

Higgins Lake Principals' Conference

Michigan District, LCMS

July 27th - July 29th / 2026



Monday

- 10:00 AM Golf / Hiking / Reading / Travel
- 3:00 PM New Principals Meeting and Orientation
- 5:00 PM Dinner
- 6:00 PM Worship
- 7:00 PM District Presentations and Partners in Ministry
MI District, LSEM, Camp Ministries, Concordia Plans
- 8:00 PM Fellowship

Tuesday

- 7:30 AM Breakfast
- 8:30 Devos
- 8:45 David Warren - "Stronger Together: Building Gospel-Centered Parent Partnerships That Actually Work" Healthy Christian schools don't just educate students—they partner with families in a shared mission. But true alignment with parents doesn't happen by accident. This workshop will explore why mission alignment between school and home is essential for spiritual formation, student success, and long-term school health. Participants will gain practical, field-tested strategies for cultivating trust, clarifying expectations, and engaging parents as partners—not just customers. Drawing from real examples and proven systems implemented in our school, this session will provide actionable steps you can immediately apply, including communication frameworks, onboarding practices, and ways to address misalignment before it becomes conflict.
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 "From Survival to Strength: Building a Professional Development Culture That Grows and Keeps Great Teachers" Christian schools often struggle to provide consistent, meaningful professional development—but without it, even the most dedicated teachers plateau or burn out. This workshop will focus on how to intentionally build a culture of growth that strengthens instruction and retains high-quality educators. You'll hear practical examples of what has worked in our context, including systems for ongoing training, mentorship, evaluation, and leadership development. We will highlight how schools can access high-quality training, funding, and support networks. Walk away with a clear, sustainable approach to professional development that moves your staff from simply managing classrooms to thriving.
- 11:30 Hearts for Jesus / CEF
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 Brian Broderick - MANS Updates
Statewide education initiatives that impact nonpublic schools.
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Educator Retention - A look at the data from the AASPA (American Association of School Personnel Administrators) and NACTE (Nebraska Association of College and Teacher Education) as it pertains to teacher retention. We will walk through their six shifts as

identified by their research on teacher retention and how to strengthen our work with educators.

- 3:30 Partnering with a fellow administrator (or two), discuss the ideas and takeaways from the day and its impact on your work as a school leader. Feel free to walk the grounds.
- 4:30 Break
- 5:30 Dinner
- 7:00 Fellowship

Wednesday

- 7:30 AM Breakfast
- 8:30 Devos
- 8:45 Superintendent's Report / MI District Initiatives / Accreditation Updates
Accreditation Certificate Presentations
- 9:45 Introduction to Dr. Joe Sanfelippo's book - Lead from Who You Are. Everyone in attendance will receive a book that will be used in our regional meetings each month as we go through the book together throughout the school year. We'll have an overview of the book and its major themes in support of our roles as school administrators.
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Topics to Discuss - Whole Group
Questions and ideas you want to discuss as a group of school leaders leading into the 26/27 school year. This will be a list of questions gathered throughout our time together to be brought up to the whole group for feedback and discussion.
- 12:15 Closing Prayer / Doxology

8 SCECH hours are available for this conference. New principals who attend the orientation on Monday can earn an additional 2 SCECH hours.