

# TWLTA 2025 Mini-Conference

March 1, 2025

Webb School of Knoxville



**8:00 - 8:30 AM: Registration/Breakfast - Multipurpose Room of the Central Building - See *Campus Map***

**8:45 - 9:45 AM: Welcome and Keynote Speaker, Noah McBrayer Jones of Bridge Refugee Services**

## **Concurrent Session 1: 10:00 - 10:50 AM**

### **International Center Classrooms (locations listed below)**

**1. *Student facing AI in the World Language Classroom*,**  
-Jana Engle, Doybns-Bennett HS - International Center 221

This session will focus on using platforms that have students interact with a teacher guided AI. We'll also talk about training your students to use AI for good not evil, including guiding them in using AI as a personal tutor.

**2. *Backwards Design Lessons from Standards Aligned Assessments***  
-Katie Wimer, Carter HS - International Center 222

In this session we'll discuss how to create strong integrated performance assessments that are standards aligned and offer laser focused feedback and how to backwards plan from those assessments in ways that build student proficiency and allow for smaller areas of standards aligned feedback the whole way.

**3. *The Magic of Canva: Using AI Images to Increase Student Engagement***  
-Kaitlyn Gaskins, Hardin Valley Academy - International Center 225

Are you ready for a Canva 101 course? Come learn the basics about how to use Canva for student projects! Examples will be given for levels 1 through AP! Participants will learn how to design a template and assign it to students, how to get

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students to record videos on their presentations and how students can use AI to help them make engaging presentations in the target language!

#### **4. *A Case for Storytelling in the Language Classroom***

-Claire Ensor, Sevier County HS - International Center 226

Could “Once Upon A Time” be the most important words your students learn? This session will survey the literature on the use of storytelling and pleasure reading in language classrooms. Included in the presentation will be two original studies as well as general perspectives from the presenter’s language classroom. Teachers who already use a pleasure reading program will be encouraged to conduct their own research or case studies.

#### **Concurrent Session 2: 11:00 - 11:50 AM**

#### **International Center Classrooms (locations listed below)**

#### **1. *Design a Sustainability Project in the World Language Classroom***

--Raluca Negrisanu, East TN State University - International Center 222

"Language learning goes beyond the classroom and teachers should create opportunities for students to engage with the community around them and to be involved in projects designed to better the lives of people but also to preserve and protect the environment.

This presentation will show how to design a proposal for a sustainable project in the WL classroom with all components: vocabulary, description, implementation timeline, costs, and benefits. Students select a project they will work on throughout the semester, will present it in class, and potentially share the progress and goals with communities outside the classroom. The projects are aligned with the 2015 UN 17 Global Goals, which strive “to build a greener, fairer, better world by 2030” <https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/>. “

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## **2. *AP World Language Activities Roundup!***

-Emily Gustafson, the Webb School - International Center 232

This session aims to give AP World Language teachers a few new activities, games, project ideas, and more to share with their classes. We will all add files to a shared Google drive folder and hopefully walk away with a treasure trove of great ideas!

## **3. *Get Lost in the Right Direction: Navigating Risk-Taking in the Language Classroom***

-Sarah Anderson, Shelbyville Central HS - International Center 231

This session seeks to explore the affective filter hypothesis and its value in the language classroom. This session will also liken the language classroom to a camp experience both in method and application as means of lowering the affective filter.

## **4. *Berlin! Paris! and Beyond for under \$10! Learn how to create a 3D Europe for under \$10.***

-Phillip Easterly, Jefferson County HS - International Center 230

Thinking outside of the box creating models of major monuments. Then, let's play tacky tourist as we explore these sites while increasing speaking in the target language, reviewing major grammar points, and having fun while being. Presentation will show students' work. Focus is on German, but examples of what can be done for French will be discussed.

**Lunch and Networking: 12:00 - 1:00 PM**  
**Multipurpose Room in the Central Building**

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**Concurrent Session 3: 1:15 - 2:15 PM**

**International Center Classrooms (locations listed below)**

**1. *Eurovision: Bringing the World's Greatest Music Contest to your Classroom***

-Ryan Linger, Farragut High - International Center 226

We've all heard the iconic songs, witnessed the dazzling costumes, and maybe even shed a tear or two. Eurovision: the world's greatest song contest is a cultural phenomenon filled with music, dance, and unforgettable moments. In this session, we'll explore creative ways to integrate this unique event into your classroom, fostering language learning, cultural understanding, and a whole lot of fun!

**2. *Get moving! Engaging students through physically active instructional strategies***

-Kathy Obrusanszki, Scott County HS - International Center 222

Participants will learn about and participate in data-driven instructional strategies that engage learners through various physical activities and games. Strategies are adaptable to any level and any language.

**3. *Spanish for the Workforce***

-Erika Stevens, Walters State Community College - International Center 225

This session will focus on the need for Spanish for the Workforce and the on-going NEH grant project to create new courses and OERs. It will also share how to incorporate modules into existing courses to address this need.

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**4. *Latin Teacher Roundtable***

-Jenny Fields, the Webb School - International Center 230

A moderate meeting of East Tennessee Latin teachers. The topics may include, but are not limited to: how to build and strengthen a Latin program at your school, what is JCL and how do I get involved, how does Latin teaching fit into an increasingly AI-dominated world? Attendees are welcome to bring other topics of interest to Latin teachers.

**2:30 - 3:00 PM: Raffle and Wrap-up!**  
**Multipurpose Room - Central Building**



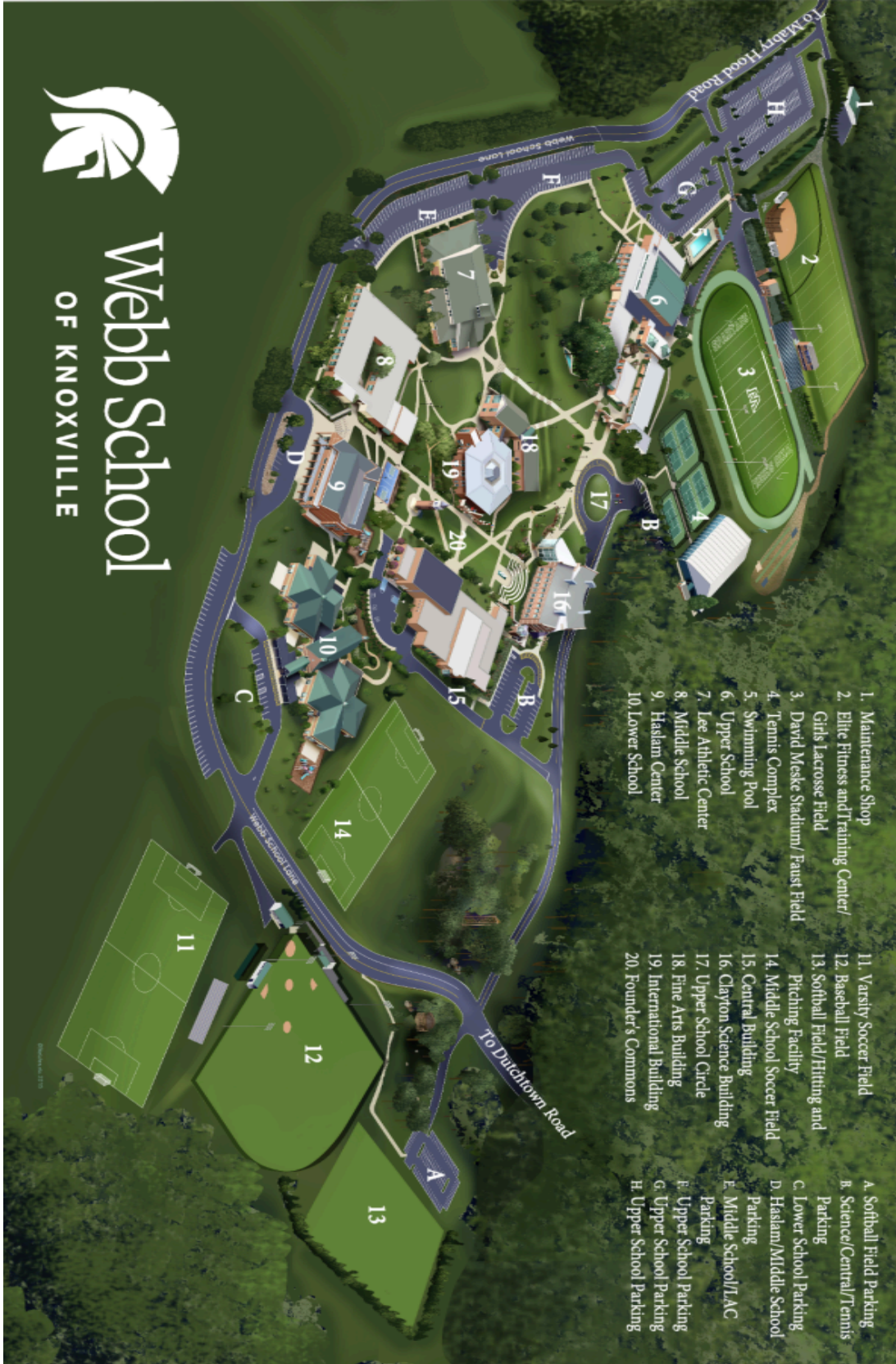
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