



ANDY THIBODEAU

CREATING CARING COMMUNITY SINCE 1992

andypresentations.com

London, Ontario

One Minute School Activity Ideas on Instagram at [@andytspeaks](https://www.instagram.com/andytspeaks)

HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS - Ontario

My name is Andy Thibodeau and I am a professional IMPACT speaker specializing in school assemblies, student leadership workshops, SHSM Certifications, Careers Skills Training, and School Staff Appreciation and Inspiration. I am based in my childhood neighbourhood in London, Ontario.

I was called “Mr. School Spirit” by King’s College at Western university’s magazine when I was named alumni of the year in 2014. This passion for leadership and school spirit started in 8th grade when I broke out of my “shell of shyness” and became student council Vice President at my elementary school. This led to becoming student council president at Laurier Secondary in London and the orientation coordinator in university. I am blessed that my enthusiasm to improve youth leadership translated into a full-time career of inspiring students and staff across the continent.

Since 1992 I have delivered thousands of fun inspirational presentations to schools and conferences across North America. It has been a privilege to share my message of “Make Care Contagious” to over two million people in all 10 provinces, the Yukon and 40 US states.

My daughters are students, with one in high school and one in University. I worked for 55 days in early 2022 as a Supply teacher in our local Catholic School board. I returned to full time speaking and leadership training in May 2022 after 27 months working virtually with my programs. These insights as a teacher and students are woven into all of my IMPACT programs!

HOW CAN I HELP YOU IN CREATING CARING COMMUNITY?

My IMPACT assemblies, leadership workshops for students, appreciation and training sessions for staff, and career-preparation programs CAN help you and your community as you look to:

- **Promote Inclusion and Community.**
- **Build School Spirit and enthusiasm for Student Activities.**
- **Deliver Fun, Teambuilding, and Energy to a pep rally, assembly, or retreat.**
- **Encourage Mental Health and Well Being with Grit and Perseverance.**
- **Complement your messages of Academic Excellence and Effort.**
- **Train your student leaders on creating events and activities that “Make Care Contagious”.**
- **Inspire your Business/Leadership/Careers/Trades classes and Co-Op with Workplace training**
- **SHSM Certifications delivered at your school to meet your budget!**
- **Empower students for success at post-secondary school and beyond!**
- **Share Appreciation and Encouragement to your School Staff.**

What makes Andy's visit unique?

UNIQUE TO ANDY - YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR CULTURE, YOUR ACTIVITIES PROMOTED

Andy personalizes each talk to reflect the culture, community, and activities of a school. Past accomplishments will be celebrated and your upcoming activities will be promoted.

Leaders and staff love that my programs use their activities as my examples! My presentations help promote their upcoming events to increase excitement and participation!

UNIQUE TO ANDY - HIGH ENERGY SCHOOL SPIRIT AND AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

As you can see from the video links below, students will be up and participating several times in school spirit energizers that work for all audiences. Andy will include your student leaders in the leading of these chants and cheers so they are empowered with tools to continue after he departs. Make it a PEP RALLY!

With every workshop and career training session, Andy ensures the experience goes beyond just listening. Each program includes interactive activities, guided audience discussions, and practical worksheets designed to complement the content. The goal is simple: **insight must become action.**

Students leave with a **reference sheet of ideas and strategies**—a practical tool they can immediately apply in their journey, and one that also fits seamlessly into their **SHSM portfolio** as proof of their learning and growth.

My website for high schools <https://www.andypresentations.com/highschoolprograms.html> includes video of my assemblies and leadership programs.

ANDY'S OPTIONS FOR HIS VISIT – HALF DAY OR A FULL DAY

HALF DAY OPTION

A half day with me includes TWO presentations of 45-90 minutes each. You have the following choices:

- Two assemblies: Dividing the school in half OR speaking to two different grades.
- Two assemblies: younger grades, followed by a grade 12 only assembly
- One assembly followed by a student leadership workshop.
- Leadership Retreat: A two to three-hour student leadership program, catered to your needs, using my “Making Care Contagious” and “Can I Count on You?” workshops.
- SHSM Certification. Two Periods.
- Curriculum Supportive Workshops. Two Periods. Have classes sign up to participate!

A third presentation may be possible with a morning booking by adding a workshop for the leaders over lunch, providing that my afternoon schedule allows it. The afternoon school always gets a free after school program: either a staff meeting or student workshop.

FULL DAY OPTION

A full day program could include up to 4 assemblies, a 2 to 3-hour student leadership program, and an after-school teacher's program. The day's schedule is completely adjustable to your needs.

Three full-day examples from 2016-2019:

- Banting Secondary in London had a full day by having Andy deliver two assemblies in the morning to the entire student body. In the afternoon, he spoke for 90 minutes at their student leadership camp.
- I.E. Weldon Secondary in Lindsay had Andy deliver two assemblies in the morning, a 2-and-a-half-hour leadership retreat in the afternoon, and an after-school staff program for 45 minutes.
- Owen Sound Secondary used a full day for two assemblies to reach the student body; a short lunch time leadership retreat for the student leaders; a half-day SHSM Leadership Certification, based on my "Can I Count On You?" Reliability training.

ANDY'S RECENT ONTARIO REFERENCES

A sample of the dozens of schools I have visited in 2022-25,

AB Lucas SS, London, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2019, 2016, 2013, 2012, 2007, my recent visits include annual 3 hour leadership retreats for their Athletic Association and Leadership class and speaking to their grade 10 leadership event, arranged by Paul MacGregor, p.macgregor@tvdsb.ca. Paul booked me as a high school student in Watford in the 90s and has known my programs for 25 years.

Central SS, London 2025, 2024, 2023, 2018, 2013 and 5 times since 2003, last three arranged by Bill Smolders, b.smolders@tvdsb.ca who also booked me 5 times at College Ave SS in Woodstock. Sessions included a wellness day, and a full day program of two assemblies and a full afternoon leadership workshop.

Sir Frederick Banting SS, London 2024, 2023, 2019, 2015, 2012, 2011 , May of 2023 and 2019 arranged by Melissa McIntyre for a 4th and 5th time, m.macintyre@tvdsb.ca for their "DARE" leadership conference. My appearance at the Conference also featured me performing a full school assembly.

Waterloo Oxford SS, Baden. 2009 to 2023, I speak every year to the grade 9s in a 50-minute assembly based on my "Get Your Hand UP" program and then meet with the student leaders. Arranged by longtime leadership advisor Dustin dustin_vanhouwelingen@wrdsb.ca and Josh Cowan.

Frontenac SS, Kingston. My sixth visit since 1994 was in the fall of 2022, and current Principal James Bonham-Carter was a young teacher when he saw me at that 1994 appearance! In 2022 I delivered a full day at the school with 3 assemblies for grades 7 to 12 and a long leader's workshop. Student council advisor Allison Doyle has known me for 20 years. bonhamcartj@limestone.on.ca

Bayridge SS, Kingston. My fifth visit since 2009, all arranged by Brenda Scarlet. For 2022 I MC'd their first spirit pep rally in 3 years, delivered a high energy version of my "Share your Care" assembly, and then led a 2.5 hour leaders retreat in the afternoon. scarlettb@limestone.on.ca

May 2022

Andy is an engaging public speaker who highlights many IMPORTANT life skills in his presentation 'Can I Count on You?'. His messages of honesty, share your care, and focus on the little things are impactful/useful to any age group. As a Careers teacher, I appreciate how he reiterated many of the conversations/lessons I previously shared with my students. This presentation is an excellent resource, specifically for teens entering the workforce. The students all shared that they found it engaging and that they really enjoyed hearing you speak. The only thing I wish we had more of is time!

Received May 2022 from Courtney Parker (Froats), French Immersion Teacher, Student Achievement Leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS, London courtney.parker@tvdsb.ca She had me speak to the Careers classes and has seen many of my assemblies over the years.

March 30, 2023

You were great at doing your homework before presenting. Asking what was happening in the school and weaving it into your presentation to connect with kids and school culture, making your message relevant to the school and what's happening in the school. Really positive outlook and presents that way when walking in the halls. Offers to go into classrooms and present which is so great. Overall great connections with school and students. Overall great value for the school as it was a whole day of presenting and interacting with students.

Vanessa Flavel, SRC Advisor, at Weyburn Comprehensive School vanessa.flavel@secpsd.ca

January 16, 2024

I personally love your work. I saw you at the Ontario Student Leadership Conference (fall 2023) and I haven't stopped thinking about your presentation since. I thought that you would be the perfect speaker for our symposium. We are very keen on leadership and School Spirit and we want a speaker like you who is very passionate and interactive with the audience.

Stella from Notre Dame College Secondary, Welland, Ontario. They would book Andy for their school board's April 2024 board wide symposium for all grade 7 to 12 leaders and at her school, fall 2024.

October 1, 2023

Andy Thibodeau will walk into your gym/auditorium with energy and enthusiasm and instantly capture the attention of your students! His balanced combination of content, entertainment and wit will leave a lasting impression that will improve the culture and day to day life at your school. Andy takes the time to get to know you, your students, and the recent successes and future goals of your school, and integrates this all into his presentation! We combined two morning assemblies with an afternoon workshop for our student council and Andy did an incredible job connecting with our young leaders! They left his workshop feeling energized and armed with ideas and the knowledge he presented. And, he does all of this at an affordable price. I wholeheartedly recommend Andy to speak at your school!

Bill Smolders, Leadership and Science, London Central SS. b.smolders@tvdsb.ca

ANDY'S PRESENTATIONS – DETAILED REVIEW OF HIS PROGRAMS

IMPACTING SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Andy offers schools three completely different assembly programs, the length of each is flexible from 45 to 90 minutes. All assemblies use high energy comedy, stories, and interactive cheers to keep your students laughing and listening.

A Unique Feature of Andy's Assemblies: Your activities and school character are incorporated into each program, promoting your events to increase participation. Andy will ask for a list of your activities before the speech and will include these examples throughout his presentations. Money invested in Andy's assembly is returned through better fundraising and event participation after he leaves!

1. "Get Your Hand Up" - School Assembly for grades 6-12

School is about Learning AND having fun. Do that by getting your hand UP! Answer Questions. Ask Questions. Volunteer. Get involved in the classroom and in the activities of your school!

On the first day of high school, Andy was 6 foot and 115 pounds. His #1 enemy ... the wind! He tried out for the Junior football team and on the second day of school Andy experienced the failure of being cut. This hilarious and inspiring program encourages your students to have an attitude of "Pick Me, Pick Me"!

This powerful assembly will entertain and inspire your students by encouraging them to bring back their grade two enthusiasm and "get their hand up". In the classroom, ask questions, answer the teacher, and try your best. In school and life, volunteer and get involved in all the great activities.

Why don't students "Get Their Hand Up?" The fear of failure: the fear of being wrong in front of friends. You might give a wrong answer, ask a "stupid" question, learn that your best is not as good as others, or volunteer to get involved and yet get cut from a team or play. Andy challenges youth to bring back their grade 2 "recess attitude" which says that although I will make mistakes and get things wrong at times, I will put my hand back up and try again.

2. "Get Your Hand Up GRADS" – Grade 12 Assembly

Andy has created a special version of his "Get your hand up" that is perfect for grade 12 assemblies or grad retreats. With examples from students who were bound for university, community college, the trades or the workforce, Andy uses powerful stories, workplace insights and hilarious comedy to inspire, empower and entertain.

When booking Andy after February 1st, please consider a separate assembly for your grads to help prepare them for the final months of high school and life after graduation.

This grads presentation can run from 45 to 90 minutes. It is also available as a two-hour retreat or a full day program.

3. **“Share Your Care” - School Assembly for grades 1 to 12**

Andy’s top 3 examples of care: Show up. Participate. Listen.

Andy challenges your students to care about their friends, family, and school the same way they care for strangers who are their favourite performers, internet “stars” and professional athletes. His Top 3 examples of care: Show Up – to class, to practice, to work, to special events; Participate – cheer, dress up, put your hand up in class, dance, laugh, be part of the fundraiser; Listen – ask questions of your classmates and listen to the answers. Create inclusion by asking your classmates and friends questions and truly listening to their answers!

Share Your Care” is about balancing learning with having fun. Dress up for the spirit day while having your hand up in class to answer questions. Hand in your project on time and then attend a fun after school event.

With his messages of kindness, caring and listening, this assembly is a popular choice for inclusion messaging and Pink Shirt campaigns. Be an example of care for others to follow!

Andy’s version for grades 5 to 12 ends with this story: In grade 10th grade English, Andy was asked to draw an image and write a description of “the most important moment of your life, so far.” His drawing was set in June of grade 7. How does the image tie into what led him to run for grade 8 student council vice president? Why did this action change EVERYTHING about the direction of his life? It is a moving and comedic story about self-confidence, compassion and sharing your gifts. It will have everyone in your audience relating to Andy’s journey from shy 6th grader to confident high school grad and student body president.

Themes of Community Service, Inclusion, Kindness, School Spirit, Self-Confidence, Bullying Awareness are woven into the program.

Andy also has a version of this assembly for grades 1 to 5 which lasts 45 minutes and has your students up every 10 minutes for a high energy chant or song to build on his messages of participation and caring.

INSPIRING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

1. **"Making Care Contagious" – Andy’s Student Leadership Workshop**

School Spirit is caring, but how do leaders make this care contagious? This presentation draws from Andy’s experiences as a student leader and as a speaker traveling North America. He has developed 5 Habits that form the core of all successful student leadership activities. This hilarious and high-energy workshop gives hands-on advice on handling negativity; dealing with rejection; having the courage to be an example of good decisions; effective appreciation; communicating care; and improving event promotion and attendance. Follow Andy's 5 Habits to "get your care, out there!"

The session includes games and activities that can be shared with your school at your next meeting or assembly. Schools that book Andy’s workshop get a free copy of the handbook for this program.

This workshop for grades 6 to 12 can run from 45 minutes to 90 minutes. It is also frequently used as a leadership retreat for 2 to 3 hours. Andy can deliver this as the follow up to his school assembly or as a stand-alone leadership event for your school or a group of schools. The program will also empower student council advisors and leadership teachers who are encouraged to participate in this session.

2. "Can I Count on You?" – Improving Your Reliability to Lead Yourself and Others

Execution of ideas is the number one challenge for young leaders. This session will immediately improve the ability of the participants to improve their reliability, teamwork, and organization skills.

This session addresses the concepts of time management from a unique perspective. Trust is the foundation for loving families, fun friendships, spirited students' councils, successful businesses, and effective leaders. Yet people earn the trust of another by being reliable. Andy offers useful and immediately applicable advice for improving reliability. Through his insights, Andy demonstrates how increased reliability improves one's time management, decreases stress, creates successful events, and inspires TRUST in leaders!

With all students and teachers balancing their time between school, family and work commitments, this program can transform how you and your team organizes their priorities!

This program is flexible from 45 minutes to 2 hours.

3. "The Impact of Educators" – An Appreciation Keynote or Workshop for School Staff

Andy is the teaching profession's #1 fan because of the difference teachers have made in his life. It also helps that the mother of his children is a high school French & Computers teacher and that in 2022 he was a Supply teacher for all grades! This program is an empowering reminder to school staff about the difference they make with youth.

In October of grade 9, Andy received a letter from his high school's track and field coach "recruiting" him to be part of the team. That letter changed his life. Expect tears of laughter and powerful reflection as Andy shares the lessons he learned from Coach Young and his efforts to connect with students.

When booking Andy for your school, consider organizing an after-school staff meeting so he can share this powerful program. Its length is flexible to your needs, from 20 minutes to 1 hour.

It is also frequently booked as a keynote or training session for Professional Development days or Teacher or Administrator conferences. The program in this format can run from 1 to 2 hours, with teambuilding activities and additional instruction. Following a multi-school PD session for all of the staff of elementary schools in London's west end, Andy received this email on November 22, 2022 from the event coordinator.

Thank you so much for sharing your time and talent with us on Friday morning. Our staff left the session feeling uplifted and ready to take on the world. It was exactly what they needed, thank you! We look forward to booking you to come speak to all of our students in the new year!

Erin Debicki, 2026 Principal, St. Paul's Catholic School, London edebicki@ldcsb.ca

4. "Initiate Inclusion by Invitation" – Andy's Three "I's" of Building Community. A Leadership Training Program for grades 7 to 12.

"Inclusion is seeing differences, without seeing the difference." – Andy Thibodeau, 2020

Inclusion is at the forefront of all schools' goals. For 10 months in 2018-19, Andy's family had three young women from Congo live with them until their housing situation was settled. The ongoing experience of being

“Uncle Andrew” to new Canadians from Africa is hilarious, powerful, and insightful. When you initiate inclusion by invitation, his family’s experience shows that the rewards go both ways – blessing the giver and receiver! From this experience, his work at the King’s College Peace Camp (a children’s program promoting understanding between faiths), and working for 9 months in 2020 at Costco, Andy offers perspective to the following challenges:

How can you initiate inclusion? What limits our courage to invite? How can one maintain enthusiasm for invitation and leadership when negative experiences and rejection challenge us in our schools and community? Include, invite, and lead by initiating!

This Leadership Version of the program divides the training into these modules:

COURAGE – Action and Energy. Barriers to Inclusion. Share Your Barrier. Share Your Story. Set the Example
COMPASSIONATE CHANGE – Patience. Inclusion. Service. Being Approachable. Initiating Change.
CONNECTION – Creating Community. Names. Small Talk to Smart Talk. Common Threads. Teamwork

Leadership themes: Inclusion, Appreciation of Differences, Self-confidence, Communication Skills, Team Building, Community Service.

5. Curriculum Supportive Classroom Presentations: *For Business, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Leadership, Equity Studies, Co-op and Career Education.*

Looking for a high-energy, interactive, and educational method for students of these classes to get workplace skills and leadership training to complement your curriculum?

Andy has developed workplace skills versions of six of his presentations. Presentations length can be: One Period, Two Periods, or a full day. Any size of audience. Programs can be held in a classroom setting or a larger room as a workshop or assembly.

Have a class sign up option and have it available to teachers to choose my programs to complement their course.

All presentations include insights from Andy’s unique experiences during the pandemic. He worked 9 months at Costco in 2020, 2 months at a Vaccine clinic in early 2022, developed virtual versions of all of Impact Presentations, and became a very busy supply teacher! Andy successfully applied for three different jobs during the pandemic by using the skills he taught students for 30 years! When a tremendous employment crisis hit the speaking and entertainment industry in March of 2020, Andy was successful in “Getting his Hand UP” to demonstrate “Reliability” and “Inclusion” in three uniquely different workplaces! Your students NEED to hear the LESSONS he shares!

A detailed look at the SIX Training options to support the curriculum of numerous classes can be found at my website: <https://www.andypresentations.com/curriculumworkshops.html> It includes a flyer of Course Codes to match my sessions.

A.B. Lucas SS, Banting SS, Saunders SS, South SS and Wilfrid Laurier SS in London have booked this option in 2023-2025.

6. SHSM CERTIFICATIONS: *COMMUNICATION SKILLS, PUBLIC SPEAKING, EVENT COORDINATION, LEADERSHIP SKILLS, CUSTOMER SERVICE*

Looking for a **cost-effective, engaging,** and **educational** way for your students to complete their **SHSM certifications** across five key categories?

Andy's "**Industry Delivered**" SHSM programs come directly to your school — eliminating the need for off-site trips and maximizing student participation!

With over **33 years of experience in youth leadership training,** Andy offers Certifications that go beyond the basics. His sessions are:

- **High-energy and interactive**
- **Deeply rooted in real-world experience**
- **Customized for SHSM certification requirements**
- **Aligned with current career and life-readiness skills**
- **Will use examples from the SHSM Sectors of your school.**
- **Choose from a one-period or two-period length training.**
- **Combine an SHSM Certification with a student leadership workshop for your councils and clubs, or classroom curriculum supportive workshops, or a school assembly, or all of these!**

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Andy has SIX training programs that can match FIVE SHSM Certification requirements.

For a complete look at each program and how it matches with these certifications, check out this webpage with a button for a comprehensive handout. <https://www.andypresentations.com/shsm.html>

ANDY'S ENERGY – HIS MESSAGES, SCHOOL SPIRIT, AND CHEERS - VIDEO EXAMPLES

<https://www.andypresentations.com/highschoolprograms.html>

For a grades 6 – 12 audience, Andy has your students up every 15 to 20 minutes for school spirit cheer or activity. My high school presentation tab on my website has VIDEO examples from schools across North America! Yes, your school staff will love it too!

ANDY IS ENERGY! You know the assemblies make an IMPACT when he can get the students up at the end of the program and get them to participate with enthusiasm and yell their mascot with pride!