

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7th

	Session Title	Session Description	Audience
Session 10 8:00am - 8:45am	Empower Student Authors through Zine Publishing	Zines, folded from one sheet of paper, offer students authentic writing opportunities. Zines can be incorporated into inquiry lessons, readers response, and even lesson instructions. Once written, they are a captivating passive programming opportunity for the entire school. We will share lessons to encourage student writing, zine-printables for loading your initial display, and logistical tips.	Elementary School - Primary Grades Elementary School - Intermediate Grades
	Mis and Disinformation in the Age of AI	Explore ways to teach about mis and dis information, critical thinking, and research. This session will talk about how to find news sources, teach research, and do your own.	Middle School High School
	Beyond Books II: Tech-Powered Learning, Student-Made Futures	Session leaders showcase products demonstrating the transformative impact of technology. Tools like 3D printers, sublimation printers, Cricut machines, and laser engravers become integral components of a dynamic, student-centered educational experience. See how to build a future where learning is about actively creating, innovating, and applying knowledge. Sample websites: Tinkercad, Bambu, Canva	Elementary School - Intermediate Grades Middle School High School
	Meet the KidLit Authors and Illustrators!	Ten Virginia and DC KidLit Authors and Illustrators will present information about their Author Visits and answer questions. One participant will win a basket of books from several of the presenting authors.	All Levels
	Research Development Framework in Practice	Ever question if your students graduate with the research skills they need for their next chapters? We adapted the Research Development Framework as part of the solution. In this session, we will discuss the value of reflecting on holistic research instruction, provide tips for building teacher and student buy-in, share takeaways and next steps for those interested in diving in.	Middle School High School
	The Inclusive Library: Awareness to Action	Learn to create an inclusive school library, including how to support diverse learners, including students with disabilities and English Language learners, through instruction, accessibility, and collection development. Examine your current practices and gain knowledge of up-to-date resources and strategies that will help you tailor lessons to fit the needs of all your students. Bring a device.	All Levels
	Innovative Ways to Engage Readers with Diverse Learning Styles	Innovative approaches provide multiple access points into stories for readers of all learning styles. This interactive session, led by acclaimed authors Jo Watson Hackl and Landra Jennings, utilizes the VARK learning-style-model as a starting point for exploring tools and techniques to use with your learners. Break-outs, giveaways and door prizes!	Elementary School - Intermediate Grades Middle School
	Engaging Readalouds & Embedded Strategies	This session will give 10, 15-minute lesson ideas that will involve recent, high-interest picture books for the K-2 audience along with a related, reading strategy (i.e. summarizing, predicting, inferring, making connections, and author's purpose).	Elementary School - Primary Grades
Session 11 11:00am - 11:45am	Library Lessons for Students with Autism	Students who use a talk device or who are verbal and with autism bring a unique set of fun and engagement in the library. A librarian and speech pathologist team will share their process and end result for adaptive books with AAC buttons. Come and share your experiences and questions!	Elementary School - Primary Grades Elementary School - Intermediate Grades
	Beauty or the Beast: Should You Share Your Library with Agentive AI?	The 2023 AI challenge for librarians was chatbots; for 2024, generative AI. 2025 brought Agentive AI that decides and takes action without consulting humans. Helpfulness with references, personalized recommendations, and user support contrasts with downsides in ethics, bias, training costs and intellectual development. So the question arises: have we created Beauty or released the Beast?	All Levels
	Lessons in Hope and Healing: Using Upper Middle Grade Texts for Social Emotional Learning	Join award-winning authors for a panel on middle grade texts for social-emotional learning. Using books that range from magical realism to humor, learn strategies to help readers connect literature to real-life experiences, build relationship skills, and discuss tough issues. Develop cross-curricular applications to spark empathy, conflict resolution, and responsible decision-making.	Elementary School - Intermediate Grades Middle School
	Podcasts: Empower, Educate, and Amplify Your Voice	Discover how educational podcasts offer flexible, personalized professional development for school librarians while building virtual networks. Learn to transition from podcast consumer to contributor by sharing your innovative library practices and expertise with colleagues worldwide.	All Levels
	Virginia History Hunters: A Scavenger Hunt to Engage 4th Graders in History All Around Us	Do your 4th graders find Virginia history boring? Learn how one school librarian has enlivened history engagement by hosting a year-long scavenger hunt to incentivize 4th graders to discover and engage with history all around the Commonwealth, from VA historical markers to state parks, National Park Service sites in VA, historical sites, biographies, and historical fiction set in Virginia.	Elementary School - Intermediate Grades
	Beyond Books: Strengthening Community through Your Library	Take your library beyond the walls and into the heart of your community! Discover creative ways to build partnerships, spotlight local voices, and make a lasting impact. Bring your own device—everything will be shared! As featured in The VOICE and the School Librarians United Podcast (#326), this session delivers ideas you can use right away.	All Levels
	Leading Learning through Enduring Topics!	Audrey has been presenting Topics and Trends for (not 50 but) 20+ (!) years. What topics have endured the test of time? We'll explore them in this session and pair them with a variety of up-to-date resources.	All Levels
	Fun, Engaging Library Lesson Ideas	In search of fun, engaging ways to fill your library class time? In this session, I'll share ideas for a structured, themed storytime with younger grades, lessons on everything from Call Numbers to Genres to Internet Safety for upper grades, and activities that are a hit with every grade, like Book Musical Chairs. Let's make library class a resource that kids look forward to!	Elementary School - Primary Grades Elementary School - Intermediate Grades
	Golden Threads: Weaving Digital Literacy & Creativity with Adobe Express	See how Adobe Express can boost digital literacy while giving students new ways to share their learning. Learn how to tailor lesson ideas, find ready-to-use resources, and engage students with creative, hands-on projects. By the end of this session you'll have the skills to create dynamic character analysis and book reports, customize resources, and turn your library into a creative hub	All Levels
	Thinking Lab	We've successfully structured our Library special block to maximize collaboration and inquiry within a fixed schedule. This model allows various professionals to share instructional duties, enriching the learning experience. We'll also provide a hands-on Microbit lesson demonstrating effective collaboration and technology integration in action.	Elementary School - Primary Grades Elementary School - Intermediate Grades
	Patron Friendly Library Space	How can a library space be inviting and engaging for patrons? There are many ways! Come to explore and share strategies and techniques. Topics include bins for browsing, genrefying, station choice, and student jobs- ways we have worked to make the library space easier for self-checkout and inviting for patrons. It's not easy to do it all but maybe there is a technique that will inspire!	Elementary School - Primary Grades Elementary School - Intermediate Grades

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	Session Title	Session Description	Audience
Session 12 12:00pm - 12:45pm	Jumpstarting Inquiry with the Tinies (PreK-K)	I love tapping into the natural curiosity our youngest learners have to get them started on inquiry learning in the library. Using images, primary sources, and physical objects we can propel our pre-readers into believing in themselves as researchers. The strategies and lessons shared in this session can be modified for EAC classes and multilingual learners as well!	Elementary School - Primary Grades
	Crystal Clear Impact: How Teacher Clarity Transforms Library Learning	Discover how clear communication, explicit expectations, and transparent learning intentions and success criteria can revolutionize teaching and learning in the library. This interactive breakout session explores the latest research for improving student engagement and achievement through purposeful clarity. Take away practical techniques to make every library learning experience more focused, accessible, and impactful for all learners.	All Levels
	The 2025 Alex Award Winners	Discover this year's top adult books with teen appeal! Join a 2025 Alex Awards Committee member to explore the 10 winning titles, the full vetted nominations list, and insider insights into the selection process—plus tips on how these standout reads can enhance your school library collection and spark student interest.	High School
	What Do I Do With These Students?	Ever wonder what you can do to fill your entire time with your students, while keeping them engaged, while keeping them on task, while keeping you sanity. Virtual and nonvirtual Choice Boards are the answer.	Elementary School - Primary Grades Elementary School - Intermediate Grades
	Book Buzz: Titles You'll Love	Join us for a fast-paced book talk featuring 25+ must-read titles that captured our hearts! Discover great picks for K-12 library programming or your own reading list. Plus, lucky attendees will win free copies of these fantastic books. Don't miss our 2nd annual session—your sneak peek into unforgettable reads!	All Levels
	Career Moves	School librarians are lifelong learners, right? Then why do some feel overwhelmed, stuck, or restless for a change, and what can they do about it? Join Mary Keeling, retired school library supervisor, to consider options and strategies to refresh and extend your potential throughout your library career. Plan to leave with one new idea and contacts for your professional network.	All Levels
	Bring Writing to Life with Computational Storytelling!	Explore the dynamic integration of computer science into literacy using interactive storytelling! Explore how to create engaging narratives in a "Choose Your Own Adventure" style with unplugged and plugged tools, like Twine.	Elementary School - Intermediate Grades Middle School High School
Session 13 1:00pm - 1:45pm	Library Magic for Our Littlest Learners	Veteran librarians share their tried-and-true library magic for engaging PK-2 students. We'll share practical tips for behavior management, model our favorite creative approaches to library lessons, and give away resources to use in your library. Bring a device to scan and download SOL-aligned lessons and leave inspired to build a lifelong love of reading and libraries in your youngest learners.	Elementary School - Primary Grades
	Ten Books, One Big Impact: Lessons from Virginia Reader's Choice Books	Discover creative, standard-aligned lessons inspired by the ten primary Virginia readers choice titles for K -2 students. Ten books, one big impact offers engaging activities, cross-curricular, connections, and tips to spark a love of reading while building essential literacy skills. Leave with ready to use resources and lessons to make these top books come alive in your library.	Elementary School - Primary Grades
	100 (or more) New Books for Middle and High Schools	Two librarians who are voracious readers of MG and YA literature will share our insights about the books we've read since the last VAASL conference. You'll hear our unbridled thoughts about the hits and misses of the last year and come away with a list of books you can put on your next order!	Middle School, High School
	Something for Everyone: Engaging Students and Families	Tried & true student and family engagement with the heart of the school - your library! Easy to implement ideas for all grades PK-5 that get big buy-in from students and families.	Elementary School - Primary Grades Elementary School - Intermediate Grades
	Two Ignite Projects - Big and Small!	Come hear about 2 award-winning projects that earned the VAASL Ignite Award! First, learn about a collaborative Spanish project that blends language, culture, creativity, and food trucks! Then, see how an all-school community project centered on around the works of RJ Palacio inspired empathy, connection, and meaningful conversations across grade levels. Walk away with fresh ideas for building cross-curricular partnerships and fostering a strong sense of community through innovative library programming!	All Levels
	"I Am Not a Chair": Advocating for Your Library and Making Your Role Visible	This session uses the book "I Am Not a Chair" to highlight how librarians are undervalued in schools. Through stories, discussion, and strategies, it empowers librarians to advocate for their roles and show their impact, offering actionable ideas to strengthen collaboration with teachers and leaders.	All Levels
	Truth Detectives: Helping Students Vet Credible Sources	Truth Detectives: Fact vs. Fiction (Grades 4-6) Equip students to navigate online information! Educators gain vocabulary, discussion strategies, and 3 classroom-ready activities to help students evaluate sources, think critically, and research with integrity. Empower the next generation with tools to tell stories with truth and integrity.	Elementary School - Intermediate Grades Middle School
	Fusing STEAM, MESH, and Maker in Crazy Easy 10 Minute Library Activities	Learn compelling open-ended challenges that grow STEAM and MESH skills simultaneously. This fun, practical hands-on workshop will leave you confident to implement immediately. All of the activities can be completed in 10 minutes or less with little prep using KEVA Planks. Support literature and classroom topics with related tangible activities.	All Levels