

K-12 Lounge

RELAX REFLECT CONNECT

THE K-12 LOUNGE OFFERS A WELCOMING SPACE FOR K-12 EDUCATORS TO UNWIND, REFLECT ON THEIR EXPERIENCES, AND ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS AND COLLABORATION WITH COLLEAGUES.

Sunday, July 19th

1:00-1:45	First Timers Meet Up	Begin your Summer Meeting experience at the First Timers and Early Career Meetup – a welcoming event designed to support new attendees and early career professionals. Connect with peers, engage with experienced members, and start building meaningful relationships within the AAPT community. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions, gain insights, and feel more confident navigating the meeting. We look forward to welcoming you as you kick off your Summer Meeting journey.
2:00-3:00	AAPT Summer Meeting 101: Making the Most of Your Conference Experience for K-12 Educators	Whether you're new to AAPT National Meetings or looking to get more out of your experience, this session will help K-12 educators navigate the Winter Meeting and the K-12 Lounge. Learn strategies for connecting with peers, accessing professional development opportunities, participating in interactive sessions, and leveraging AAPT resources to enhance your classroom. We'll share tips for planning your schedule, maximizing networking, and applying what you learn—so you can make the meeting work for you, no matter your level of experience.
3:00-4:00	Mentoring Meet and Greet	Connect with K-12 educators to explore mentoring opportunities. Whether you have a mentor, are seeking one, or are interested in serving as a mentor, join this flexible, discussion-based session to network, share experiences, and build supportive connections.
6:30-8:00	Grading in the Lounge	Got homework? Come and grade in the lounge with your fellow physics teachers! The lounge will be open for you to work on grading or whatever you might need to get done.

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Monday, July 20th

9:00-10:00	Topical Discussion: First 5 Minutes	The first few moments with your students can be powerful. We want to invite you into casual conversation about how we spend the first 5 minutes in the classroom with our students. Come and share your ideas, thoughts, and questions about how to improve your classroom environment.
10:00-11:00	STEP-UP's Everyday Action Guide	This interactive session dives into one of the Everyday Actions Guide strategies through hands-on exploration and collaborative learning. Participants will engage in a series of adaptable activities and gain practical techniques they can immediately apply in their physics classrooms.
11:30-12:30	Community on Physics in High Schools	The Community on Physics in High School provides a community forum for high school physics teachers to share ideas, provides AAPT resources to support their classrooms, and encourages research-based practices to improve effectiveness in reaching all high school students.
12:30-2:00	Lunch in the Lounge	Join us for a casual Bring Your Own Lunch Social in the K-12 Lounge, where you can enjoy a relaxed break and connect with fellow attendees. It's the perfect opportunity to network, share insights, and engage in friendly conversations over lunch.
2:00-3:00	The Art of Physics: Creative Approaches to Physics Education	Can artistic expression make physics more accessible? Join AAPT's summer intern to explore the fascinating intersection of art and physics education. Discover innovative ideas and thought-provoking strategies developed this summer to spark creativity and engagement in your classroom.
5:00-7:00	Grading in the Lounge	Got homework? Come and grade in the lounge with your fellow physics teachers! The lounge will be open for you to work on grading or whatever you might need to get done.

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Tuesday, July 20th

10:00-11:00	Exploratorium's Soundwich: An engaging phenomenon for studying sound with PTRA	Join the Physics Teacher Resource agents in the lounge for some hands-on fun! Come make and experiment with a soundwich and learn how you can use it in your classroom.
12:30-2:00	Lunch in the Lounge	Join us for a casual Bring Your Own Lunch Social in the K-12 Lounge, where you can enjoy a relaxed break and connect with fellow attendees. It's the perfect opportunity to network, share insights, and engage in friendly conversations over lunch.
2:00-3:00	Topical Discussion: New Lab Incubator	Join us for a casual session where K-12 teachers and others who are interested can collaborate on reimagining what the physics lab can be. This interactive session offers a supportive space to share ideas, troubleshoot problems, and gain fresh perspectives from colleagues across various regions, grade levels and experiences.
3:00-4:00	Inside the Classroom: Lessons from Presidential Awardees in Math and Science Teaching	Step inside the classrooms of Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) and see what exceptional teaching looks like in practice. Through real classroom examples and a brief discussion of their professional journeys, presenters will share strategies, insights, and inspiration you can bring to your own teaching.

Wednesday, July 22nd

10:00-11:00	Open Lounge	Need a space to relax amid the conference hustle? Spend some time in the lounge among your fellow K-12 Educators!
11:00-12:00	Pathways to Leadership	Interested in getting more involved with AAPT? Join us for a sit-down with current AAPT leaders to hear about their journeys and ask questions about leadership opportunities within the Association. Learn how educators have grown from local engagement to national service, and discover ways to share your expertise through AAPT committees, sections, and programs.