



WORLD LANGUAGES CONFERENCE

NCAIS BI-ANNUAL WORLD LANGUAGES CONFERENCE
ASHEVILLE SCHOOL, ASHEVILLE, NC~APRIL 7, 2025

'CONNECTING THROUGH WORLD LANGUAGES'

This conference endeavors to support NCAIS World Language teachers through our shared humanity, diverse cultures, rich languages and innovative technologies, past present and future.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

- 8:30 AM NETWORKING & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 9:00 AM WELCOME | NCAIS *Location: Skinner Library>Rice Reading Room*
TAIWANESE DANCE | FAYE VALORIS, GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL
STUDENT PRESENTATION: *Voices of Identity: The Power of Language and Culture in Constructing Relationships and Belonging | GRACE WHITTAKER '26 GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL*
- 9:15 AM KEYNOTE SPEAKER-CAROLINE SIBLEY *Rice Reading Room*
- 10:15 AM BREAK
- 10:30 AM BREAKOUT SESSION I | 45 MINUTES | SELECT ONE
- 11:30 AM SUPER SESSION-ACTIVITY FAIR-*Rice Reading Room | 45 MINUTES*
- 12:15 PM LUNCH-*Rice Reading Room*
- 12:50 PM CAFE' ASHEVILLE: PRESENTED BY ASHEVILLE SCHOOL STUDENTS | ARABIC STORYTELLING PRESENTED BY CHRIST SCHOOL STUDENTS
- 1:15 PM BREAKOUT SESSION II | 45 MINUTES | SELECT ONE
- 2:00 PM AFFINITY GROUP SHARE-*Rice Reading Room*
- 2:45 PM BREAKOUT SESSION III | 45 MINUTES | SELECT ONE
- 3:30 PM ADJOURN
- 3:30-4:30P SOCIAL HOUR-Enjoy tasty treats and learn a fun dance or two!-*Rice Reading Room*
DABKA: JAMEEL BRENNEMAN
MERENGUE-LUIS GOMEZ
CARIBBEAN MIX-LUIS GIRÓN



WORLD LANGUAGES CONFERENCE

NCAIS BI-ANNUAL WORLD LANGUAGES CONFERENCE
ASHEVILLE SCHOOL, ASHEVILLE, NC~APRIL 7, 2025

'CONNECTING THROUGH WORLD LANGUAGES'

FULL AGENDA

- 8:30 AM NETWORKING & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 9:00 AM WELCOME | NCAIS
- STUDENT PRESENTATION: Voices of Identity: The Power of Language and Culture in Constructing Relationships and Belonging | GRACE WHITTAKER '26 GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL
- 9:15 AM KEYNOTE SPEAKER-CAROLINE SIBLEY
"The Limits of My Language are the Limits of My World"-Expanding Human Connection through Language
- Language is more than just a tool for communication—it shapes the way we think, perceive the world, and connect with others. When we study a second language, we don't just learn new words; we unlock new ways of understanding and engaging with multilingual communities around us. Learning another language deepens our empathy, broadens our perspectives, and creates meaningful bonds with people from distinct cultures and backgrounds. It challenges what we think we know or understand about cultures outside our own while simultaneously calling us to reflect on our own identities. This presentation will explore the transformative power of language acquisition—not only in enhancing communication but also in cultivating global citizenship and shared human connection. Attendees will leave with a renewed sense of how language learning can foster more compassionate, informed, and interconnected communities in an increasingly globalized world. Caroline will also be speaking practically about tools/platforms to connect with native speakers around the world of different global languages and the role of virtual exchange in creating that opportunity for language practice and real-life connection!
- 10:15 AM BREAK

Rice Reading Room-Skinner Library

Luis Giron & Yi-Wen Liu, Ravenscroft School

Música/音乐, the highlight of this class

This session will give an insight of the power of contemporary Latin and Mandarin pop music in the world language classrooms. Showing how we can connect our students to language and culture through music and especially with student-selected songs, rhythms and melodies. Lesson plans and project ideas will be shared in this session. The audience will leave the session with ready-to-use lessons to provide students meaningful, lasting and enjoyable activities the next day.

Audience: Mandarin Teachers, Spanish Teachers

CCC-Skinner Library

Dr. Jady Arriaga-Arango

Feedback in Action: Using Rubrics and AI to Foster Language Growth and Student Engagement

Feedback is the cornerstone of growth in language learning, connecting students to their potential and the broader world through reflective practice and actionable insights. At Cannon School, we have been piloting a multi-faceted approach to feedback that integrates customized rubrics for communication modes and AI-enhanced tools to support student progress. Central to this initiative is the Individual Engagement and Preparation Protocol (IEPP). This protocol, combined with rubric-based assessments and AI-driven feedback, empowers students to take ownership of their language learning journey by providing timely, tailored guidance. Although our piloting process is ongoing, with results on long-term traceability expected next year, this session will share the journey thus far.

Audience: All

Webb Room-Skinner Library

Jacob Hauk- New Garden Friends School

Teaching Regional Forms of Spanish in the Beginning and Intermediate Level Classroom

Jacob will be presenting on teaching regional forms of Spanish in the beginning and intermediate level classroom. He has found that dialects may not always be taught in detail to Spanish learners until students are in more advanced courses. However, it is important that even beginning learners are exposed to dialects beyond a text box in a book, and he wants to share ideas with fellow teachers.

Audience: Spanish Teachers

11:30 AM SUPER SESSION-ACTIVITY FAIR | 45 MINUTES

12:15 PM LUNCH

1:00 PM STUDENT PERFORMANCE

1:15 PM [BREAKOUT SESSION II](#) | 45 MINUTES | SELECT ONE

Rice Reading Room-Skinner Library

Teresa E. Gabbard from Cannon School

Creating an Engaging and Interactive World Language Classroom

This professional development session will showcase strategies for developing curriculum and designing classroom activities that effectively engage students in world language acquisition. The focus will be on differentiating content and skills, with an emphasis on key themes such as the Modern Classroom model, a student-centered approach, Responsive Classroom techniques, and interactive centers. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in a mini sample lesson after the presentation.

Audience: All

Webb Room-Skinner Library

Dr. Flores Tochihuitl and North Hills Christian School

Cultural Connectivity & Communication: (La Música, El Lenguaje Universal...)

Embark on a guided exploration of language learning to include, but not be limited to, multiple modalities, intelligences, research, and brain compatibility. The power of music infused lessons will be presented/performed to inspire and cultivate an engaging experience for the learner, holistically. Music speaks to us on deep levels. We can tell relevant and meaningful stories, introduce and practice concepts as well as expand the applicable vocabulary while "jamming" in the process. "When we can't find spaces that nurture us in the ways we seek/need, we create them." This is how we teach, speak, and breathe, freely.

Audience: Spanish Teachers

CCC-Skinner Library

Erica Armas

Best Practices on Presentational Writing and Speaking

This session will focus on engaging ways to get students speaking and writing using authentic resources! For this session, please bring note-taking materials as there will be examples shared. The presentation will include an example of 7th grade students presenting a Quinceañera project. This session can spark ideas for any type of presentational writing and speaking.

Audience: Spanish Teachers

Hunt Conference Room-Rogers Athletic Center

Erin Bolden, Sabrina Huang, Ann Margaret Recio, Providence Day School

Zero to Hero in Creating Intercultural Activities

Language is a key part of culture, and culture enriches foreign language teaching. This presentation offers practical strategies, clear steps, and examples from Chinese, French, and Spanish classrooms. Through shared experiences, hands-on activities, and Q&A, this presentation provides tailored approaches to cultural language teaching.

Audience: All

2:00 PM AFFINITY GROUP SHARE

2:45 PM [BREAKOUT SESSION III](#) | 45 MINUTES | SELECT ONE

Rice Reading Room-Skinner Library

Lindsey Morse, Trinity Episcopal School

Lights, Camera, Language: Create Your Own International Film Festival

A great way to get students engaged in language learning is by creating their own foreign film! By writing scripts, acting, and producing short films in the target language, students practice critical writing, speaking, and listening skills in a fun and engaging way. This presentation uses examples from Latin films, but any language can get in on the fun!

Audience: All

Webb Room-Skinner Library

Yi-Wen Liu and Yan Zhou; Ravenscroft School

Bridging Cultures Through Virtual Exchange: A Practical Approach to Meaningful Language Learning

Discover how to foster global competencies through a successful virtual exchange between U.S. and Taiwanese students. This year-long program features self-introductions, school video exchanges, and postcard exchanges. Learn practical tips to implement similar programs, enhance language learning, and empower students as global citizens in your own classrooms.

Audience: All

CCC-Skinner Library

Diana Garcia -Westchester Country Day School

Using "The Hook" in the Spanish Classroom : Connecting through Telenovelas to Engage your Students

As world language teachers, we are always on the lookout for ways to engage our students both in and outside the classroom. A common question that I have encountered by students and their parents is this one: "Do you have any suggestions for viewing something or listening to Spanish at home?" As a seasoned world language teacher, I have been successful in engaging my students in learning and using the target language effectively by using what I call "the hook" : tv series. Besides being an authentic language and cultural resource, tv series allow for lively and interactive discussion which allow students to express themselves positively in the target language. In this presentation, I will share examples of my tested best practices and approaches for using this compelling resource as part of a Spanish class curriculum. Participants will leave the session with useful and creative ideas to get students hooked on Spanish.

Audience: Spanish Teachers

Hunt Conference Room-Rogers Athletic Center

Maureen Morales, The O'Neal School

Engaging Resources for the Foreign Language Classroom

Keeping students excited and engaged in a foreign language classroom can be difficult. What resources are available for language teachers to keep a lively class? The presenter will discuss different resources available to foreign language teachers to keep students engaged. Resources range from simple games teachers can play with a ball, bell ringers, Teachers Pay Teachers, and more.

Audience: Spanish Teachers

3:30 PM ADJOURN

3:30-4:30P SOCIAL HOUR-Enjoy delicious treats and learn a fun dance or two!