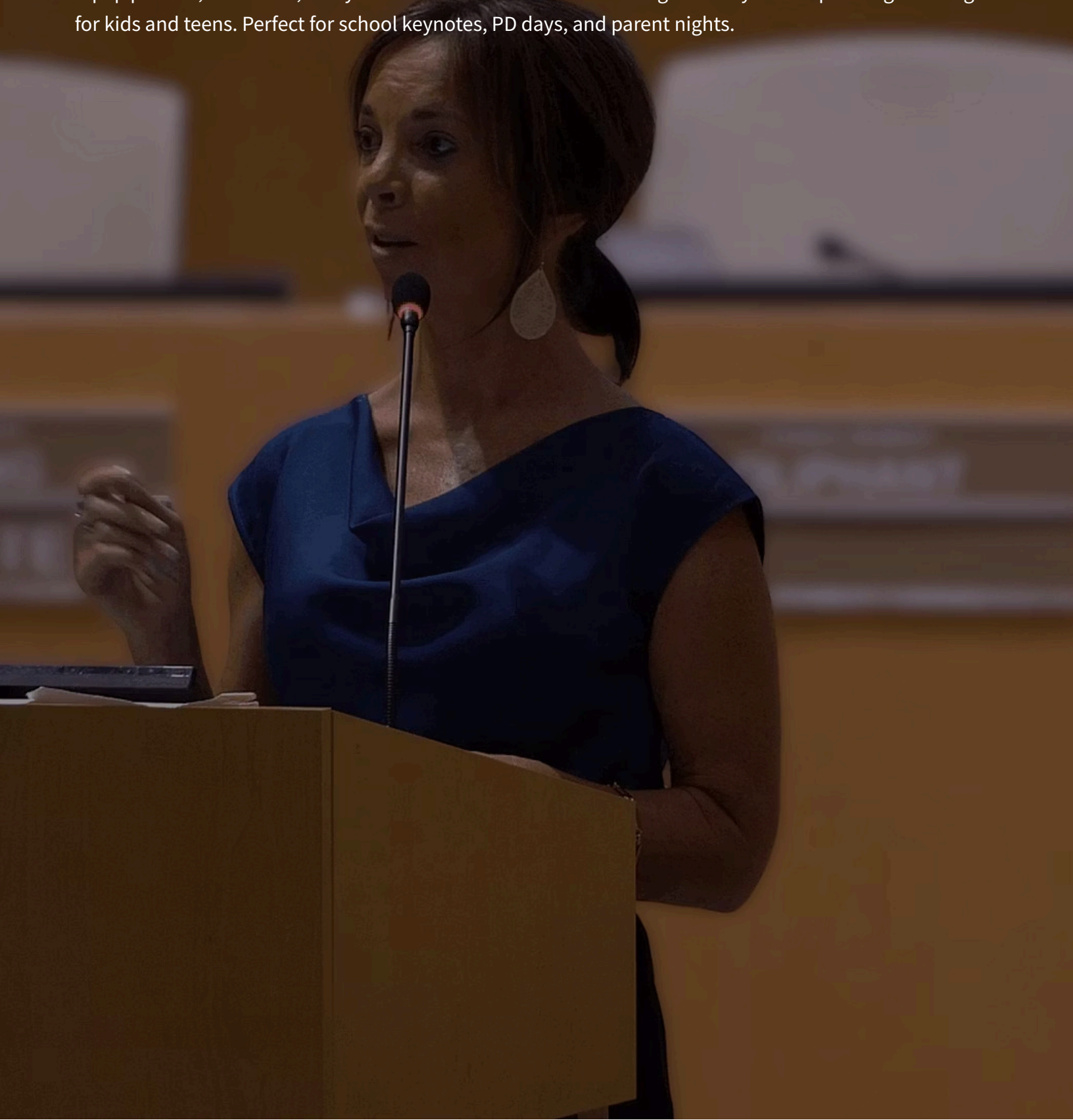


Speaker Menu with Katey McPherson

Insightful, research-based, and deeply human—Katey McPherson delivers high-impact sessions that equip parents, educators, and youth leaders with the tools to navigate today's most pressing challenges for kids and teens. Perfect for school keynotes, PD days, and parent nights.



School Safety From the Inside Out: What Kids Want Trusted Adults to Know

Overview:

Explore five essential components of a positive school culture that reduce student distress and prevent school violence. This session shifts the lens on safety to one of connection, belonging, and developmental understanding.

Full Description:

School safety has many definitions—but true safety starts with connection. Administrators and educators who foster belonging, understand the developing brain, and treat discipline as guidance—not punishment—create thriving school climates.

In this compelling session, veteran educator and Director of Professional Development for Bark for Schools, Katey McPherson, leads participants through five 'must-haves' that define safe, responsive campuses. Each component is grounded in developmental science and addresses the root causes of student distress and school violence.



Childhood 2.0: How To Reach, Teach, and Support iGeneration Students

Overview:

Today's youth are growing up in a radically different childhood. This session dives into the digital, emotional, and academic pressures they face, and offers strategies for prevention, resilience, and meaningful adult support.

Full Description:

Smartphones have transformed childhood—and the stakes have never been higher. Kids today are navigating stressors we never imagined, from social media bullying to toxic comparison and performance pressure.

This session unpacks how digital life has reshaped student relationships, mental health, and behavior. Attendees will leave with strategies to proactively build resilience, initiate tough conversations, and empower families with prevention-focused practices.



The Self-Driven Child: Helping Kids Thrive

Overview:

Backed by brain science and real stories, this session shows why motivation and autonomy—not micromanagement—are the keys to student success. Includes practical strategies for both educators and parents.

Full Description:

With student motivation plummeting and school refusal rising, it's time to rethink our role. Inspired by *The Self-Driven Child*, this session reveals how brain science supports autonomy—not overmanagement—as the path to student success.

Katey provides specific strategies to help educators and parents become consultants, not controllers, and guide kids toward self-regulation, balance, and purpose.



Turning Distress Into Success: How To Mitigate The Runway of Student Distress

Overview:

Understand the public health model for student mental health and learn to spot early, often-missed warning signs—especially in boys—that can prevent crisis and save lives.

Full Description:

Before crisis hits, there are always signs—if we know how to see them. This session introduces a public health model to school mental health, focusing on early intervention and upstream prevention.

Katey outlines the overlooked and often subtle indicators of distress, especially in boys, and shares actionable ways to build systems of care within schools that identify and address emotional needs before they escalate.



Misunderstood: What Boys Need from Us Now

Overview:

Why are boys struggling—and how can we help? This compelling session unpacks the data, breaks down gender myths, and offers solutions for better engagement, emotional support, and violence prevention.

Full Description:

Across the country, boys are disengaging—from school, relationships, and emotional expression. They're more likely to face suspension, dropout, and violence, yet less likely to ask for help.



This session is a call to action for anyone raising, teaching, or leading boys. Katey shares data-driven insights and real stories to show how boys' emotional worlds are misread and how trusted adults can make the difference. Participants will learn how to support boys' development, recognize warning signs, and cultivate their unique energy as a force for empathy, leadership, and change.