

**Teaching Fellows Junior Conference**

**The Power of Play for the Middle/High School Classroom**

**Mrs. Kimberly Sowell, Miss Julia Sowell**

**Session Descriptor:** Children of all ages love to play, and middle and high school students are no exception. Competitions, building contests, breakout rooms, card games, and more allow students to engage learning standards while building community in the classroom, not to mention the break they need from screen time. In this session, we will examine the value of play for the adolescent, considering both the social/emotional benefits as well as the power of play to awaken student interest. We’ll explore a variety of ideas to incorporate into any classroom, and of course, we might indulge in some fun!

**Presenter Bio:** Kimberly Sowell, M.Div., is a Mathematics and Teacher Cadet Instructor in Lancaster, South Carolina. She comes to the classroom with a diverse background, having traveled as an author and speaker for many years across the United States and abroad. She has conducted teacher training in Bangladesh, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, sharing her love for manipulatives and STEAM, and working with educators to adapt sound teaching practices for a rich variety of classroom settings.

Julia Sowell is a Teaching Fellow and Senior at Clemson University, with a dual major in History and Secondary Education. Julia represents Teaching Fellows as a member of the Governor's Task Force for Teacher Recruitment and Retention. She plans to begin her public school teaching career in South Carolina in the Fall of 2023.