

2020 GISA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

**** SCHEDULE ****

| # | DATE | TIME | SESSION TITLE | PRESENTER(S) | |
|----|------------------------------|---------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Monday, November 9, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Leadership Lessons from the Pandemic | David Harper | Advisory Alliance |
| 2 | Monday, November 9, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Social Emotional Learning Activities for Middle School Students | Marsha Fleming | Springmont School |
| 3 | Monday, November 9, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Online Tools for Hybrid & Online Instruction to Support Engagement, Differentiation and Meaningful Assessment | Connie White | Woodward Academy |
| 14 | Monday, November 9, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Teaching Dr. King's Social Justice Principles to a Digital Generation | Daniels / DeLaughter | |
| | | | | | |
| 4 | Tuesday, November 10, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Overview of Heads Survey: LARGE School (>500) Panel Discussion | David Harper | Advisory Alliance |
| 5 | Tuesday, November 10, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Practicing Mindfulness and Radical Self-Care in the Context of Teaching & Learning in 2020 | Dr. Joy Kenyon-Mafu | Lovett School |
| 6 | Tuesday, November 10, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Ethical Challenges in the Independent School World | Paula Wills | Brandon Hall |
| | | | | | |
| 7 | Wednesday, November 11, 2020 | 2:00 PM | A Discussion with Coach Doug Malone | Doug Malone | Tennessee Tech |
| 8 | Wednesday, November 11, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Using Google Docs and Google Classroom to Enhance Writing Curriculum (Grades 4-12) | Julianne Bailey | Berry Elementary |
| 9 | Wednesday, November 11, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Overview of Heads Survey: SMALL School (<500) Panel Discussion | David Harper | Advisory Alliance |
| 10 | Wednesday, November 11, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Increasing Student Engagement in an Online or Hybrid Environment | Connie White | Woodward Academy |
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| 11 | Thursday, November 12, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Rethinking the 4Ps of Marketing in the Pandemic | Nija Meyer | Woodward Academy |
| 12 | Thursday, November 12, 2020 | 4:00 PM | Beyond COVID: Change, Challenge, and Creativity | Raj Jose | Marist School |
| 13 | Thursday, November 12, 2020 | 4:00 PM | The Crisis for Schools After COVID – The Leadership Challenge – Why Your Leadership Should Emerge Now | David Chester & Nathan Watts | GISA Emerging Leaders Institute |
| 15 | Thursday, November 12, 2020 | 4:00 PM | How Are Kids REALLY Performing This Fall? | Dr. Gene Kerns | Renaissance |

2020 GISA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Session # 1

Monday, November 9, 2020
4:00 pm

Session Title:

Leadership Lessons from the Pandemic

Session Description:

2020 has been an extraordinary year for Heads of School. For many, the pandemic was trial by fire. So, what have we learned from it? Join David as he discusses leadership lessons learned from the pandemic.



Presenter:

**David Harper, Managing Principal
The Advisory Alliance**

www.advisoryalliance.com/people

David has spent the last 22 years in leadership development, advising and coaching regional, national, and international executives and has served as a Trustee and member of the Executive Committee of a GISA independent school.

Session # 2

Monday, November 9, 2020
4:00 pm

Session Title:

Social Emotional Learning Activities for Middle School Students

Session Description:

Young teens are in the middle transitioning from childhood to adulthood. Their emotions are big even while academic and family responsibilities grow. Sometimes their big emotions can get in the way of reaching their goals, and they need strategies to implement for success. Participants will receive different activities that can help address students' self and social awareness along with self-management.

Presenter:

**Marsha Fleming, GISA Master Teacher
Middle School Teacher, Springmont School, Atlanta**

Session # 3

Monday, November 9, 2020

4:00 pm

Session Title:

Online Tools for Hybrid & Online Instruction to Support Engagement, Differentiation, and Meaningful Assessment

Session Description:

In this interactive session, we will share our favorite technology tools and pedagogical strategies that optimally work to move student learning forward in a hybrid or online classroom environment.

Participants will leave with a session website filled with ideas, tool suggestions, and strategies that have proven to be effective. We will share tools and strategies that:

- *Promote student engagement and interactivity.*
- *Build faculty-student relationships and classroom culture.*
- *Differentiate learning for different levels of learners.*
- *Implement authentic diagnostic, formative and summative assessments.*



Presenter:

Connie White

Director of Learning Design, Woodward Academy

Connie has conducted hundreds of workshops and seminars throughout the country and internationally. She is the President of AATE, an ISTE affiliate, writes the Education column for *Southern Distinction* magazine, and is a Paul Harris Fellow. Connie is a leader with Woodward Academy's efforts in the areas of professional development, curriculum, and innovation. She was also the recipient of the 2016 ISTE ISEN Outstanding Educator Award and is a 2020 ATLIS Pillar Award Winner.

Session # 14 *Added*

Monday, November 9, 2020
4:00 pm

Session Title:

Teaching Dr. King's Social Justice Principles to a Digital Generation

Session Description:

Featuring original interviews with Ambassador Andrew Young, these timely curricula for both high school and elementary school students are based on the nonviolent social justice philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Both MLK curricula have been successfully piloted online in multiple states and are ideally suited for online learning. A key feature of these curricula is to teach students how recent developments in digital technology have afforded unprecedented opportunities for individuals to make a difference. Students learn how tools ranging from social media, to crowd sourcing and mapping have enabled ordinary people and charities to bring about change in their own neighborhoods and across the globe. These tools connect us with networks of people from around the world. In this course, timeless principles intermingle with revolutionary technologies, allowing for an intensely relevant discussion of modern ways to achieve change in our world. The course encourages students to follow in the footsteps of Dr. King and become promoters of human rights – at home and around the world.

Presenters:



Matthew Daniels, J.D., Ph.D.

Matt was raised in a section of Spanish Harlem with the highest rate of violent crime in New York City. After attending inner-city public schools, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College. He later received his law degree and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and his Ph.D. in American Politics at Brandeis University. He serves as Chair of Law & Human Rights Center for Human Rights and International Affairs at the Institute for World Politics in Washington, DC. He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Handong International Law School in South Korea, and a visiting Professor and Co-Director of the Law and Digital Culture Programme at Brunel Law School in London.



Devin L. DeLaughter, Ed.D.

Devin currently serves as Head of School at New Hope Academy in Franklin, Tennessee. He has served as high school assistant principal and athletic director at Grace Community School in Tyler, Texas. Devin also served as Director of Multicultural Affairs and Faculty Director BASIC Academic and Enrichment Program at McCallie School for Boys. He received his Bachelor of Science: Mathematics from the University of the South, his Masters of Education: Educational Leadership from Covenant College. His research and scholarly activity include his Doctoral Treatise: *A transformational Leadership Historical Narrative: Crosby DeWitt Stamps, Davidson Academy Principal 1924-1966*. "The findings provide valuable insight for educational leaders and future researchers as they continue to explore the interplay between leadership behaviors and organizational effectiveness."

Session # 4

Tuesday, November 10, 2020
4:00 pm

Session Title:

Overview of Heads Survey: LARGE School (>500) Panel Discussion

Session Description:

Join David Harper and Dr. Stuart Gulley, President of Woodward Academy as they discuss the findings and implications from the recent GISA Head of School Survey on the impact of COVID. What has been the impact of the pandemic on schools and Heads of School?



Presenter:

**David Harper, Managing Principal
The Advisory Alliance**

www.advisoryalliance.com/people

David has spent the last 22 years in leadership development, advising and coaching regional, national, and international executives and has served as a Trustee and member of the Executive Committee of a GISA independent school.

Session # 5

Tuesday, November 10, 2020
4:00 pm

Session Title:

Practicing Mindfulness and Radical Self-Care in the Context of Teaching and Learning in 2020

Session Description:

The presenter, a veteran educator, shares some insights and experiences of teaching in 2020 - with strategies for attendees whether they are engaged in virtual, hybrid, and in-person teaching. In a time of the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism - let's explore together strategies that enable us as educators in this most uncommon of times, not only to survive but also to thrive!



Presenter:

**Joy Kenyon-Mafu, Ph.D.
Upper School Mathematics Faculty, The Lovett School**

Joy Kenyon-Mafu looks forward to presenting at this year's conference. She has a PhD in Educational Policy Studies from Georgia State University and has 25 years of experience as a full-time educator, having taught full age and ability range in the UK and US. A career highlight for Joy in 2018 was to be part of the Teachers Across Borders team. The team of US-based teachers collaborated to facilitate a professional development workshop for science and math high school teacher colleagues in South Africa.

Session # 6

Tuesday, November 10, 2020
4:00 pm

Session Title:

Ethical Challenges in the Independent School World

Session Description:

The role of ethics in the independent school culture is front and center now more than ever. How do we evaluate ourselves through the lens of ethical business practices? Do we have tools to uncover unconscious biases existing within our school culture? Are we transparent with our families regarding how we live out our mission and vision? Do we operate with the same transparency when mistakes are made? We need to be able to define ethics, differentiate what is ethical from what is moral and legal, and use that information to design our processes. Those processes need to be monitored, and compliance with them measured. We can learn from other industries and apply models of ethics management to the independent school world. Come and explore how using applied business intelligence and asking the right questions in the context of independent schools can help us create best practices and lead a school culture of solid ethical conduct.

Presenter:

Paula M. Wills
Director of Admissions, Brandon Hall School

Session # 7

Wednesday, November 11, 2020
2:00 pm

Session Title:

A Discussion with Coach Doug Malone, Offensive Coordinator, Tennessee Tech University

Session Description:

Coach Malone will discuss recruiting at the Division I Level, the impact of COVID-19, how the media has affected the game, how to advise parents who are afraid for their sons to play football (concussions), do's and don'ts, and chalk talk.



Presenter:

Doug Malone
Assistant Coach / Offensive Coordinator / Quarterbacks
Tennessee Tech University

Malone rejoined the Tennessee Tech staff in early 2018 as Dewayne Alexander came back as the Golden Eagles' newest head coach and was appointed the Golden Eagles' associate head coach and oversaw tight ends. [CLICK HERE for complete bio.](#)

Session # 8

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

4:00 pm

Session Title:

Using Google Docs and Google Classroom to Enhance Writing Curriculum (Grades 4-12)

Session Description:

Learn how to use the editing capabilities of Google Docs to enhance your Writing Workshop. We will explore the process of how students can use the features of Google Docs to draft, revise, peer edit, teacher conference, and publish written pieces. We will also look at how the features of Google Docs can make assessment and differentiation easier to implement and document. This process is versatile for both in-person and remote teaching.

Presenter:

**Julianne Bailey, GISA Master Teacher
Faculty, Berry College Elementary & Middle School**

Session # 9

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

4:00 pm

Session Title:

Overview of Heads Survey: SMALL School (<500) Panel Discussion

Session Description:

Join David Harper, Dr. Randy Watts, Head of School at Brookwood School, and Travis Absher, Head of School at Robert Toombs Christian Academy, as they discuss the findings and implications from the recent GISA Head of School Survey on the impact of COVID. What has been the impact of the pandemic on schools and Heads of School?



Presenter:

**David Harper, Managing Principal
The Advisory Alliance**

www.advisoryalliance.com/people

David has spent the last 22 years in leadership development, advising and coaching regional, national, and international executives and has served as a Trustee and member of the Executive Committee of a GISA independent school.

Session # 10

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

4:00 pm

Session Title:

Increasing Student Engagement in an Online or Hybrid Environment

Session Description:

Great teachers know that student learning increases dramatically when students are engaged. In this interactive webinar, participants will practice essential engagement conditions such as student-teacher relationships, curriculum clarity, and teaching for deeper learning to involve students in meaning making.

We will highlight our favorite online digital tools, collaborative protocols and thinking routines to enhance participation, collaboration, and reflective thinking for all learners. We will share and discuss educational research, monitoring student progress and understanding, as well as essential social-emotional check-in practices to help maintain a healthy online learning environment and more.



Presenter:

Connie White

Director of Learning Design, Woodward Academy

Connie has conducted hundreds of workshops and seminars throughout the country, and internationally. She is the President of AATE, an ISTE affiliate, writes the Education column for *Southern Distinction* magazine, and is a Paul Harris Fellow. Connie is a leader with Woodward Academy's efforts in the areas of professional development, curriculum, and innovation. She was also the recipient of the 2016 ISTE ISEN Outstanding Educator Award and is a 2020 ATLIS Pillar Award Winner.

Session # 11

Thursday, November 12, 2020

4:00 pm

Session Title:

Rethinking the 4Ps of Marketing in the Pandemic

Session Description:

The pandemic has caused independent schools everywhere to grapple with their marketing strategy. This webinar will explore adjustments to the 4Ps of marketing in our strange new world.

- *Product: Is our value proposition still the same?*
- *Place: When on-campus visitors are not allowed, how do we "sell" our campus?*
- *Promotion: What changes are needed to our advertising strategy?*
- *Price: Can we charge the same tuition when the experience is different?*



Presenter:

Nija Majmudar Meyer, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Woodward Academy

Nija Majmudar Meyer joined Woodward in August 2014 to lead the Academy's marketing and communications efforts and was promoted to Vice President for Strategic Marketing and Communications in February 2016. In this role, Ms. Meyer has been responsible for sharing the Woodward story with all audiences, including prospective families, current families, alumni, and friends of the school, using all available channels including the Academy's website, the Woodward magazine, media relations, advertising, and social media. In October 2017, her responsibilities expanded to include Admissions when she was named the Academy's Vice President for Enrollment Management. She leads a highly skilled team dedicated to welcoming new families to Woodward and providing them with guidance through every step of the admissions journey from inquiry to application to admission. [CLICK HERE for complete bio.](#)

Session # 12

Thursday, November 12, 2020

4:00 pm

Session Title:

Beyond COVID: Change, Challenge, and Creativity

Session Description:

COVID 19 has changed the face of education, and it will never look the same. In a remarkably short time, schools have adopted new ways of teaching and learning, redefining education in the process. Even more challenges lie ahead as schools reinvent themselves to take advantage of technology advances and societal change. Creativity is key in reimagining education in a post-COVID world. What will your school look like when COVID-19 is over?



Presenter:

**Raj Jose, Chief Technology Officer
Marist School**

Session # 13

Thursday, November 12, 2020
4:00 pm

Session Title:

The Crisis for Schools After COVID – The Leadership Challenge – Why Your Leadership Should Emerge Now

Session Description:

*The **GISA Emerging Leaders Institute** is designed to give hands-on professional development for educators in GISA that aspire to become the next generation of Heads of School. This session will provide insight into the year long journey of discovering the many facets of Headship in GISA schools through a cohort model where collaboration drives self-discovery. With a high percentage of GISA heads expected to retire over the next five years, it is important that we begin preparing now to step in to lead the next generation of Georgia Independent Schools. **Please join us to talk about what that may look like for your career path ahead.***

Presenters:



David Chester, Tallulah Falls School

- Has been at Tallulah Falls School, a private day and boarding school, for 21 years
- Started as Dorm Counselor with the Boarding Program has served as Assistant Upper School Academic Dean, Middle School Academic Dean, and currently as Assistant Head of School
- Chair of the TFS SAIS Re-Accreditation Team for the last three visits
- Coached Girls Varsity Basketball and Boys Varsity Basketball at TFS
- Participated in GISA Emerging Leaders Institute in 2019-20



Nathan Watts, The Heritage School

- Has been at The Heritage School 8 years and in independent schools 15 years
 - B.S. from Auburn University (2004) in Social Science - Secondary Education and M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from University of West Georgia in 2011
 - At THS, began as Upper School Social Studies teacher and also served as Athletic Director, Middle School Head, and currently Director of Middle and Upper School (grades 5-12)
 - Coached Football and currently Varsity Boys Soccer at THS
 - Participated in GISA Emerging Leaders Institute in 2019-20
 - Co-Led GISA Teacher Evaluation and Supervision professional development in 2019
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Session # 15 ****Added****

Thursday, November 12, 2020
4:00 pm

Session Title:

How Are Kids REALLY Performing This Fall?

Session Description:

*School doors had barely closed last spring before speculation about the "COVID-19 slide" began. Spring and summer brought a series of reports that attempted to predict the scale of the slide, which ranged from moderate to dire. Tutoring centers asserted that "some children will **never** recover," while a recent webinar spoke about the "lost COVID-19 generation." So, how accurate were these predications? With a wave of fall screening data coming in, we can now move from predictions about the COVID-19 slide to **definitively quantifying** it. This session will offer an **exclusive preview** of Renaissance's forthcoming report, *How Kids Are Performing: Tracking the Impact of COVID-19 on Reading and Mathematics Achievement*, where we will explore the answers to these key questions:*

- *How does performance in Fall 2020 compare to expected or typical performance by subject and grade?*
- *Is there a greater spread or range in students' scores overall?*
- *Are particular grades or subject areas more impacted than others?*
- *To what extent are particular demographic subgroups impacted?*
- *Are there variances between schools in more rural areas and more urban areas?*
- *What important questions remain open about the COVID-19 slide?*

Presenter:



Dr. Gene Kerns

Dr. Gene Kerns ([@GeneKerns](#)) is the Chief Academic Officer at **Renaissance**. He is a third-generation educator and has served as a public-school teacher, adjunct faculty member, professional development trainer, district supervisor of academic services, and academic advisor at one of the nation's top edtech companies. He has trained and consulted internationally and is the co-author of three books on educational topics.