



## So...You're Going to the ISACS Annual Conference...

As a participant in the [ISACS 2024 Annual Conference](#), you will hear from leading national and international leaders in education, supplemented by presentations from exceptional teachers who have translated this research into classroom practice. To make the most of your conference experience, ISACS teacher leaders would like to share helpful strategies for extending learning beyond the ISACS Annual Conference experience.

What should you do before, during, and after the conference to maximize the impact of professional development? Here are some suggestions:

### Before the conference...

- Research the conference theme and look for intersections with current or future initiatives in your school.
- Find time to thoroughly read the conference program and thoughtfully select sessions to stretch your thinking and vision.
- Preview the major speakers. Who are they? What are their areas of expertise? Become familiar with their work and research, preview videos of speaker presentations that may be available online. Several can be found at [Ted.com](https://www.ted.com).
- Pre-read: identify and select seminal works or newer articles written by the featured speakers. These can be distributed any time prior to attending the conference. ISACS posts suggestions for pre-reading on the [2024 Annual Conference Microsite](#) in the Resources. Books written by major speakers can be purchased at the conference for additional post-conference study.
- Make sure colleagues are aware of the diverse topics and session offerings: distribute by email or print out copies of the digital conference program and share with colleagues. Remind faculty that many sessions are repeated to allow for flexibility.
- Increase the impact of the presentations by forming teams to attend sessions around a particular theme or topic. Arrive a day early and visit independent schools in the St. Louis area on Wednesday, November 6. [View the current list of local ISACS schools](#) interested in hosting site visits. Please contact the schools directly to schedule site visits. See facilities and innovative practices in action!
- A week prior to the conference, be sure to log into your account on the [2024 Annual Conference Microsite](#) to access and review your personal session selections, social media info, conference/exhibitor maps, speaker bios, and more.

### **During the conference...**

- Share the responsibility of taking notes or blogging during sessions. Two teachers attending the same session can work together to capture content. Make notes available at your school where all faculty can have access (i.e., web pages, Google docs, etc.) Creating an expectation of sharing content will raise the level of focus and the quality of notes.
- Remind colleagues that the conference is not subject-specific but will address broader topics of importance to independent schools. Provide support for teachers new to ISACS as they consider sessions to attend.
- Chat with others at the conference to share resources and expertise.
- Collect contact information from exceptional speakers. Some speakers are willing to answer questions via email following the conference experience and may be available to present or consult at your own school.
- Offer your feedback by completing the online conference evaluation. Share suggestions for future topics/speakers and continue to attend ISACS conferences, workshops, and webinars to continue your learning and professional growth. Many upcoming ISACS professional learning offer extensions of the conference topics.

### **After the conference...**

- Create opportunities to share, discuss, and reflect upon the conference content. This may come in the form of faculty presentations, small group sharing/discussion, or any online format. The essential element is the commitment to set aside dedicated time and opportunity for sharing the salient points from presentations. Facilitation of these conversations also is a valuable growth experience for teachers.
- Encourage outstanding faculty members to consider presenting at future conferences. Each conference offers opportunities to share the translation of current research into classroom practice. Presenting is a powerful form of professional learning and a great way to showcase exceptional practice at your school.
- Set long-term goals for extended study of conference topics and visit the schools that have successfully translated them.
- Consider partnering with a school that shares your school's professional learning goals for the year. Share speakers, professional days, resources, school visits, challenges, and opportunities for faculty to connect and reflect.
- Continue the conversation in your favorite online community cohort for the 2024 Annual Conference private community (for registrants only) in [ISACS Connect!](#)

**If you have additional questions, please email [programinfo@isacs.org](mailto:programinfo@isacs.org)**