

Concurrent Session #1: Innovative Instructional Approaches & General Activities I

8:50AM-9:20AM

Presentation Title	Presenter	Room	Description
Minute To Win Teach It	Dr. Karen Lauritzen	UC 138-140	Teaching is both an art and a science. Today, we are going to focus on the first part. Without giving too much away, you'll learn how the best teachers find inspiration in the oddest places – and make learning fun for students along the way.
How “Number Talks” Can Get You & Your Students Excited About Math!	Dr. Denice Love and ED212 Students	ADM-Scovill 109	In this session, you will get to experience how the highly effective Number Talks routine will build number sense, fluency, reasoning, and confidence in math. Not a “math person?” Come and see if this begins to change your mind!
Rock, Paper, Scissors for the Mathematical Win!	Dr. Paula R. Stickles	ADM-Scovill 212	Activities can be used to introduce topics. In this interactive session, participants will play Rock, Paper, Scissors and learn introductory probability. No prior knowledge is necessary...and if you do not know how to play Rock, Paper, Scissors, you can learn that too.
Tabletop, Role-Playing and Video Games in the Classroom	Dr. Brian Mullgardt	ADM-Scovill 213	Teachers in any discipline can, and do, use a variety of games in the classroom. We will explore what games are useful to what subjects and look at how they can be used.
"Back in Black"—Exploring the question "Is Black a Color" Through the Lens of Scientific Inquiry and STEAM.	Dr. Chris Cummings	Shilling Hall 308	Whether you get the AC-DC reference or not, you may have wondered why black t-shirts, black crayons, and black pens appear “black.” In this inquiry-based session, we’ll investigate the physical properties of three different black markers and attempt to determine what makes them appear black. Participants will also be challenged to show off their artistic creativity during this activity, so have some fun showcasing your design skills!

Concurrent Session #2: Innovative Instructional Approaches & General Activities II

9:30AM-10:00AM

Presentation Title	Presenter	Room	Description
Wild about Teaching! Performance learning through real world animal research.	Prof. Lindsey Waller & Mr. Loryn Rericha	UC Banquet	In this session, students will gain an understanding of how to implement a hands-on project using a Project Based Learning Model (PBL) about animals. Through K-W-L and tech featuring QR codes, 3D printing, and Virtual Reality, participants in this session will collaborate on a scavenger hunt to see how their future students can integrate 21 st century skills to engage them in active inquiry instead of passive listening.
A Math Game Without iPads	Dr. Karen Lauritzen	UC 138-140	Today we'll learn that some of the best classroom games and activities are played old school style – without the use of iPads. We will learn how to teach your students to play a math game together (Battleship) while you teach a small group!
Sound it Out! Why Phonics and Decoding are for Everyone	Dr. Kaitlin Glause	ADM-Scovill 212	What is your earliest memory of learning how to read? Maybe it was sounding out a simple word like “c-a-t.” Decoding and phonics skills are critical for early learners, but the fun doesn’t stop there. Even adults use their decoding skills every day. Explore how foundational phonics skills unlock the written word across the lifespan!
What Do You See?	Dr. Mirela Tanta	ADM-Scovill 213	In this workshop, you will look closely at art through quick, interactive activities. Discover how seeing more can help us better understand the world around us.
Find Your Beat: One Beat- One Circle- Everyone Belongs.	Prof. Melissa Miller	Perkinson Music Center (PMC) - Kaeuper Hall	Experience the power of rhythm, collaboration, and music in this interactive drum circle. Participants will learn simple rhythms, create music together, and discover how a drum circle can build community, encourage active listening, develop confidence, and create an inclusive environment where everyone can participate. No musical experience is necessary—just bring your hands, your ears, and your willingness to find your beat!

Let's Get Physical!-- Integrating Active Learning and Interdisciplinary Instruction into Elementary and Middle Grades Classrooms	Dr. Chris Cunnings and ED314 Students	Outside in main quad (weather permitting-- Shilling 308 only if weather is bad)	This presentation will focus on some large parachute instructional activities that will get students up and moving while learning concepts from a variety of subject areas (e.g., math, science, language arts). Attendees will also participate in full-group and small-group active learning discussions with junior-level Elementary Education majors and Dr. C. All attendees should be prepared to participate in activities, discussions and demonstrations!
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Concurrent Session 3: General Education Sessions I

10:10AM-10:40AM

Presentation Title	Presenter	Room	Description
Social Emotional Learning and Skills in the K-5 Classroom	Dr. Karen Lauritzen	UC 138-140	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills are some of the most important things we teach in K-5. Together, we will learn about some of the most important things teachers do during the day to build students' SEL skills, and how we can build those skills for students who may be neurodivergent or who have experienced trauma.
Connected Learning through Arts Integration	Dr. Kaitlin Glause	UC 142-144	Great things happen when we make connections! Students will explore connected, interdisciplinary learning through arts integration. In this session, we will practice arts integrated learning with visual and language arts.
Sports of All Sorts	Dr. Andrew Smith	ADM-Scovill 208	Sports can be a great theme to engage many different learners—and it doesn't have to be limited to Phys Ed. In this session, attendees will be exposed to a variety of ways that sports can be used to build skills or teach content in a wide range of subjects.
SIFT to avoid the CRAAP	Dr. Matthew Olsen	ADM-Scovill 309	There are many myths about what makes a credible online source. In this session, we'll bust those myths and learn a new way to evaluate everything from websites to TikTok videos.

Get Out! Why Outdoor Learning Activities in STEM are Worth the Hassle	Dr. Travis Wilcoxon	LTSC 115	Permission slips, bus arrangements, safety concerns – it seems like a lot of work to take students outdoors for science activities. However, there are benefits of using such learning environments that far outweigh the extra work required to make them happen. You will hear about those benefits and learn how to collaborate with local organizations to make rewarding experiences for students.
Drumtastic with Drums Alive®	Prof. Melissa Miller & Dr. Traci Hayward	Outside the front of Perkinson Music Center (PMC) - (Kaeuper Hall if bad weather)	Drums Alive® joins the dynamic movements of aerobic dance with the pulsating rhythms of the drum. It is a unique sensory/motor program that is designed to give the mind and body instant feedback through continuous movement and rhythmical flow.

Concurrent Session 4: General Education Sessions II

1:00PM-1:30PM

Presentation Title	Presenter	Room	Description
Tangram Shape Art (Grades 3-5)	Dr. Karen Lauritzen	UC 138-140	This arts integration with STEAM lesson will show teachers how literature, art, and math (shapes) all work together. Students will see how true subject integration works as they identify shapes, experience a fiction story from another culture, form their own tangram animal, and draw/name it!
Readers Theater: How the Written Word Gets Brought to Life	Dr. Kaitlin Glause	UC142-144	In this interactive session, participants will explore the way written text can be brought to life through readers' theater. Whether poetry, prose, or a play, readers' theater offers students interactive and low-stakes opportunities to put themselves in a story. NO THEATER EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!
Understanding and Appreciating Our Neurodivergent Friends	Dr. Denice Love and ED301 Students	ADM-Scovill 212	In this session, you'll be introduced to a couple of the ways in which brains can develop that present both challenges – and opportunities.

Beyond the Game: What Esports Can Teach Us About Belonging and Inclusion in Schools	Dr. Promise Iheanacho	ADM-Scovill 309	This presentation will introduce participants to seeing esports as more than playing video games, to who gets to participate, and how it can be used as a tool to promote teamwork, inclusion, and student engagement.
Blast Off! Designing and Testing Water Rockets for a STEAM Unit	Dr. Chris Cunnings and ED306 Students	Outside in main quad (weather permitting-- Shilling 308 only if weather is bad)	At this session, conference attendees and junior-level Elementary Education majors will test different 2L water rocket designs using "Aquapod" launch pads. We will then discuss the activity's alignment to science/engineering concepts, the "Nature of Science" (e.g., understanding controlled variables), a variety of interdisciplinary connections, and how this activity could be modified for use in elementary, middle grades, high school, and even college science classes.
Folk Dances from Around the World	Prof. Melissa Miller and ME 341 students	Outside the front of Perkinson Music Center (PMC) - (Kaeuper Hall if bad weather)	This interactive session introduces folk dances from diverse cultures, highlighting both movement and meaning. Participants will explore how dance reflects cultural identity, traditions, and community values. NO DANCE EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

Millikin University Teacher Education: Faculty & Staff

Do you have questions about teaching and/or teacher education that you weren't able to ask today? If so, please don't hesitate to contact us!

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