

Forming Hearts and Minds in the AI Era

Friday, October 23, 2026 · 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. · For Catholic middle school teachers, principals and diocesan staff

RUN OF THE DAY

Agenda

5 blocks locked · 4 in progress

8:30 to 9:00 a.m. 30 min	Arrival, coffee and pastries LOCKED Greeters: SMCHS staff and students DELTA lens: Love Student and staff greeters at the door. Name tags color-coded by role: teacher, principal, diocese.
9:00 to 9:15 a.m. 15 min	Prayer, welcome, our why, and introduction of Adam LOCKED Fr. Matt and students, Cheri, Michelle and Jorge DELTA lens: Transcendence Fr. Matt and SMCHS students lead the opening prayer together. Cheri, as principal, welcomes our guests. Michelle and Jorge share the why behind the day and introduce Adam.
9:15 to 9:50 a.m. 35 min	Keynote: Human Formation in the AI Era LOCKED Adam Kronk, Ed.D., Director, DELTA Network, University of Notre Dame DELTA lens: Builds to all five letters Open broad to hook the room: what AI is already changing about childhood, learning and the classroom, and what it can never change about the human person. Narrow to Catholic formation, then close by introducing DELTA as the frame for the rest of the day. Also ask Adam to touch on being limitful and on AI that does one narrow job well.
9:50 to 10:00 a.m. 10 min	Break LOCKED Move to breakout rooms.
10:00 to 10:40 a.m. 40 min	Choose your adventure, round 1 IN PROGRESS SMCHS presenters DELTA lens: Varies by session Five SMCHS-led sessions. See the Breakout Workshop.
10:45 to 11:25 a.m. 40 min	Choose your adventure, round 2 IN PROGRESS SMCHS presenters DELTA lens: Varies by session Sessions repeat so each attendee picks two.
11:30 to 12:10 p.m. 40 min	Lunch, mixed roundtables and AI tool demos IN PROGRESS SMCHS students at tables where possible; demo hosts DELTA lens: Love, Dignity Mix everyone up across schools and roles; role tables are fine where they form naturally. Seat an SMCHS student at as many tables as possible. Demo stations around the room for tools and services attendees can try during lunch. Covers the flyer's Peer Roundtable.
12:15 to 1:00 p.m. 45 min	Survey + panel: Hearing from Our Students, Faculty and Parents LOCKED Moderator, 2–3 students, 2 faculty, optional parent DELTA lens: Agency, Love, Dignity Starts by 12:15, 45 minutes. Run of show is in the Survey + Panel section. Leads straight into the closing.
1:00 to 1:30 p.m. 30 min	Closing: bringing AI literacy into K–8, and sending IN PROGRESS Adam, or Michelle and Jorge (to decide) DELTA lens: Embodiment, Agency 1:00–1:20 What AI literacy looks like across K–8: K–2 noticing what is made by people and what is made by machines; 3–5 how AI learns from examples and why it can be wrong; 6–8 how chatbots predict the next word, checking outputs, and when AI should not be used. Unplugged first, with a quick whole-room taste of the next-word card game. Picks up the panel's 37% stat. 1:20–1:30 Commitment card with one AI literacy step for Monday. Sending line: at judgment we are asked what we have done, not what we have read.

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CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE · ROUNDS 1 AND 2 · BEING REWORKED

Breakout Workshop

Five SMCHS-led sessions, all currently proposed. Each opens with one survey finding as its reason for being on the program. Presenters and rooms are TBD.

AGENCY

Keep the Thinking with the Student

SURVEY HOOK

38% agree AI makes it easier to skip their own thinking. Under deadline, 45% reach for it because they are genuinely stuck.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKEAWAY

Redesign one assignment around process: checkpoints, drafts and reflection that keep productive struggle with the student. Grade the process, not only the product. Bring an assignment to rework.

Presenter TBD · Room TBD · Proposed

DIGNITY

Norms, Disclosure and Trust

SURVEY HOOK

73% say expectations are clear, yet only 43% always or often disclose AI use, and 55% didn't know how to cite it or that they had to.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKEAWAY

Co-construct classroom AI agreements with students, set simple disclosure routines, and see how SMCHS built its Honor Code with student Honor Reps. Leave with a draft norms poster for grades 6–8.

Presenter TBD · Room TBD · Proposed

DIGNITY

Your AI Teaching Assistant

SURVEY HOOK

19% of students are mainly concerned when teacher material looks AI-made, compared with 8% for classmates' work.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKEAWAY

Hands-on prompting for planning, differentiation and feedback with free tools. Model disclosure (here's how I used AI). Never enter student information into unprotected chatbots.

Presenter TBD · Room TBD · Proposed

LOVE

Leading AI in a Catholic School

SURVEY HOOK

56% feel very or extremely confident they understand AI privacy risks, but only 22% name privacy as a top concern.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKEAWAY

For principals and diocesan staff: setting school-wide expectations, vetting tools and data agreements, and communicating AI with families and parishes. Draws on SMCHS's handbook and vendor privacy review.

Presenter TBD · Room TBD · Proposed

EMBODIMENT

Classroom Walk

SURVEY HOOK

Shows the help-versus-hand-off line from real classrooms before attendees hear it from students on the panel.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKEAWAY

Small groups visit live SM classes with a DELTA look-for card. Both rounds fall during class periods, so this needs host teachers and the bell schedule.

Presenter TBD · Room TBD · Proposed

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12:15–1:00 · 45 MINUTES · LOCKED

Survey + Panel

On the panel: Moderator (Michelle or Jorge); 2–3 students, mostly 9th graders; 2 faculty: one enthusiastic about AI, one more cautious; Optional: a parent of a 9th grader.

MIN	SEGMENT	HOW IT WORKS
0–4	Predict, then reveal	Ask the room to guess one number, such as the share of students who say a prayer should never be written by AI. Hands up, then show the answer.
4–31	Three rounds, about 9 min each	One slide per round. A student responds from experience, then a faculty member, then one moderator follow-up.
31–41	Audience Q&A;	Index cards collected during the rounds. The moderator picks from them and takes a few live questions.
41–45	Lightning close	Students: one thing I wish my middle school teachers had done. Faculty: one thing to start Monday. Hand off to the closing.

ROUND 1 · AGENCY

Tutor, not ghostwriter

61% use AI to study a few times a week or more, but 60% rarely or never use it to complete assignments. Under deadline, 45% say they reach for it because they are genuinely stuck. 38% agree it makes skipping their own thinking easier.

STUDENT PROMPT

Where is your line between getting help and handing it off?

FACULTY PROMPT

What does an assignment look like that keeps the thinking with the student?

ROUND 2 · LOVE

They know where the heart is

90% say a personal reflection, and 81% say a prayer or a note to a friend, should never be outsourced to AI. Only 47% say the same about analyzing a moral dilemma. Ethics discussions were the least-requested kind of support (11%).

STUDENT PROMPT

Why is a prayer different from a history summary?

FACULTY PROMPT

How do we reach students who don't yet see moral reasoning as human work?

ROUND 3 · DIGNITY

Honesty goes both ways

73% say expectations are clear, yet only 43% always or often disclose their AI use, and 55% said they didn't know how to cite it or didn't realize they had to. 19% are mainly concerned when teacher material looks AI-made, compared with 8% for classmates' work.

STUDENT PROMPT

When do you tell a teacher you used AI, and when don't you?

FACULTY PROMPT

How do you disclose your own AI use to students?