

Course Description and Instructor Bios for Institute for Teaching Excellence MS Science:

Experience lessons and pedagogy aligned to **sixth** grade content and process TEKS. Participants will select multiple sessions each day from delivered by various presenters. Sessions will vary to include content, pedagogy and technology. Most sessions will be aligned to one or more student expectations and/or advanced content to extend learning. Time for reflection and collaboration will be incorporated. This conference-style event will allow participants to choose content across grade levels as well as pedagogy and technology sessions that are not grade-specific.

Experience lessons and pedagogy aligned to **seventh** grade content and process TEKS. Participants will select multiple sessions each day from delivered by various presenters. Sessions will vary to include content, pedagogy and technology. Most sessions will be aligned to one or more student expectations and/or advanced content to extend learning. Time for reflection and collaboration will be incorporated. This conference-style event will allow participants to choose content across grade levels as well as pedagogy and technology sessions that are not grade-specific.

Experience lessons and pedagogy aligned to **eighth** grade content and process TEKS. Participants will select multiple sessions each day from delivered by various presenters. Sessions will vary to include content, pedagogy and technology. Most sessions will be aligned to one or more student expectations and/or advanced content to extend learning. Time for reflection and collaboration will be incorporated. This conference-style event will allow participants to choose content across grade levels as well as pedagogy and technology sessions that are not grade-specific.

Experience lessons and pedagogy aligned to **Biology** content and process TEKS specifically for middle school teachers who teach biology. Participants will select multiple sessions each day from delivered by various presenters. Sessions will vary to include content, pedagogy and technology. Most sessions will be aligned to one or more student expectations and/or advanced content to extend learning. Time for reflection and collaboration will be incorporated. This conference-style event will allow participants to choose content across grade levels as well as pedagogy and technology sessions that are not grade-specific.

Presenter	Email	
Todd Abronowitz	madchemistconsulting@gmail.com	
Wendy Howe	wendy.howe@gcisd.net	
Brooke Schuster	brooke.schuster@gcisd.net	

Sara Tipton	saratip34@gmail.com	
Tony Zahn	tzahn66@gmail.com	

Todd Abronowitz

Todd Abronowitz currently teaches all levels of chemistry at Parish Episcopal School in Dallas. Previously, he was the lead AP Chemistry teacher for Dallas ISD. Prior to this, he taught at John Paul II High School in Plano (and served as science department chair) for five years. He has also taught at Creekview High School, in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD for 8 years, South Garland High School (Garland ISD) for six years. He has served as the lead chemistry teacher at Creekview High School. Since starting his teaching career in 1990, he has taught regulars chemistry, honors chemistry, Pre-AP Chemistry and Advanced Placement Chemistry. He has started three AP chemistry programs, at South Garland HS, Creekview HS, and most recently at John Paul II HS. He is involved with several professional organizations: Science Teachers Association of Texas (STAT), Associated Chemistry Teachers of Texas (ACT2), and the American Chemical Society. He has presented workshops at several STAT Conferences for the Advancement of Science Teaching and Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society. He has presented at two-day conferences and one-day conferences for the College Board and been the presenter for APSI in Texas and Arkansas. He served as a State Chemistry Textbook Review member for Texas in 2001. He was co-founder of a Traveling Science Show that performed across the DFW Metroplex. He wrote his own laboratory manual and study materials for use in his AP chemistry class. Mr. Abronowitz has received numerous awards including NMSI All-American Teacher of the Year 2012, Schulz Award for outstanding high school chemistry teacher from the DFW section of the ACS, Radio Shack National Teacher Award, Associated Chemistry Teachers of Texas Teacher of the Year in 2000, and Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year 1996.

Wendy Howe

Wendy Howe has served in education for over 25 years in many different roles including public K-12 school, private school, Montessori Pre-K and Kindergarten as well as community college and university. Her primary teaching experience has been in public school secondary sciences. Wendy has a passion for students of all learning styles, and enjoys designing learning experience for students that meet the needs of every child. In addition to working with traditional students, Wendy has extensive experience with EL, GT, STEM and At-Risk students.

Wendy's current as an instructional coach role includes developing and supporting teachers through coaching, PLC facilitation, and formal professional learning sessions. Wendy also works directly with the teachers in the STEM and Gifted Academies for GCISD. Wendy also provides support for teachers new to the district including zero year teachers. Wendy also leads the development of district science curriculum, assessment and lesson design for the district and facilitates the analysis of data.

Wendy has also had many opportunities to work outside of the school setting and travel extensively by presenting at conferences such as the Texas Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching (CAST), DFW Metroplex Mini-CAST, T-STEM Conference and out of state STEM conferences. Wendy has also traveled as a consultant for Thinking Maps, Inc. delivering staff development in science, STEM and mathematics.

Wendy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, Texas Teacher Certifications in Biology, Chemistry, Composite Science, ESL and Special Education as well as a Master's degree of Education for Science Teaching.

Brooke Schuster

Brooke Schuster has been an educator for 14 years. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Baylor University and a Master's degree from UT Arlington in Curriculum and Instruction, Science Education. Brooke has taught high school science, served as an instructional coach, and is currently teaching middle school science. She has learned so much from countless hours of professional development as well through the many experiences that come with teaching a diverse group of students. Brooke thinks that teaching middle school is the best-kept secret and is really enjoying all of the work that makes teaching middle school a challenge and a joy.

Sara Tipton

Sara Tipton has 15 yrs of experience in education. 13 of those years were spent in the classroom, mostly at the middle school level where she has taught 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science along with biology. After she left the classroom she became an instructional coach for the science department at Grand Prairie High School. She planned and provided weekly professional development for the department and coached teachers on the implementation of the PD in their classrooms. This year she is currently serving as an assistant principal intern at South Grand Prairie High School while earning her master's degree in educational leadership. Sara is a strong instructional leader and experienced presenter that is committed to the growth of teachers. During her career she's been Teacher of the Year, Top 12 finisher for FWISD Tech Idol, a finalist for Teaching Chair for Excellence in Middle School STEM, and Principal Fellow through Texas Tech University.

Tony Zahn

Tony Zahn has been in public education for over 25 years. He currently serves as the Director of Science and Instructional Technology in Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District. In this position his focus has been on providing professional growth opportunities to help educators lead students to a deep conceptual understanding of science as well as instructional technology.

Tony has taught middle school students in grades 6-8 in several suburban Dallas-Fort Worth school districts. As a teacher leader, Tony has participated in action research, developed multiple curriculum models, and provided numerous professional development sessions.

He served as Vice President for the Science Teachers Association of Texas (STAT) in 2010-2011. He is also a member of the Metroplex Area Science Supervisors, National Science Teachers Association, Texas Computer Educators Association, International Society for Technology in Education, Association for Supervision of Curriculum Development and Texas Science Education Leadership Association.

Previously, Tony has served as an Advanced Academics Coordinator at the district level. In this capacity he focused on meeting the needs of gifted, pre-AP and AP students. He has influenced the creation of gifted science programs in several districts.

At the university level, Tony has served as a graduate teaching assistant in the area of literacy studies as well as an adjunct professor teaching a science methods course for pre-service teachers.

Tony holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.