



CHESTERTON SCHOOLS NETWORK

Annual Summit

June 22-25, 2026 • Ave Maria, Florida



“The wins happening across Chesterton schools are repeatable. They’re teachable. And the people who built them are gathering in Ave Maria this June to share what they know.”

— Brenie Bowles, Vice President, Chesterton Schools Network

REGISTER TODAY AT [EVENTS.CHESTERTON.ORG](https://events.chesterton.org)



FELLOWSHIP



FORMATION



RENEWAL



STRATEGY

One Week. *Everything We Know.*

The Chesterton Schools Network is the fastest-growing network of Catholic classical high schools in the world. 70+ schools, 76 dioceses, 31 states, 10 countries, 30+ in formation. All backed by a proven methodology.

The schools thriving in this network have cracked something. They know how to build classroom cultures where students love learning. They know how to run boards that govern well, galas that fund the mission, and admissions processes that fill seats with the right families.

The knowledge that took them years to accumulate is available to your school right now.



The Florida Experience

This year's Summit takes place in Florida at Ave Maria University — a Catholic university built around a magnificent church and charming town square, and one of the finest settings for academic and spiritual formation.

It is also the same campus hosting the 45th Annual Chesterton Conference June 25–27, making this the ideal week to experience both.

EXPERIENCE FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP AT THE 2026 CSN SUMMIT

Join Us in Ave Maria

STANDARD REGISTRATION
WITH LODGING

\$749

*Full Conference, All Meals,
Three Nights*

COMMUTER
PASS

\$599

*Full Conference, All Meals,
No Lodging*

SINGLE OCCUPANCY
UPGRADE

+\$150

*Limited, First-Come; Additional
Night: +\$100 (arriving Sunday)*

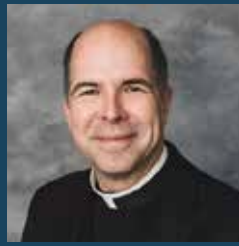
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Plenary Speakers



DR. ANDREW ABELA

*Founding Dean of
the Busch School of
Business, Catholic
University of America*



**VERY REV. JOSEPH
JOHNSON**

*Rector of the Cathedral
of St. Paul; Chaplain,
Chesterton Schools
Network*



DALE AHLQUIST

*President of the
Society of Gilbert Keith
Chesterton; Co-Founder
of Chesterton Academy*



DR. ERIC DEMEUSE

*Headmaster, Chesterton
Academy of Milwaukee;
CSN Academic Dean*



BRENIE BOWLES

*Vice President,
Chesterton Schools
Network; Co-Founder,
Chesterton Academy of
The Holy Family*



EMILY DE ROTSTEIN

*Executive Director,
Society of Gilbert Keith
Chesterton*

Schedule Summary

The CSN Annual Summit is four days of immersive, practitioner-led formation for every role in a Chesterton school — headmasters, teachers, board members, recruiters, administrators, and advancement staff.

The Art of Teaching Track

Great teaching is not instinct. It's a craft. This track equips teachers with the specific habits, classroom practices, and formation tools that make a Chesterton education work the way it was designed to work.

ISSUES THIS TRACK SOLVES

- ✦ Socratic seminar facilitation — fundamentals to advanced practice
- ✦ Classroom management systems that create order and joy
- ✦ Implementing St. John Bosco's Preventive Method of formation
- ✦ A homework culture that sustains rigor without losing families
- ✦ Protocols for students struggling with academics and mental health
- ✦ A House System that produces student leaders and a thriving culture

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

GREG BILLION

The 12 Habits of Excellent Teaching

Greg Billion breaks down how the best Chesterton teachers teach into twelve specific, learnable habits — covering preparation, student relationships, and assessment across three dedicated sessions.

HANNAH ALLEN

The Homework Problem

Manageable homework load is a key factor in family satisfaction and retention. This session delivers the specific policies and faculty culture shifts that preserve rigor without eroding family life.

KARISSA PRIGGE

Helping the Student Who Is Struggling with Mental Health

Students today are struggling with significant life pressures — more than we might realize. This session gives teachers the appropriate language, tools, and frameworks to support students facing real mental health challenges.

ERIC DEMEUSE

St. John Bosco's Gift to Chesterton Schools

Earning student trust is one of the hardest and most important things a teacher does. Eric DeMeuse explains how to use St. John Bosco's Preventive Method to guide students through a genuine relationship.

Leadership & Operations Track

A Chesterton school runs on two engines. The first is the classroom. This track builds the second — the board that governs well, the fundraising strategy that sustains the school, the admissions process that finds the right families, and the operational discipline that makes everything else possible.

ISSUES THIS TRACK ADDRESSES

- ✦ Board governance that protects mission and drives institutional accountability
- ✦ Financial systems built on discipline, transparency, and repeatable processes
- ✦ An admissions operation with a structured pipeline, clear cycle, and measurable results
- ✦ Leadership that can articulate the classical model to prospective families with clarity and confidence
- ✦ Brand standards that reflect the credibility and distinctiveness of the Chesterton model

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Enrollment in Crisis: How Two Schools Turned It Around

Two schools present the decisions, practices, and cultural shifts that reversed declining enrollment — including the Chesterton Academy of Milwaukee, which rebuilt from 13 students to 170.

Board Governance Immersive

Effective governance takes a clear understanding of where board authority begins and ends. This immersive covers the specific responsibilities, practices, and accountability structures that allow a board to support leadership and guide the school toward long-term health.

Admissions Plateau: Diagnosing and Restarting Growth

Many Chesterton schools see early enrollment success, then hit a plateau. This session identifies the most common causes of stalled growth and gives you the specific strategies to restart momentum and build a sustainable enrollment pipeline.

Schools That Raised the Money: What They Did and How

Two Chesterton schools present the fundraising campaigns that moved the needle — what they built, how they ran it, and what they learned. Different stages of maturity, different approaches, one goal: showing you exactly what worked and why.



Your People. *All Week.*

Every day begins with Mass — hundreds of Chesterton school leaders, from across the country and around the world, gathered in one place to pray together. And every evening ends with the Afterglow — the most coveted hours of the week, where the formal agenda gives way to lively conversations, new friendships, and deeper connections.



Summit and Accreditation

We've designed the Summit around the 8 Standards of Excellence — the complete framework for a thriving Chesterton school. Come ready to learn what those standards look like when they are fully alive, and leave with the formation to put them at the heart of your school.

Network guidelines require your Head of School, Executive Director, and at least one Board Member to attend.



The Value for Established Schools

The Summit is where experienced schools refine their systems, solve second-stage challenges, and bring new faculty and staff into the full Chesterton model.

The Summit is the highest-return investment in your school's human capital that you will make this year. It shows up in your enrollment numbers, your faculty retention, your governance health, your fundraising results.

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