



# QUEST FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE

November 4, 2025 • 7:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

## Morning QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### 1. The AAA Board - Your Board's Role in Capacity Building

**Amy Schiffman**

**Audience: Board Members, Heads of School, Development**

Together we'll examine the "AAA Board", where every Board member is motivated to be an Ambassador, Advocate, and/or Asker. This model is built around a premise that confident volunteers are effective volunteers, and we build on areas of strength, rather than deficits. Emerge with tools to bring back to your board and a plan to boost confidence and efficiency as the board evolves to serve as engaged partners to the professional team in philanthropy.

### 2. Finding the Right PITCH: Setting Up the Classroom for Success

**Dr. Tamar Andrews**

**Audience: Infant-K all educators**

This workshop will explore the four environments that teachers create in their classrooms (Physical, Interpersonal, Temporal, and Curricular). When done with intentionality, it can bring about harmony and decrease dysregulation in young children.

### 3. Beyond Books: Engaging Students Through Experiential Learning

**Elisa Berger**

**Audience: 2's-PreK all educators**

How can we ensure that all students have the best opportunity to learn—beyond simply reading a book or participating in a discussion? How do we keep every child attentive, engaged, and thriving to the best of their ability? In this interactive workshop, participants will explore a variety of activities and strategies designed to engage diverse learners in the early childhood classroom. Through hands-on experiences, participants will learn how to transform their classroom into a dynamic, experiential learning environment. Together, we'll examine key moments throughout the school year where experiential learning can be naturally and effectively integrated into teaching.



## Morning QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### 4. The Social Thinking Behind Social Skills

*Ellen Borsuk and Shoshana Sturm*

**Audience: Grades 3-8 all educators**

This workshop will focus on Michelle Garcia Winner's Social Thinking approach, a framework that teaches individuals to understand and navigate social situations more effectively. Through Social Thinking, students come to understand the perspective of others and how their actions impact those around them. Participants will learn how to empower their students to make expected choices throughout the school day and beyond. This workshop will include practical applications, and participants will leave equipped to implement Social Thinking methodology.

### 5. Learning is Loud! Engaging our Learners in the Information Age

*Ashley Charnoff*

**Audience: Grades K-5 all educators**

In this workshop, we will investigate different ways to create learning opportunities with the understanding that imparting information is no longer the goal. We will examine the different skills that our students will need in the changing world and explore various ways to teach these skills. We will look at Genius Hour, Exemplars and other problem-solving tasks that help students engage in activities that build perseverance and life skills.

### 6. Deep Listening Track (must register for both sessions #6 and #33)

*Dr. Paula Chu*

**Audience: Open to All**

Right now, it sometimes feels as though not much is clear other than a pervasive sense of tumult and turmoil. Teachers are not immune to this phenomenon—nor are they spared the heightened anxieties of students, parents, and colleagues. An antidote to the overwhelm can be found in building our capacity to listen deeply to the people in our lives—stepping away from feeling a need to fix and moving toward empathy and understanding. Join us for an interactive training in deep listening with Dr. Paula Chu, Director of the long-standing Stanley King Institute. This two-part workshop will help you find your way back to center—strengthening your capacity to help students and others by **listening**, offering them your non-judgmental, open-hearted presence.



## Morning QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **7. Red Flags & Real Talk: Substance Use Prevention Strategies for Educators**

***Sharon Darack***

**Audience: Middle School and High School all educators**

This interactive workshop equips educators with the tools to recognize early warning signs of substance use among students and engage in meaningful, age-appropriate conversations. Participants will learn how to identify behavioral red flags, understand the impact of substance use on adolescent development, and implement prevention strategies within the school setting. We'll explore current trends in youth substance use, including vaping, cannabis, and prescription drug misuse, and examine up-to-date national statistics. Through case studies and real-life scenarios, educators will gain confidence in fostering open dialogue, building trust, and connecting students to support services when needed.

### **8. Seize the Data - How to Gauge Marketing + Communications Success**

***Laurie Ehrlich***

**Audience: Marketing**

Social media, website, and email metrics speak volumes about your school's identity, perceptions, and where it stands alongside other institutions in the space. It can answer big questions including (but not limited to):

- Is social media content resonating with our target audience(s)?
- Are website users engaging in a multiple-page journey?
- Are we converting from our welcome series/drip campaigns?
- Do we have strong calls to action across platforms?

This information can not only guide future strategy and direction (e.g. where your targets live digitally, what areas of the website need the most improvement, do you need to work on messaging), but it will also help narrow your focus when combing through what seems like endless data points!



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INTENTIONAL  
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## Morning QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **9. Setting Students Up for Success: Impactful Classroom Management and Therapeutic Strategies**

***Dr. Rebecca Eliason***

**Audience: Middle School all educators**

In this interactive workshop, teachers will explore practical, evidence-based strategies to prevent disruptive behavior, respond effectively to challenges, and support the emotional needs of middle school students. The session emphasizes proactive techniques educators can implement from the very first day of school and sustain throughout the year to create a supportive, well-managed classroom environment.

### **10. Design Thinking Everywhere**

***Jason Erdreich***

**Audience: Middle School and High School General Studies educators**

Design Thinking shouldn't be a class, or an assignment, or a simple module students engage with. Instead, it's an approach to navigating our ever-changing and technologically advanced world. Join educator, author, and patented inventor Jason Erdreich as we get hands-on with our learning by looking how design thinking can be incorporated through problem-solving, empathy, and interdisciplinary learning environments.

### **11. Making Thinking Visible: Instructional Strategies That Spark Engagement in Science and Beyond**

***Jacqueline Gooch***

**Audience: Grades 3-8 General Studies educators**

This interactive workshop will equip educators with practical instructional strategies that deepen student understanding and engagement across all content areas, with an emphasis on science. Participants will explore and apply research-based thinking routines such as See-Think-Wonder, I Notice/I Wonder, and Claim-Evidence-Reasoning (CER) to encourage students to express, refine, and build upon their ideas. Through modeling, collaborative activities, and real classroom examples, attendees will learn how to use visual prompts, short texts, and hands-on investigations to spark student curiosity and make their thinking visible. Educators will leave the session with a toolkit of ready-to-use templates, lesson ideas, and digital resources that support both immediate implementation and long-term instructional planning. This session is ideal for teachers seeking engaging, low-prep strategies that strengthen classroom dialogue, student ownership, and conceptual understanding.



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## Morning QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

*(select one option)*

### **12. Foundations of Time Management: A New Approach to Getting the Right Things Done**

***Josh Gottesman***

**Audience: Open to All**

Forget color-coding your planner or downloading yet another app—this session flips the script on traditional time management. Instead of just “managing your time,” you’ll learn how to take ownership of it using the OZ Principle framework: See it, Own it, Solve it, Do it. We’ll break down what to eliminate, delegate, and automate, how to stop interruptions from hijacking your day, and why multitasking actually makes you less productive. Expect practical tools, candid discussion, and a few mindset shifts that will change how you look at every hour in your day.

### **13. From Data to Action: Driving Instruction with Student Outcomes**

***Jessica Harrell***

**Audience: Middle School and High School General Studies educators**

This session will empower teachers to move beyond simply looking at scores to actively collecting and using student data to inform their daily teaching. Participants will learn practical protocols for analyzing various types of student data, identifying specific learning gaps, and designing targeted instructional adjustments that lead to measurable growth for every student.

### **14. Making Differentiation Manageable in Your Math Classroom**

***Amanda Kagan***

**Audience: Grades 1-5 Math educators**

Come explore how intentional differentiation can support positive behavior, increase engagement, and transform your classroom management in math. While differentiation can often feel overwhelming, like a constant cycle of creating new tasks for every student, it doesn't have to be. With the right structures in place, such as purposeful warm-ups, games, open-ended questions, and problem-solving tasks, manageable differentiation can become part of your daily routine. This workshop will show you some of my favorite tasks that will keep students engaged and not asking, “What do I do next?” You'll leave with practical strategies and resources that require small shifts, not total overhauls- making differentiation realistic for teachers and impactful for students.



## Morning QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **15. Physical Reading - Understanding Tone of Even the Hardest Texts**

***Jason Langer***

**Audience: High School General Studies educators**

Through the use of facial expressions, gestures, physical movements, and game playing, we will explore methods to make even the most complicated readings come alive. Focusing on dialogue taken from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, we will highlight insults, pronouns, emotional diction, aggressive syntax, and direct vs. figurative language without even knowing it as we play reading games while reading aloud, ultimately bringing the tone of the text to life.

### **16. Out of the Box Kids in Our Schools/Keeping Challenging Kids in the Fold**

***Rabbi Yaakov Mintz***

**Audience: Middle School and High School Jewish Studies educators**

This interactive workshop uses real world scenarios to explore the experience of out-of-the-box kids in a conventional school setting. Teachers will be challenged to view classroom learning from the perspective of the out-of-the-box student, and to understand how their behaviors are expressions of certain aspects of their experience. We will discuss how concepts such as personal autonomy, adverse childhood experiences, shadow children, and more, shape the behaviors of many young people in our classrooms. Teachers will leave with a clearer understanding of their students and concrete tools to make school a better experience for them.

### **17. Engineering with Paper: Amazing Projects with Simple Supplies**

***Godwyn Morris***

**Audience: Grades PreK-2 all educators**

When considering both cost and earth friendly engineering supplies for students, one of the best building materials can be found in your recycling bin. Paper is both an easily accessible material and an incredibly versatile one. This session will guide you through a variety of activities that involve designing, building and testing structures using just paper, tape and scissors. You will come away with steps that teach how to roll, fold, connect, and build with paper. Turn your lessons into easy to do, hands-on adventures that engage students in amazing ways.



## Morning QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **18. Between Code and Compassion: Enacting Human-Centered AI Literacy**

***Jordan Mroziak***

**Audience: Middle School and High School all educators**

This session invites educators to explore how human-centered design can support the development of foundational AI literacies in the classroom. Participants will engage with design thinking strategies to prototype learning experiences that introduce core AI concepts -- such as classification, training data, and model evaluation -- through hands-on, inquiry-driven activities. Emphasizing relevance and accessibility, the session will demonstrate how AI can be integrated across disciplines, from using chatbots for creative writing to modeling algorithms in social studies. Educators will leave with adaptable lesson frameworks, student-centered design tools, and the confidence to foster curiosity and computational fluency through AI.

### **19. Empowering Lifelong Learning in the Limudei Kodesh Classroom**

***Rabbi Dr. Avichai Pepper***

**Audience: Middle School and High School Jewish Studies educators**

This session explores the foundations of student-centered learning, with a focus on cultivating lifelong skills in the Limudei Kodesh classroom. Educators will learn how to shift the classroom experience to empower students, fostering deeper engagement and long-term growth. Attendees are encouraged to bring upcoming lesson plans to apply strategies in real time.

### **20. Beyond the Quiz: Innovative Assessment Strategies for Tanach Education**

***Dr. Deena Rabinovich***

**Audience: Middle School and High School Jewish Studies educators**

Traditional assessments in Tanach classes often focus on memorization of verses and surface-level comprehension, missing opportunities to engage students in deeper textual analysis and meaningful connection to the biblical text. This presentation explores innovative assessment approaches that honor both the sacred nature of Tanach study and contemporary pedagogical best practices. Drawing from classroom research and best practices, we'll examine how formative and summative assessments can be redesigned to evaluate students' ability to engage with peshat and derash, analyze literary techniques, and make text-to-self connections. Participants will leave with concrete rubrics and assessment tools that can be immediately implemented in their own Tanach curricula. We'll also address common challenges such as accommodating diverse learning styles and creating assessments that inspire rather than intimidate.



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### **21. Content That Matters: A Concierge Approach to Contemporary Israel Resources for your Classroom**

***Tamara Rebick***

**Audience: Middle School and High School all educators**

Quickly find quality resources about contemporary Israel that resonate with your students and accelerate learning outcomes. Explore content options from five leading content providers and introduce your students to the many dimensions of contemporary Israel through age appropriate, engaging and memorable primary and secondary sources.

### **22. The Literacy Link: The Reading Writing Connection**

***Shulamit Roth***

**Audience: Grades 1-5 General Studies educators**

This session will focus on the powerful relationship between language, reading and writing and implications for classroom instruction. Topics will include: the importance of developing background knowledge, strategies for vocabulary instruction, the interaction between writing instruction and reading comprehension, and instructional, meta-cognitive strategies.

### **23. Pragmatics: Development of Social Language Skills and Activities to Foster Social Skills in Preschool through Second Grade**

***Reesa Salomon***

**Audience: 3's-Grade 2 all educators**

This training explores the foundations of speech and language with a focus on the development of basic social skills in young children. The workshop covers the components of both speech and language, stages of social play, and essential social behaviors such as turn-taking, greetings, listening, and understanding personal space. Participants will learn why these skills matter, strategies and activities to foster them, and how social skills groups, both in schools and private settings, can support development. The session also addresses common social language challenges in children with ADHD, autism, and related diagnoses, while clarifying what social skills interventions can and cannot achieve.



## Morning QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **24. What is ADHD, and What Does it Teach Us About Engaging ALL Students?**

***Dr. Yoni Schwab***

**Audience: Open to All**

Lately, it seems that there is a proliferation of children (and adults) who are struggling with attention, organization, time management, and self-regulation. Why do kids (and adults) with ADHD act the way they do, and what can we learn from them to help everyone succeed? This workshop will help you get into the head of someone with ADHD using a simple theory based on neuroscience that explains many of the challenges and strengths that come with ADHD and executive dysfunction. Using that understanding as a guide, we will explore practical approaches to managing the difficulties associated with ADHD in the classroom that can enable ALL students to succeed, not just those with ADHD.

### **25. Help Board Members Help You**

***Miriam Stein***

**Audience: Admissions**

Learn how to work hand in hand, professionals with lay leaders, to help lay leaders market your school program. They are already committed to your school, but they may not know how to be helpful. What's the best way for lay leaders to get the right message out to the right audience? Coordinating the outbound communication effort can help your school gain notice from both prospective families and prospective funders. Participants will walk away with knowing how to leverage each other's roles to maximize ambassadorship as well as concrete templates and plans for professionals to take back to their schools, curated from best practices around the country.

### **26. Language Shifts That Make an Impact**

***Aliza Strassman***

**Audience: Grades 1-5 all educators**

We know that our students are always watching us and listening to our words. In this workshop, we will explore teacher language and how small shifts can have a huge impact on student growth, self-perception, and agency. Through real life examples, and opportunities to practice, expect to walk away with a toolkit of language shifts that you can implement in your classroom tomorrow!



## Morning QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **27. Alleviating Students' Math Anxiety**

***Sheri Swiss***

**Audience: Middle School and High School Math educators**

This professional development workshop will enable teachers to learn about math anxiety, including its possible causes, consequences, and connection to math performance. It will empower teachers to identify students with math anxiety given common behaviors and phrases. It will also provide teachers with several evidence-based interventions. As teachers have a direct effect on math anxiety, this research and resulting professional development have the potential to considerably impact students in a positive way.

### **28. Navigating Difficult Conversations**

***Miri Wexler***

**Audience: Open to All**

Strong adult culture, the foundation of a thriving school, ultimately drives student learning. When educators engage in honest, skillful conversations, even when they're uncomfortable, it creates a climate of trust, collaboration, and shared responsibility. These conditions directly impact the quality of teaching, staff retention, and the broader student experience. In this practice-based session, participants will explore the neuroscience of difficult conversations—what's happening in our brains when stakes feel high—and learn how to apply the CARE model (Clarity, Autonomy, Relationships, and Equity) to navigate them with greater confidence. You'll leave with tools to engage in tough conversations with more presence, purpose, and skill—while strengthening the kind of adult culture that enables students to thrive.



## Afternoon QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **29. Taking the Challenge out of Challenging Behaviors**

***Dr. Tamar Andrews***

**Audience: Toddler-K all educators**

What are challenging behaviors and how can we understand what children are trying to tell us with these behaviors? How can we support young children and support emotional and social development? In this workshop we will explore real techniques and strategies to use in the classroom.

### **30. The Social Thinking Behind Social Skills**

***Ellen Borsuk and Shoshana Sturm***

**Audience: Grades 3-8 all educators**

This workshop will focus on Michelle Garcia Winner's Social Thinking approach, a framework that teaches individuals to understand and navigate social situations more effectively. Through Social Thinking, students come to understand the perspective of others and how their actions impact those around them. Participants will learn how to empower their students to make expected choices throughout the school day and beyond. This workshop will include practical applications, and participants will leave equipped to implement Social Thinking methodology.

### **31. The Power of Presentation—Designing Classroom Materials for Maximum Impact**

***Kayla Broth***

**Audience: High School all educators**

This hands-on workshop explores how thoughtful design, and formatting can significantly enhance student engagement and improve learning outcomes. Participants will learn practical strategies for creating study guides, worksheets, and assessments that are not only clear and well-organized but also visually engaging and pedagogically effective. Using accessible tools like Google Docs and Canva, the session will focus on how to structure materials that support retention, reduce cognitive overload, and foster active participation. By the end of the workshop, educators will have actionable techniques and templates to elevate their classroom resources with purposeful, student-centered design.



## Afternoon QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **32. Maximizing Math Through Games and Discourse**

***Ashley Charnoff***

**Audience: Grades K-2 Math educators**

Elementary school years are an important time for building number sense and foundations for other mathematical concepts. Still, many children learn best through experiences and play that support their learning goals. This hands-on session will demonstrate how various games and activities can be used to connect students to mathematics. We will explore how Number Talks, Exemplars, projects, and games can be used to build number sense and other mathematical concepts in a fun, engaging way. Participants will play games, participate in Number Talks and create their own activities to enhance their math curriculum.

### **33. Deep Listening Track (must register for both sessions #6 and #33)**

***Dr. Paula Chu***

**Audience: Open to All**

Right now, it sometimes feels as though not much is clear other than a pervasive sense of tumult and turmoil. Teachers are not immune to this phenomenon—nor are they spared the heightened anxieties of students, parents, and colleagues. An antidote to the overwhelm can be found in building our capacity to listen deeply to the people in our lives—stepping away from feeling a need to fix and moving toward empathy and understanding. Join us for an interactive training in deep listening with Dr. Paula Chu, Director of the long-standing Stanley King Institute. This two-part workshop will help you find your way back to center—strengthening your capacity to help students and others by **listening**, offering them your non-judgmental, open-hearted presence.

### **34. Red Flags & Real Talk: Substance Use Prevention Strategies for Educators**

***Sharon Darack***

**Audience: Middle School and High School all educators**

This interactive workshop equips educators with the tools to recognize early warning signs of substance use among students and engage in meaningful, age-appropriate conversations. Participants will learn how to identify behavioral red flags, understand the impact of substance use on adolescent development, and implement prevention strategies within the school setting. We'll explore current trends in youth substance use, including vaping, cannabis, and prescription drug misuse, and examine up-to-date national statistics. Through case studies and real-life scenarios, educators will gain confidence in fostering open dialogue, building trust, and connecting students to support services when needed.



## Afternoon QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **35. Operationalizing Your School's Communications**

***Laurie Ehrlich and Miriam Stein***

**Audience: Admissions and Marketing**

Your school's communications aren't just about sending emails or posting on social media. They're the voice, tone, and personality of your institution. This session will show you how to bring greater professionalism and structure to your marketing and communications function, so every touchpoint reflects your school's values and priorities. We'll explore how to get buy-in from leadership and colleagues, develop clear processes, and create systems that keep your messaging consistent across all channels. You'll learn how to embed your school's key messages into everything from your website to admissions tours to fundraising appeals, and how to maintain a unified voice and tone, even across multiple contributors. You'll leave with practical tools to organize your workflow, align your stakeholders, and ensure your communications work as hard as your mission does.

### **36. Setting Students Up for Success: Impactful Classroom Management and Therapeutic Strategies**

***Dr. Rebecca Eliason***

**Audience: Grades 2-5 all educators**

In this interactive workshop, teachers will explore practical, evidence-based strategies to prevent disruptive behavior, respond effectively to challenges, and support the emotional needs of middle school students. The session emphasizes proactive techniques educators can implement from the very first day of school and sustain throughout the year to create a supportive, well-managed classroom environment.

### **37. Teaching Talmud and Getting It**

***Rabbi Mayer Erps***

**Audience: Middle School and High School Jewish Studies educators**

In this session participants will explore the models that Rabbi Mayer Erps has developed over the past 11 years to enhance students' skills and comprehension of Talmud study at different grade levels. These models are tailored to provide an engaging, step-by-step approach that guides students through the complexities of Talmudic study, often a challenging and intricate subject. Each grade-level system is carefully structured to foster a deep understanding of the Talmudic process. Depending on the level, this approach may incorporate a variety of resources and tools, including graphic organizers, interactive PowerPoints, guided *chavruta* study sessions, and accurate, comprehensive assessments. Educators have found these approaches to be not only comprehensive but also highly relatable for high school students.



## Afternoon QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **38. Toxic Negativity: How to Keep It from Infecting Your Team**

***Josh Gottesman***

**Audience: Administrators, Department Chairs, Team Leads**

Negativity in the workplace is contagious—and when left unchecked, it can derail culture, lower morale, and erode trust. This session will help leaders identify what toxic negativity looks like, where it comes from, and how to stop it from spreading. Through real-world examples and interactive discussion, we'll explore the true costs of negativity, the types of people who spread it, and how to shift your team's mindset from "this won't work" to "let's make it work."

### **39. Using Drama to Teach**

***Dr. Samara Grossman***

**Audience: Grades 3-8 all educators**

Teachers have turned to drama for years as a way to bring lessons off the page and into the hearts of their students. When students are invited to step into a role or imagine themselves in someone else's shoes, they connect with the material in a deeper, more personal way. Used alongside traditional teaching, drama opens the door to empathy and critical thinking. It's a flexible, creative tool that allows students to fully experience the lesson, not just learn it. This session will explore ways to integrate drama into your curriculum.

### **40. From Data to Action: Driving Instruction with Student Outcomes**

***Jessica Harrell***

**Audience: Middle School and High School General Studies educators**

This session will empower teachers to move beyond simply looking at scores to actively collecting and using student data to inform their daily teaching. Participants will learn practical protocols for analyzing various types of student data, identifying specific learning gaps, and designing targeted instructional adjustments that lead to measurable growth for every student.



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(select one option)

### **41. Game On! Bringing Joy Back to the Classroom!**

***Rabbi Judah Isaacs and Shira Strong***

**Audience: Middle School and High School all educators**

Get ready for an energizing, hands-on workshop where teachers become the students! In this interactive session, you'll explore a variety of tried-and-true classroom games and activities designed to boost engagement and spark joy in both Judaic and General Studies.

Bring your own lesson materials, we'll provide the templates, ideas, and support to help you transform your content into a fun, effective game or activity tailored to your subject and grade level. With options for both digital and printable formats, you'll leave the workshop with a ready-to-use classroom game, and the inspiration to create even more. Let's bring learning to life, game on!

### **42. Teach Smarter, Not Harder: Differentiation Through Centers**

***Aliza Mayer and Limor Ramer***

**Audience: Grades 1-5 all educators**

Join Limor and Aliza for a dynamic, hands-on workshop focused on small group learning and differentiated instruction. This session will equip educators with practical strategies to organize effective small groups and tailor learning materials to meet students' diverse academic levels, learning styles, and needs. You will explore models for station-based learning, engage in collaborative planning, and leave with tools and examples you can immediately apply in your own classroom. This workshop emphasizes real-world application, deep knowledge of students' unique learning profiles, and instructional creativity. Whether you are new to small group teaching or looking to refine your practice, you will gain a deeper understanding of how to implement personalized learning that supports engagement, growth, and success for every student.

### **43. Out of the Box Kids in Our Schools/Keeping Challenging Kids in the Fold**

***Rabbi Yaakov Mintz***

**Audience: Middle School and High School General Studies educators**

This interactive workshop uses real world scenarios to explore the experience of out of the box kids in a conventional school setting. Teachers will be challenged to view classroom learning from the perspective of the out-of-the-box student, and to understand how their behaviors are expressions of certain aspects of their experience. We will discuss how concepts such as personal autonomy, adverse childhood experiences, shadow children, and more, shape the behaviors of many young people in our classrooms. Teachers will leave with a clearer understanding of their students and concrete tools to make school a better experience for them.



## Afternoon QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **44. Engineering with Paper: Adventures in Roller Coaster Physics**

***Godwyn Morris***

**Audience: Grades 3-8 General Studies educators**

Explore basic physics principles by creating roller coasters from just paper, tape & scissors. Kids love hands-on projects and learn best when they create their own experiments. Join us for a hands-on activity using simple supplies and clever methods to build amazing projects. Using a simple methodology of creating basic three-dimensional shapes or blocks with paper, I will show how to combine these to make ramps, roller coasters and other similar projects. Transform your classroom into an adventure zone where your students learn while having a blast.

### **45. Between Code and Compassion: Enacting Human-Centered AI Literacy**

***Jordan Mroziak***

**Audience: Grades K-5 all educators**

This session invites educators to explore how human-centered design can support the development of foundational AI literacies in the classroom. Participants will engage with design thinking strategies to prototype learning experiences that introduce core AI concepts -- such as classification, training data, and model evaluation--through hands-on, inquiry-driven activities. Emphasizing relevance and accessibility, the session will demonstrate how AI can be integrated across disciplines, from using chatbots for creative writing to modeling algorithms in social studies. Educators will leave with adaptable lesson frameworks, student-centered design tools, and the confidence to foster curiosity and computational fluency through AI.

### **46. The Power of Early STEM: Sparking Curiosity from the Start**

***Jaime Nahan***

**Audience: 2's-PreK all educators**

This interactive workshop highlights the importance of STEM in early childhood education, showing how young children naturally explore STEM concepts through play and everyday experiences. Participants will learn practical, developmentally appropriate strategies to integrate STEM into daily routines using hands-on materials and open-ended questions. Attendees will also create a STEM-based lesson plan to implement in their own classrooms, ensuring immediate, practical application.



## Afternoon QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **47. Creating Individual Success for Each "Individual" Talmid**

***Rabbi Dr. Avichai Pepper***

**Audience: Middle School and High School Jewish Studies educators**

This session introduces practical strategies for differentiated instruction, aimed at meeting the diverse needs of students in the *Limudei Kodesh* classroom. Participants will learn how to adapt their teaching to support individual success, regardless of learning style or ability. Attendees should bring lesson plans to workshop differentiation techniques within their own curriculum.

### **48. The Triple Check: Kriah, Hebrew, and Critical Thinking in Tanach Classes**

***Dr. Deena Rabinovich***

**Audience: Middle School and High School Jewish Studies educators**

This presentation demonstrates how effective Hebrew textual analysis instruction moves students from close reading techniques that examine individual word meanings to broader thematic connections. Critical thinking development occurs through structured questioning strategies that advance from literal comprehension to analytical and evaluative thinking, evidence-based reasoning that support interpretations with specific textual evidence, and metacognitive awareness that helps students reflect on their own comprehension processes.

### **49. Content That Matters: A Concierge Approach to Contemporary Israel Resources for your Classroom**

***Tamara Rebick***

**Audience: Grades K-5 all educators**

Introduce your students to contemporary Israel with quality online resources that resonate and accelerate learning outcomes. Explore engaging and age-appropriate content options from five leading content providers and introduce your students to the many dimensions of contemporary Israel through engaging and memorable primary and secondary sources.



## Afternoon QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **50. The Literacy Link: The Reading Writing Connection**

***Shulamit Roth***

**Audience: Middle School and High School General Studies educators**

This session will focus on the powerful relationship between language, literacy and content instruction. Topics will include development of background knowledge for comprehension, Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary instruction, the interaction between writing instruction and reading comprehension, and instructional, meta-cognitive strategies.

### **51. Imagine. Design. Create.**

***Miri Rubin and Lisa Swanson***

**Audience: Middle School and High School General Studies educators**

This dynamic workshop for all curricula blends coding and digital design with physical model creation to bring any subject to life. Participants will learn how students use digital code and engineering principles to design and build tangible, real-world objects. Imagine creating scaled structures of historical architecture, scientific models, or mathematical tessellations! This hands-on experience fosters a deeper understanding by connecting digital concepts to physical creations, boosting creative problem-solving and highlighting the practical applications of STEM.

### **52. Speech-Language Development in Young Children**

***Reesa Salomon***

**Audience: Infant-K all educators**

This workshop focuses on understanding and supporting speech and language development in young children. Participants will learn the difference between speech and language, including expressive and receptive components, and review neurotypical developmental milestones from birth to age six. The session will also cover how to identify potential speech and language delays, when to seek professional evaluation, and practical strategies for stimulating communication skills in both typically developing children and those with delays. Activities, characteristics of neurodivergence, and appropriate next steps for concerns will be discussed, making this an informative session for providers working with the birth to age six population.



## Afternoon QUEST Conference Workshop Selections:

(select one option)

### **53. Development Team Meetings**

***Amy Schiffman***

**Audience: Development**

Individual school meetings (30 minutes) with Amy Schiffman.

### **54. The Courage to Set Limits: Effective Discipline that Helps Kids Become Kind, Caring, and Responsible**

***Dr. Yoni Schwab***

**Audience: Open to All**

Kids and teens seem less respectful and more out of control than ever. Meanwhile, parents and educators often struggle to set limits and enforce them in a way that maintains strong relationships and mutual respect--and that actually works! There is a third way between punishment and permissiveness that increases positive behavior, enhances relationships, reduces yelling, and helps kids grow up to be respectful and responsible adults--what we often call *mensch*es.

### **55. S'cool Moves**

***Dr. Jessica Shore***

**Audience: Grades K-5 all educators**

S'cool Moves is a movement-based learning program that was originally developed through the collaboration of a reading specialist and an occupational therapist. It is based on research from the fields of brain science, occupational therapy, mind-body science, behavior optometry, and best practices in collaboration. These activities flow seamlessly into the school day while supporting therapy and academic goals. By adding S'cool Moves techniques to daily routines, children become leaders and learn to monitor their own behavior. Teachers have more time to teach, and children have more time to learn. Rather than telling children to focus, teach them how to focus. Talk less and show more. The session will focus on instruction and practice of techniques to improve student's overall coordination, motor planning skills, body awareness, and visual tracking skills as they relate to academic skills in the classroom. We will also utilize multisensory approaches that support students with co morbid ADHD, sensory processing dysfunction, dyslexia, developmental delays or autism spectrum.