**Homewood, 2022**

**SPEAKERS’ BIOS**

**Dawn Ellis and Meredith Mitchell**

**Dawn Ellis** has been teaching for over 13 years in elementary and preschool special education and has an Educational Specialist degree in Special Education. Dawn has also a National Board Certified Teacher in the area of Exceptional Needs Specialist. She has worked with inclusion, resource, severe/profound, and autism classrooms throughout the years. She has been a state finalist for Teacher of the Year, as well as other awards within the district and state. One of her most noted accomplishments is starting a school garden and coffee cart that was accessible and maintained by our students in the self-contained special education classroom. When not teaching, she is a mom, an advent reader, and also a podcaster. She has a podcast specifically designed for special education teachers, Be The Exception, to gain weekly tips to use in their classrooms. She also maintains a blog, sticker shop, TPT store, and a social media presence as Cultivating Exceptional Minds where she creates and shares time-saving strategies and resources for special education teachers.

**Meredith Mitchell** is a special education teacher with over 20 years of experience. In 2021 she was named teacher of the year for the state of Alabama for District III. Meredith has her own special education consulting business called Meredith Mitchell’s Methods. She speaks at conference all over the south east educating other special educators on how to write IEPs that are manageable, measurable, and meaningful. She is also a Master IEP Coach. When she not teaching she spends time with her family.

Meredith is married and has 3 children. She stays busy going to soccer games, tumbling practice, girl scout meetings, and taekwondo lessons.