

Special Thanks

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To our sponsors and partners, thank you for your generous support and belief in our vision.

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To our planning committee and volunteers, your dedication, creativity, and hard work have brought this day to life.

To our speakers, panelists, facilitators, and performers, your expertise and passion have inspired us.

And to our students, thank you for celebrating and learning with us!

Happy (almost) Pride!

Resources & Support

Visit the LGBTQ+ page on the PPS website to explore resources, supports, and the Queer Equity Committee's work at PPS and beyond!



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Annual Gender Inclusive Schools Summit

Tuesday, May 26th, 2026
9am - 2pm

Chatham University



Welcome to the Gender Inclusive Schools Summit!

Today is about connection, learning, and celebrating who you are. We're so glad you're here and hope this space helps you feel seen, supported, and empowered to build community and lead change in your schools.

Speakers



Heather McNaugher | she/her
Associate Professor of English, Chatham University
Heather McNaugher is a proud PPS and Chatham College graduate and subsequent author of poetry monographs such as *Panic & Joy* and *System of Hideouts*. She was nearly a librarian and can often be found in the stacks browsing the novels.



Dr. Wayne N. Walters | he/him
Superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools
Dr. Wayne N. Walters has a passion for working directly with students with the goal of making an impact on their lives through education. Dr. Walters has worked his entire professional career for the Pittsburgh Public Schools with 30 years of experience as a Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and now, Superintendent.

Sidney Payne | fae/faer/any
8th Grade Student, Pittsburgh Schiller 6-8

Panelists & Moderator

Dirk Wynn (he/him) is a 2024 Chatham alumni currently studying and teaching English at Duquesne University.

Charlie Dorlon (they/them) is a 2025 Chatham alumni starting at Sarah Lawrence College this fall to study creative writing.

Elijah Russell (he/him) is a senior at Chatham studying creative writing and art history who enjoys writing fiction and poetry.

Dr. Carrie Helms (she/they) is a Professor of English and Chair of the Department of Humanities and Education at Chatham University.

Schedule of Events

Time	Activity		
9:00	Arrival & Registration (Mellon Board Room)		
10:00	Welcome to the Annual Gender Inclusive Schools Summit! (Campbell Memorial Chapel)		
	Superintendent's Address (Chapel) Dr. Wayne N. Walters		
10:15	Student Speaker (Chapel) Sidney Payne (fae/faer/any)		
	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>High School Students Student and Alumni Panel (Chapel) <i>Chatham students and alumni discuss the university's history of gender equity & inclusion, offering their experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community today.</i></td> <td>Elementary & Middle School Students Community Building Activity (Eddy Theater) <i>Students will share what the GSA is doing at their school, learning from other groups, and engage in a Kindness Box activity.</i></td> </tr> </table>	High School Students Student and Alumni Panel (Chapel) <i>Chatham students and alumni discuss the university's history of gender equity & inclusion, offering their experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community today.</i>	Elementary & Middle School Students Community Building Activity (Eddy Theater) <i>Students will share what the GSA is doing at their school, learning from other groups, and engage in a Kindness Box activity.</i>
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10:30	Lunch & Other Activities (Anderson Dining Hall & Mellon Board Room, Quad) <i>Groups will be called one at a time for a 30-minute lunch. When you are not at lunch, you'll be able to join activities, do guided crafts, or visit the community organization tables (see the Partners section on the back for a list or organizations to visit).</i>		
11:00	PPS Pride Parade (starts at the Mellon Board Room Patio, ends at the Chapel)		
1:00	Keynote Speaker (Chapel) Heather McNaugher, Associate Professor of English at Chatham University		
1:15	Entertainment (Chapel) Celebration of PPS Pride		
1:30			
2:00	Departure		