

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION FOR MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION
Annual Conference
Thursday, October 8, 2009
Learning Labs



Watch for this symbol – it indicates sessions that would appeal to individuals who are new to Middle Level Education and those looking for a refresher on current best practices surrounding the key elements of high-quality middle level education.

8:30 – 11:30 Concurrent Learning Labs

LEARNING LAB 1

Beyond Pink & Blue: How Gender Differences Affect the ClassroomSalon A
David M. Allen, PK-12 Curriculum Coordinator, Platteville Public Schools allen@platteville.k12.wi.us

This interactive learning lab discussion will revolve around Dr. Leonard Sax’s book, *Why Gender Matters*. In recent years, scientists have discovered that differences between girls and boys are more profound than anyone ever guessed. Many of these differences stem from hard-wired, genetic differences in structure and development. Dr. Sax’s book explains many of these differences in such areas as vision, hearing, emotions, and risk-taking, to name a few. This workshop will examine the differences and look at implications for the middle school classroom and school. Having read the Sax’s book is suggested but not required for participants. It will be available for purchase at the WAMLE booth.

Standards – T: 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, A: 1, 2, 3, 5, PS: 1, 2, 3, 6,

LEARNING LAB 2

What Does a “C” Mean, Anyway?: Standards-Based Assessment Reports Using SkywardSalon B
Julie W. Jensen, 6th Grade Teacher, Black River Falls Middle School julie.jensen@brf.org
Andrea Rockney, 6th Grade Teacher, Black River Falls Middle School andrea.rockney@brf.org

Participants are asked to bring teams, existing curriculum, and copies of the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. Using Professional Learning Community, participants will identify essential learning skills and apply them to Standards-Based Report Cards. Recently moving to a Standards-Based Report Card, presenters will share the process they went through, using an electronic grading program. They will share growing pains associated with such a shift as well as parent feedback of a more substantive assessment and reporting system. Laptops are recommended. Please supply a power chord if doing so.

Standards – T: 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, A: 1, 2, 3, 5, PS: 2, 3, 5, 7



EARNING LAB 3

New Teacher Thread: Classroom Management Strategies.....Salon C
Presented by Cheryl Shirk, TRIBES Trainer, Eastview School cheryl.shirk@badger.k12.wi.us
Brookwood Middle School Staff, Brookwood Middle School kellie.bohn@badger.12.wi.us

Finding classroom management techniques that work is a challenge for any beginning teacher. This session will focus on three different aspects of middle level classroom management: Organizing a classroom and planning instruction to minimize disruptions, building relationships and your classroom community to prevent and address negative classroom behaviors; and, natural consequences and discipline follow-through: finding things that work for you and your students.

Standards – T: 2, 4, 5



Watch for this symbol – it indicates sessions that would appeal to individuals who are new to Middle Level Education and those looking for a refresher on current best practices surrounding the key elements of high-quality middle school..

8:30 – 11:30 Concurrent Learning Labs continued

LEARNING LAB 4

School Crisis Preparedness: What You Need to Know.....Salon D

Mary Jean Erchen, Executive Director of the Center for School, Youth, & Citizen Preparedness

mjerenchen@citizenpreparedness.org

Doug Reynolds, Founder, Safety Quest, Inc. safety-quest@yahoo.com

What steps do you need to take as an educator to ensure your students' (and your) safety in a crisis situation? Is your school prepared to handle crises? Participants will leave with a wealth of information and the tools needed to help their schools better prepare for unforeseen crises.

Standards – T: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, A: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, PS: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

1:00 – 4:00 - Concurrent Learning Labs



LEARNING LAB 5

Middle Level Learners 101: Learning about Middle Level Kids (10-14-year-olds)..... Salon A

David M. Allen, PK-12 Curriculum Coordinator, Platteville Public Schools allen@platteville.k12.wi.us

This Learning Lab is designed for educators who are new to the Middle School Level or who would like a review of the basic characteristics of the young adolescent learner from ages 10 -14. We will review who these young folks are and who they are becoming. We will also look at how successful Middle Schools address these characteristics of their young learners.

Standards – T: 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, A: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, PS: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7

LEARNING LAB 6

What Does a “C” Mean, Anyway?: Standards-Based Assessment Reports Using SkywardSalon B

Julie W. Jensen, 6th Grade Teacher, Black River Falls Middle School julie.jensen@brf.org

Andrea Rockney, 6th Grade Teacher, Black River Falls Middle School andrea.rockney@brf.org

Participants are asked to bring teams, existing curriculum, and copies of the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. Using Professional Learning Community, participants will identify essential learning skills and apply them to Standards-Based Report Cards. Recently moving to a Standards-Based Report Card, presenters will share the process they went through, using an electronic grading program. They will share growing pains associated with such a shift as well as parent feedback of a more substantive assessment and reporting system. Laptops are recommended. Please supply a power chord if doing so.

Standards – T: 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, A: 1, 2, 3, 5, PS: 2, 3, 5, 7

LEARNING LAB 7

Using the “SOLAR” Process to Build a Culture of Character Curriculum and Instruction.....Salon C

Paul Herrick, Principal, DeForest Area Middle School pherrick@deforest.k12.wi.us

SOLAR, or *Solution-Oriented Learning, Accountability, and Resolution*, helps schools build a healthy, sustained, and highly individualized culture of character. The key to the SOLAR Process is that it allows individual schools to design exactly what they want their culture to be and provides a framework for reaching their desired outcomes at both a classroom as well as a school-wide level. Participants in this learning lab will come away with specific tools that can help build bridges between students, staff, and families. They will also see how easy it can be to “look outside the box” to inspire positive change.

Standards – T: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, A: 2, 3, 5, 6, PS: 3, 4, 5



Watch for this symbol – it indicates sessions that would appeal to individuals who are new to Middle Level Education and those looking for a refresher on current best practices surrounding the key elements of high-quality middle school..

1:00 – 4:00 - Concurrent Learning Labs continued

LEARNING LAB 8

Grading for Learning.....**Salon D**

Sara Koppes, 8th Grade Mathematics Teacher, Waunakee Community Middle School

skoppes@waunakee.k12.wi.us

Katie Grundahl, 8th Grade Mathematics & Science Teacher, Waunakee Community Middle School

kgrundahl@waunakee.k12.wi.us

What do the grades you give your students really mean? Are you grading in a way that allows your students to learn effectively? Do your students' parents understand what their child does or does not know? Using ideas and materials from Ken O'Connor, author of *How to Grade for Learning*, we will reflect on our own current grading practices and analyze ways we can link the grades we give to the standards we teach. You will leave this presentation rethinking your grading practice and with some ideas to change 2009.

Standards – T: 3, 4, 6, 8



Watch for this symbol – it indicates sessions that would appeal to individuals who are new to Middle Level Education and those looking for a refresher on current best practices surrounding the key elements of high-quality middle school..