



# LEADER'S DAY PRE-CONFERENCE: SCHEDULE

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

TIME/ROOM	EVENT	SPEAKER
8:00–8:30 Frisco 7	COFFEE	
8:30–8:45 Frisco 7	WELCOME	David Goodwin
8:45–9:30 Frisco 7 Frisco 8	WORKSHOPS: The Head and Board Partnership: Understanding Roles and Responsibilities Growth and Mission Drift	Bill Mott Joe Gerber
9:45–10:30 Frisco 7 Frisco 8	WORKSHOPS: Creating the Template for Strategic Planning Do They Fit?: The Ins and Outs of the Admissions Process	Bill Mott Michelle Vernon
10:45–11:30 Frisco 7	PLENARY: Christian Leadership in an Age of Anxiety, Agitation, and Manipulation	Joe Rigney
11:30–12:00 Frisco 7	PREVIEW OF FALL REGIONALS	Quentin Johnson & Tim Dernlan
12:00–1:00	LUNCH (on your own)	
1:00–1:45 Frisco 7	PLENARY: Stepping into the Storm: School Leadership in an Age of Anxiety	Robbie Hinton
2:00–2:50 Frisco 7 Frisco 8	WORKSHOPS: The Importance of Intellectual Leadership School Discipline	David Dlener Carl Warmouth
3:00–3:50 Frisco 7 Frisco 8	WORKSHOPS: Some Narnians Submit a Complaint about Aslan's Handling of the Edmund Affair: Grievance Process Goals, Ingredients, and Pitfalls House at The Ambrose School: A Structural Analysis	Travis Koch Jordan Tucker
4:00–4:50 Frisco 7 Frisco 8	WORKSHOPS: A Roadmap to Designing and Planning a Classical Christian School Campus Let's Dance . . . or Not	Gary Koerner Amy Yenor
4:50–5:30 Frisco 7 Frisco 8	REGIONAL GATHERINGS FOR PRAYER PA, NC, FL, AL, TN, & MI MN, KS, CO, TX, WA, & CA	
1:00–9:00	PRACTICUMS:	
Frisco 3	Teaching	Lynch & Schlect
Frisco 4	Latin	Foster & Griffith
Frisco 5	Reading	Tucker



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Visit [classicalchristian.org/  
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Contact Dr. Tim Dernlan at  
[tdernlan@accsedu.org](mailto:tdernlan@accsedu.org)



## DATES

### SEPTEMBER 22-23

**AL:** Providence Christian School

**MI:** Bloomfield Christian School

**NC:** Cary Christian School

**TX:** Regents School of Austin

### OCTOBER 6-7

**CO:** Arma Dei Academy

**PA:** Covenant Christian Academy

### OCTOBER 13-14

**CA:** Trinity Classical Academy

### NOVEMBER 3-4

**FL:** Geneva Classical Academy

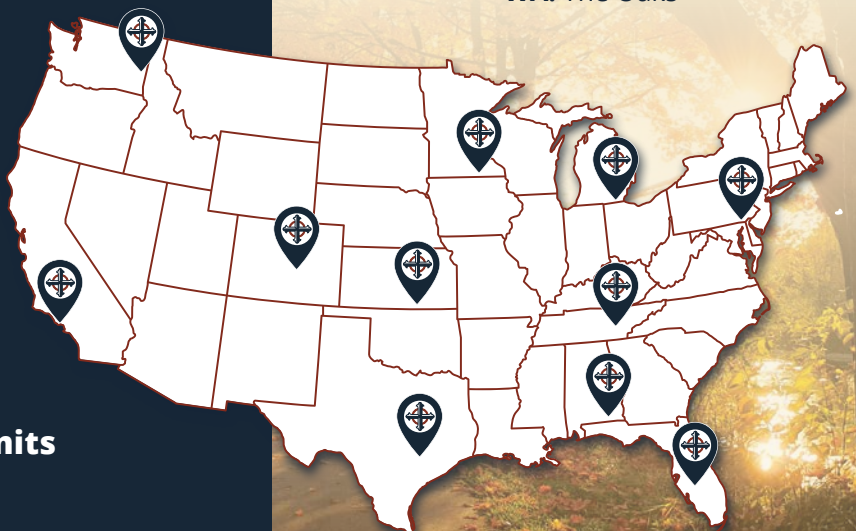
**KS:** Classical School of Wichita

**MN:** Schaeffer Academy

**TN:** Highland Rim Academy

### NOVEMBER 10-11

**WA:** The Oaks





# LEADERS DAY PRE-CONFERENCE

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

8:00–8:30 ..... **COFFEE**

8:30–8:45 ..... **WELCOME**

8:45–9:30 ..... **WORKSHOPS**

### **The Head and Board Partnership: Understanding Roles and Responsibilities, *Bill Mott***

The stakes are high for the future of classical Christian schools. The impact of board governance and leadership on these schools is profound and yet schools are reluctant to understand the influence of best practices along with their roles and responsibilities for healthy board/head relationships. The purpose of this workshop is to define what appropriate roles include that ensures healthy and best practices of working with school leadership that ushers in a new era of governance and leadership excellence.

### **Growth and Mission Drift, *Joe Gerber***

With the increased interest in classical Christian education, how do we welcome new families while maintaining the integrity of our original mission? This talk will address the reality of mission drift and emphasize the importance of admissions gate-keeping, faculty buy-in, parent education, and student culture as necessary vehicles to achieving mission fidelity.

9:45–10:30 ..... **WORKSHOPS**

### **Creating the Template for Strategic Planning, *Bill Mott***

Strategic planning has everything to do with ensuring that the school has a viable, sustainable future and that its vision is developed in such a way that strategically aligns with all facets of the school. This workshop examines the steps necessary to create an effective template for planning and a process that guarantees that the plan will be implemented. This session is intended for heads, board members, senior leadership, and anyone who aspires to learn more about the culture of classical, Christian school leadership. The content will come

principally from my book, *Healthy Boards, Successful Schools: The Impact of Governance and Leadership on Independent and Faith-Based Schools*.

### **Do They Fit?: The Ins and Outs of the Admissions Process, *Michelle Vernon***

This talk will cover the process The Ambrose School uses to walk families through initial interest in Ambrose to their first day on campus. We'll go over our target demographic, how we target our marketing to that demographic, the materials we share before initial application, our tours and open houses, our application, to family interviews and student testing. We finish with how we say "Welcome to Ambrose" or how we say "no thank-you".

10:45–11:30 ..... **PLENARY SESSION**

### **Christian Leadership in an Age of Anxiety, Agitation, and Manipulation, *Joe Rigney***

We live in an age of anxiety, agitation, and manipulation. Every institution in society is beset by raging anxiety storms, reactive stampedes, blame-shifting, scapegoating, and a quick fix mentality that prefers symptom relief to fundamental change. In such an age, there is a desperate need for mature and sober-minded leaders who have the resilience to endure the confusion, turmoil, and manipulation of the present time. This plenary session will provide a framework for thinking about such leadership, as well as practical help in cultivating the biblical virtues needed to not only survive, but to thrive in such an environment.

11:30–12:00 ..... **PREVIEW OF FALL REGIONALS**

*Tim Dernlan & Quentin Johnson*

12:00–1:00 ..... **LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)**

1:00–1:45 ..... **PLENARY SESSION**

### **Stepping into the Storm: School Leadership in an Age of Anxiety, *Robbie Hinton***

As long as reactionary and untethered individuals are allowed to derail the efforts of our teachers,



## PLENARY & WORKSHOP SYNOPSES

learning will not occur. In this seminar, we will learn how to step into storms of anxiety with the presence of Christ. This skill will empower our communities to engage with reason and love and to trust that His transformational presence will develop a learning community mindset.

### 2:00–2:50 ..... WORKSHOPS

#### **The Importance of Intellectual Leadership, *David Diener***

As schools have grown in organizational complexity, so have the number of areas over which headmasters must provide administrative leadership. Etymologically, however, the “headmaster” of a school is simply the “head teacher.” Despite the increased complexity of the headmaster’s role, in an important sense every school leader still is and must be the intellectual leader of the school. In this seminar, we will examine the importance of a headmaster’s intellectual leadership and also consider practical suggestions for how headmasters can provide such leadership.

#### **School Discipline, *Carl Warmouth***

We as school administrators are responsible for the culture of our schools. Ensuring that we are supporting teachers and establishing high standards for student conduct within a milieu of joyfulness is a cornerstone of our culture. The challenges of discipline extends beyond the classroom and into our families’ homes. Helping families embrace high behavioural standards is crucial.

### 3:00–3:50 PM ..... WORKSHOPS

#### **Some Narnians Submit a Complaint About Aslan’s Handling of the Edmund Affair: Grievance Process Goals, Ingredients, and Pitfalls , *Travis Koch***

The process of managing and resolving disagreements in your school community is often undermined by the very policies that define how we work through conflict. This scenario-based workshop examines the goals, principles, and threats to healthy conflict management, and is for school leaders who want to think more deeply about the grievance process and take away a sample grievance policy that

will protect staff, preserve dignity, strengthen relationships, and save countless hours of your valuable time.

#### **House at The Ambrose School: A Structural Analysis, *Jordan Tucker***

In this session, we will conduct a detailed analysis of the house system at The Ambrose School. We will break down the program into its various parts, the why, who, and how of our House program, with the overarching objective of painting a distinctive picture of the House program and its role in the school’s culture.





#### 4:00-4:50 ..... WORKSHOPS

##### **A Roadmap to Designing and Planning a Classical Christian School Campus,** *Gary Koehner*

This workshop will address design principles with the goal to assist the board, administrative leadership, and school community in developing a campus masterplan which speaks to a school's mission and long-term needs.

##### **Let's Dance . . . or Not,** *Amy Yenor*

We will talk about the how and why of developing social events within your school from the informal fall dance to protocol. The philosophy and standards used to establish and direct these

events need to stay consistent in order to anchor a healthy student culture to your mission and vision. Ignoring the social and cultural needs of your school community is a recipe for disaster. A culture will form, with or without you. Wisdom would beg you to proactively pour your energy into directing it intentionally before you're required to pour your energy into redirecting it. When it comes to social events, size doesn't matter.

#### 4:50-5:30 ..... REGIONAL GATHERINGS FOR PRAYER

Attendees will gather for prayer. This will allow you to meet some of your colleagues working near you.

**Frisco 7:** PA, NC, FL, AL, TN, & MI

**Frisco 8:** MN, KS, CO, TX, WA, & CA



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# LEADER'S DAY PRE-CONFERENCE: SPEAKERS

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### DAVID DIENER

#### "The Importance of Intellectual Leadership"

Dr. David Diener works at Hillsdale College where he is the headmaster of Hillsdale Academy and a lecturing professor of education. He also is a Fellow on the Alcuin Fellowship National Council, serves on the board of directors for the Society for Classical Learning and the Board of Academic Advisors for the Classic Learning Test, is a member of the National Council of Classical Educators, and offers consulting services through Classical Academic Press. He is the author of *Plato: The Great Philosopher-Educator* and serves as the series editor for Classical Academic Press' series *Giants in the History of Education*. He also is an associate editor for the journal *Principia: a Journal of Classical Education*. He holds a BA in philosophy and ancient languages from Wheaton College as well as an MA in philosophy, an MS in history and philosophy of education, and a dual PhD in philosophy and philosophy of education from Indiana University.



### JOE GERBER

#### "Growth and Mission Drift"

Joe Gerber is the dean of upper school at The Ambrose School in Boise, Idaho. He holds a BA in history from Boise State University, a BBS in biblical studies from Calvary Chapel Bible College, and a master's degree in social work from Northwest Nazarene University. Joe chose to teach at The Ambrose School because of the profound focus that Ambrose places on teaching the students to love that which is good, beautiful, and true. He believes that discipleship involves not only the information provided to another soul but also the proper formation of that soul through the development of a student's affections. His philosophy of teaching is that learning to love God is not mutually exclusive of learning about God's wonderful creation. To love God is to love to learn because God made all things to say something very important about Himself. Joe is married to his wife, Janice, and together they have four sons.



### DAVID GOODWIN

#### "Welcome to Repairing the Ruins, 2022"

David Goodwin has served as the full-time president of the Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS) since 2015. Formerly, he was the head of the Ambrose School, a classical Christian school in Boise, ID, from 2003 through 2014. He served on the ACCS Board as an elected member from 2010 to 2014, and helped develop the strategic plan for the ACCS. Prior to his work in classical Christian education, Mr. Goodwin spent 13 years in marketing and new business development for a large computer products manufacturer. He holds an MBA and BIS from Boise State University. He and his wife, Stormy, work as a team on many ACCS projects and attend All Saints Presbyterian Church in Boise, Idaho.



### ROBBIE HINTON

#### "Stepping into the Storm: School Leadership in an Age of Anxiety"

On June 1, 2018, Mr. Robbie Hinton was appointed as the new Cary Christian School headmaster. Mr. Hinton earned a degree in marketing from the University of Tennessee

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## LEADER'S DAY PRE-CONFERENCE: SPEAKERS

and an MDiv from Reformed Theological Seminary. His diverse background of leading two classical Christian schools, as well as serving as a campus minister and a church planter, has prepared him to love our students, families, and staff, while helping us achieve our best as a school through strong operational management.

### TRAVIS KOCH

#### **"Some Narnians Submit a Complaint about Aslan's Handling of the Edmund Affair: Grievance Process Goals, Ingredients, and Pitfalls"**

Travis Koch is headmaster of St. Stephen's Academy in Beaverton, Oregon, where he has served since 2016. He loves to repair and improve neglected things such as cars, buildings, recipes, curriculum, and school policy manuals. He holds a BA in history from Stanford and an MA from Yale. When he's not reading or answering school-related questions, you'll probably find him in the garden or kitchen with his wife, or in the garage fixing something, or in the field chasing bumblebees with one of his five children.

### GARY KOERNER

#### **"A Roadmap to Designing and Planning a Classical Christian School Campus"**

Gary Koerner is a registered architect and the founder and president of Three, an architecture firm of 39 years based in Dallas, Texas. His association with classical Christian education began in 1993 when he and his wife, Kay, along with five other families founded The Covenant School (Dallas). Since then, Gary has served Covenant as chairman of the board and chairman of the architectural committee and has provided the school with assistance in campus site selection and building design. He continues to aid in the masterplan development of the 18-acre campus which currently hosts 682 students while planning for the needs of the school for years to come. Today Gary serves on the Covenant Board of Trustees as a sustaining board member. He has four children, all who graduated from The Covenant School, and two granddaughters attending in the 6th and 8th grades.

### BILL MOTT

#### **"Creating the Template for Strategic Planning"**

William R. Mott, PhD is a leading authority on governance issues for independent and faith-based schools. His third book, *Healthy Boards—Successful Schools: The Impact of Governance and Leadership on Independent and Faith-Based Schools* is a comprehensive resource and serves as the text book for the master's program in independent school leadership at Vanderbilt University and Mercer University. Dr. Mott has served as head of school at three different independent schools and as a trustee at several others. He received his PhD in educational leadership from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and his BA from the University of Mississippi.

### JOE RIGNEY

#### **"Christian Leadership in an Age of Anxiety, Agitation, and Manipulation"**

Joe Rigney serves as president and associate professor of theology and literature at Bethlehem College & Seminary. He is the author of five books including: *Live Like a Narnian: Christian Discipleship in Lewis's Chronicles* (Eyes & Pen, 2013), *Lewis on the Christian Life: Becoming Truly Human in the Presence of God* (Crossway, 2018), and *Strangely Bright: Can*

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*You Love God and Enjoy this World?* (Crossway, 2020). At Bethlehem, he teaches classes on Christian hedonism, Shakespeare, political philosophy, and English literature. Joe is husband to Jenny, father to Sam, Peter, and Jack, a pastor at Cities Church in St. Paul, and a teacher at Desiring God.

### **JORDAN TUCKER**

#### **"House at The Ambrose School: A Structural Analysis"**

Jordan Tucker is the dean of Student Culture at the Ambrose School in Boise, Idaho. He holds a BA in philosophy and religion from Northwest University. His commitment to the classical Christian model is rooted in its understanding that education is about cultivating the whole person toward the design and purpose that God has given humanity. Jordan is married to his wife, Ariel, and together they have two sons.



### **MICHELLE VERNON**

#### **"Do They Fit?: The Ins and Outs of the Admissions Process"**

Michele Vernon is the development & admissions director at the Ambrose School in Boise, Idaho. She began working at The Ambrose School in 2015. Michele was drawn to the classical Christian model and the focus on virtuous character and soul formation and equipping each student to fulfill God's unique call for their life. Michele is married to her husband, John, and together they have two sons.



### **CARL WARMOUTH**

#### **"School Discipline"**

Carl Warmouth is the dean of grammar school at The Ambrose School in Boise, Idaho. He holds a BS in psychology from Tennessee Wesleyan University. Carl first became convicted of the value of classical Christian education in 1999 after he and his wife, Janine, began teaching at a classical Christian school and enrolled their oldest child there. After reading *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, *Excused Absence*, and *The Paideia of God* by Doug Wilson, Carl sensed God calling him to be involved in a greater way so he made a career change and was hired as the upper school principal at Trinity Christian School. His previous experience includes nine years in the resort industry and 10 years in child and family counseling as the therapeutic program director at a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children.



### **AMY YENOR**

#### **"Let's Dance . . . or Not."**

Amy Yenor is the events coordinator at The Ambrose School in Boise, Idaho. She holds a BA in business communication from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She coordinates the major events at The Ambrose School including Serve with Compassion Day, the annual Christmas program, annual auction, dances, parent education, and various other events. Amy is married to her husband, Scott, and together they have four sons and a one daughter.





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the good way is, and walk in it. – Jeremiah 6:16*

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