



DATE: February 24, 2025

TO: LCMS principals (*Please share with your teachers!*)

FROM: Brent Dieckhoff, founder and executive director, TEC21

RE: "Teachers must return ..."

Greetings, friends in ministry!

Two months ago, I told a colleague I no longer felt the need to mention AI again as a reason to persuade you to send your teachers through the TEC21 Workshop Program for the first time or second, third or fourth time. Too many recent conversations, however, prompt me to bring up the subject with you again here by sharing these threads:

"Principals in this district don't place enough importance on technology ..."

"AI in education is a hot topic; if we don't embrace it, we'll be left in the dust. It's a disruptive technology. We can't shut down or say we won't touch it because we're afraid of it. We must face the unknown of it, understand its potential and learn how to apply it in the classroom ..."

"I haven't sent teachers through since Season 13. I need to send them all back through now. When we came out of COVID, we needed things to settle down.
Now, we're in a rut and we need fresh ideas."

"Teachers must return. You don't learn technology once ..."

Over the 16 seasons since I founded the TEC21 Workshop Program, the statement above has been profoundly true; we must learn technology again and again and again over a lifetime. Technology has different iterations. Teachers who become comfortable and complacent, sadly, will be left behind as students look beyond them to online platforms for real-world learning and engagement.

The voices of thousands of TEC21 Lutheran school participants tell me that we, administrators, can't forget the importance of connecting with other teachers outside of one's own school or disregard how positively this impacts their service.

I hope to persuade you, as I have been newly persuaded, about the power of convening bright teacher minds around a discipline that will control us if we do not choose to understand it and apply its great agency in right and effective ways in our schools and classrooms.

The history of 16 seasons tells us that Lutheran school teachers receive so much more, however, than new, vital skills.

**The TEC21 Workshop Program is good for morale.
It's good for the spirit. It's good for church worker wellness.
It's good for students.**

If you or your teachers are as hungry to learn as this season's TEC21 participants, join us for Season 17. If you or your teachers are eager to participate in relevant conversations, within a like-minded community, about how technology can enrich your teaching ministry and benefit the classroom, register for Season 17 today.

Register even with just your principal name, to save spots. Soft registration closes March 31, 2025. We will begin setting workshop dates for Season 17 soon after. To delay registration now is to risk the possibility of not getting seats in your desired cohort from this exciting lineup:

- EC-8 educator cohorts (in-person and virtual options)
- **New! EC-8 principal cohort (*virtual!* Don't miss it!)**
- High school subject-specific virtual cohorts (ELA, science, social studies and theology)
- K-12 music cohort (virtual)



If you have questions or would like me to walk you through the registration process, reach out [here](#) to schedule a video chat or call me at 316.641.8356. You can also reply to this email asking me to hold spots for you. If you're new to TEC21, find more information about the Workshop Program [here](#).

In the meantime, enjoy this month's podcast: "**Two, four, six, eight, who wants to collaborate?**"

If you listen to podcasts, follow us on your platform of choice. If you don't, listen in your web browser with this link: <https://creators.spotify.com/pod/show/tec21podcast>.

Follow us on Spotify here: <https://open.spotify.com/show/6gW44xBIOcNjUN1RoqTjdE>

Follow us on Apple Podcasts
here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/tec21-connections/id1780423652>

Fresh ideas are waiting for you and your teachers! Please register today.

Brent



Founder/Executive Director
TEC21

P.S. We continue to hold the registration cost for seven energetic, content-rich workshop sessions at \$1250. There is no annual membership fee. Payment for the 2025/2026 workshop sessions is not due until September 2025.