What is narration? How do I use narration in a classroom setting? How do I help children who have difficulty narrating? We will also discuss some creative forms of narration and how to use these in lesson planning.



Session 3 2:20 pm

“On Time”

Melanie Walker-Malone, Red Mountain Christian School

Although a statue of Saint Vincent de Paul, a French champion of the outcast, stands less than a mile from my home I knew next to nothing about this man until I came across these words penned by him in the 17th century, "He who is in a hurry delays the work of God." No other idea has helped me in my formation as a Mason educator than these. Masson's sane, practical wisdom and her deeply Christian understanding of time stand out in the present day as an antidote to de-humanizing educational practices. Join me as we ponder the idea of time/rhythm/schedule/pace and the impact of 'unhurriedness' on our teaching life.

“An Abundant Feast for All Students: Differentiation Strategies to Meet the Diverse Needs in our Classrooms”

Lindsay Mangas, Arborbrook Christian Academy

These days, we are seeing more anxiety, ADHD, and learning challenges in our students. We also have students with high IQ and content proficiency - in the same class! This workshop will address the need for differentiation, what it looks like (and what it doesn't), and some ideas for implementation.

Galloping the Globe: Hands on Geography

Jillian Myers & Janey Rosser, Arborbrook Christian Academy

We love to expose our students to the outdoors, creation, and God's world. What are practical, hands-on and engaging ways to present geography and stimulate students' senses as they learn about the world around them? Come prepared to learn about Central America and Mexico through living books, handicrafts, and music! You'll take away practical ideas for introducing your students to the vast world beyond our classrooms! This workshop is designed for kindergarten through 4th grade.



“A Garden of Thought”

Stacie McIntosh, Arborbrook Christian Academy

To plant a seed of *thought*, to pause, imagine, and wonder during the time of germination, and to watch it bud and flourish is the joy educators experience in guiding students to *think critically*. Critical thinking, is it a lost art? Not so, say Charlotte Mason advocates. Against a landscape of living books, we will dig deeper into fresh ideas that cultivate critical thinking, reasoning, evaluating, and analysis, including unique spoken and written narration ideas, hexagonal thinking, and creative questioning. This workshop highlights activities for middle school students but can be adapted for upper elementary and high school students.

“Nature Study for the Terrified”

Melissa Duffy, Perimeter School

CM 101 Workshop

As a lover of nature, I thought painting a Nature Study would be easy! However, at my first try my instructor (Eve Anderson) informed me I had spoiled mine. WHAT???. Since then, I have practiced and want to share my tips to make this art accessible for you. This class is for beginners to learn the technique, but also to see for yourselves how satisfying it is to record nature-findings in a Nature Study Journal. (BTW Eve and I became good friends and had tea together several times. She was a delightful woman!)

Bring your paints (8 oval Prang set works just fine)

A Nature Study Journal- I recommend the 8x10-ish size, Spiral Bound, Blank paper

A fine point brush. This means the hairs in the brush should come together to make a point.

Still not sure? Ask yourself if you could use it to paint a mosquito eyeball.