

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION FOR MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION
Annual Conference
Friday, October 9, 2009
Sectional Selections



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.

9:30-10:30 Concurrent Sectionals

It's Our World, Too! Online Curriculum for Student Councils..... Salon A

Presented by Bob Kann, Professor of Education

“It’s Our World, Too!” is an online curriculum designed for middle school student council advisors and other teachers who want to engage young people in community service projects. The curriculum provides true stories of middle school students who have encountered problems which touched their hearts sufficiently to compel them to initiate service projects to attempt to rectify those problems. They’ve tackled problems in every imaginable area in which there is need: the environment, hunger, poverty, HIV/AIDS, cancer, discrimination, and more. Participants in this sectional will learn about this resource of breathtaking middle school service projects.

Standards ~ T: 1,2,3,5,10



50 Strategies to Use on Monday MorningSalon B

Presented by Melissa Bobula, Teacher, Brookwood Middle School

Kristi Collins, Teacher, Brookwood Middle School

Maureen Fahey, Teacher, Brookwood Middle School

Helen Xiong, Teacher, Brookwood Middle School

Are you looking for some practical ideas to use on your first day back to school? Join our team of middle level teachers as they provide participants with their favorite strategies that are simple enough to use right away!

Standards ~ T: 2,3,7

Differentiated Leadership, with an Eye on Humor.....Salon C

Presented by Lance Northey, Principal Riverview Middle School

Peter Jonas, Dr. of Educational Leadership

Theoretical and empirical studies show that individuals can use humor not only to increase leadership, but also to enhance the learning environment and climate in your building. This presentation will offer participants an analysis and synthesis of the research behind using humor in schools. Both presenters will share how stories, jokes, and videos improve teaching, increase learning, and enhance leadership abilities.

Standards ~ T: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 PS: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 A: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7



Standards -Based Grading, Assessment, and Reporting.....Salon D

Presented by Jenny Trimberger, Teacher, Christ King School

Leslie Noonan, Senior Education Consultant

Standards-based instruction and assessment are essential to improve student learning. Your presenters will share how they utilize a web-based system to grade, assess and analyze student learning data. Participants will see how the data is used to track students’ progress towards mastery of the standards and how progress is communicated in real time with progress reports and report cards. Administrators will also see how to track progress towards the school learning goals.

Standards ~ T: 7,8,9,10



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9:30-10:30 Concurrent Sectionals (continued)



Implementing Student-Led Conferences.....Salon E

Presented by Norah Olig, Teacher, New Holstein Middle School
Aileen Koenigs, Teacher, New Holstein Middle School
Rick Amundson, Principal New Holstein Middle School

Moving to a new middle school building was the perfect impetus to initiate student-led conferencing in the New Holstein school district. The book, *A School-Wide Approach to Student-Led Conferences*, was the subject of our spring book study. Using this framework, numerous benefits were seen, such as nearly 90% of student/parent participation. Portfolio creation and reflection also increased student learning and motivation. Teachers took on a new role as facilitators, while students discussed their progress and goals with parents. This sectional will demonstrate how to successfully begin conferencing and provide timelines and materials for implementation.
Standards ~ T:1,5,6,8 PS: 1,3,5,7 A: 1,2,3,5

Compliment Rather Than Craze.....Salon F

Presented by Becky Derrick, Teacher, Lake Geneva Middle School
Kris Marten, Teacher, Lake Geneva Middle School

The professional learning community idea has been viewed by some as a natural compliment to middle school and by others as the latest craze of many that should soon pass. Taking components of the PLC concept, one middle school social studies content team has found success in improving student learning. In this sectional, these social studies teachers will share facets of the learning community model that have been most beneficial in changing how they teach to promote student learning, including common assessments, differentiation, and data analysis.
Standards ~ T: 3,4,8,10 PS: 6 A: 3,4

Curriculum and Instruction: Legal Parameters for All.....Salon G

Presented by Dr. John Foster, Assistant Professor at Marion University

This sectional will deal with the legal guidelines associated with curriculum and instruction. The presentation will review the legal limitations and flexibility of working with curriculum and instruction. The presentation will discuss legal topics on curriculum development, instructional approach, obscene and offensive materials, speech and expression, and grading and academic standards. The sectional will be a practical approach to the issues related to curriculum and instruction.
Standards ~ T: 10 A: 6,7



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10:40-11:40 Concurrent Sectionals



Teaming and Advisory- Perfect Partners!.....Salon A

Presented by Tammy Woulf, Principal, De Pere Middle School
Jerry Rottier, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire

De Pere Middle School, about to disband its advisory program three years ago, adopted a new model that merges the advisory program with the teaming structure. Having two staff members with each advisory group, core and encore teachers planning together, and changing the focus of the advisory program to include an emphasis on academics, we have found a way to reinvigorate this program. After three years of the merger, students, staff and parents have expressed significant satisfaction with this new program. Our journey has been chronicled in a new NMSA publication released in the spring of 2009.

Standards ~ T: 1,2,3,7,8,9 PS: 1,3,4,5,6,7 A: 1,2,3,5

RSVP- Changing School Culture and Empowering Students.....Salon B

Presented by Michelle McGrath, WASC Executive Director
Keith Johnson, Teacher, Alexander Nekoosa Middle School

RSVP is a student leadership directed initiative to empower students to identify issues in their school and communities and take steps to address them. RSVP has been successfully piloted in schools across the state of Wisconsin, as well as nationally. Over 56 schools have been trained in WI alone. Join an Alexander Nekoosa Middle School teacher and a National RSVP trainer as they introduce you to the program and share how it has made significant differences in schools.

Standards ~ T: 2,3,10 A: 2,3,5,7



Grading For Learning.....Salon C

Presented by Sara Koppes, Teacher, Waunakee Middle School
Katie Grundahl, Teacher, Waunakee Middle School

What do the grades give 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 in class? In this condensed version (from the Learning Lab), you will be introduced to the ideas of 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 gain some ideas for possible change.

Standards ~ T: 3,4,6,8

What Works With the At-Risk Learner.....Salon D

Presented by Dr. Kay Tulppo, Teacher, Northland Pines Middle School
Dar Kadulski, Teacher, Northland Pines Middle School

Presenters will communicate an inclusive classroom model that identifies a successful format for student achievement. This unique middle school model engages students in all curricular areas. The positive effects of successfully transitioning at-risk middle school students to the high school will also be addressed. Participants will receive working documents from Northland Pines Middle School A.S.P.I.R.E. model to assist in developing and enhancing existing at risk programs. A.S.P.I.R.E. relates to Academic excellence, Self-motivated, Positive, Initiates, are Reliable and have high Expectations to achieve.

Standards ~ T: 2,3,5,10



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10:40-11:40 Concurrent Sectionals (continued)

Professional Development Plan Writing for PI-34.....Salon E
Presented by David Allen, PI-34 Coordinator for CESA 3

This sectional is designed for Initial Educators who are in year 1 or year 2 of their Professional Development Plan Writing. You will have the opportunity to review the entire PDP process for licensure renewal in the state of Wisconsin. An opportunity will be provided to work on your goal statement. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of the presenter concerning any aspects of the PDP process.
Standards ~ T: 6,7,8,9,10 PS: 2,5,7 A: 4,7

Project Based Career Exploration in Middle School.....Salon F
Presented by Rich Spencer-Dobson, Teacher, Aldrich Middle School

Aldrich Middle School has had a career exploration program for the past ten years. This year the course has taken on a renewed importance as it has been more closely aligned to the Wisconsin Guidance Model. In this interactive sectional, I plan to describe the course and projects that students complete and show how career exploration is aligned with the work of our school counselors. Participants are encouraged to take these examples and turn them into exciting projects and ideas that your students can use to explore their futures.
Standards ~ T: 2,3,4,10



Standards-Based Reporting- Making it Possible in the Middle.....Salon G
Presented by Dr. Rob Abbott, Principal, Fort Atkinson Middle School

Is it really possible to effectively implement a standards-based reporting system at the middle level? Learn how one school continues to work through curriculum alignment, creation of common assessments, and other key academic and logistical elements in the evolution of a systematic standards-based reporting system. From defining the need for change, to defining grades, to determining what school, department, and individual decisions need to be made, one school will share their journey.
Standards ~ T: 3,5,7,8,9,10 PS: 2,3,5 A: 2,3,4



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1:00-2:00 Concurrent Sectionals

Setting the Stage for Science Inquiry.....Salon A
Presented by Jay Farnsworth, Teacher, Waunakee School District

This sectional will entertain all who love the process of discovery. Learn how to pique your students' curiosity and get them to think divergently through the presentation of discrepant events. These activities help dig through student misconceptions and set the stage for useful and thoughtful inquiry activities. Come prepared to try some activities and take home a packet of ideas to add to your units and/or share with others in your district.
Standards ~ T: 1,2,3,4,7 PS: 1,3 A: 1,2,5

Gee, I Wish I'd Said That.....Salon B
Presented by Jane Howell, Retired Teacher, Platteville Middle School

This sectional will include a series of inspirational quotations and an educational story related to each. The purpose is to provide the participants with inspirations and ideas for themselves and their students. The content is guaranteed to inspire and motivate all to use quotes to teach. These ideas will help to add a unique and memorable twist to your day to day activities.
Standards ~ T: 1,2,3,4,5,6 PS: 1,2 A: 1,5



Standard-Based Assessment: The Journey to Authentic Reporting.....Salon C
Presented by Kaye Henrickson, Teacher, Black River Falls Middle School
Julie Jensen, Teacher, Black River Falls Middle School
Andrea Rockney, Teacher, Black River Falls Middle School

This sectional will be a roundtable-type forum about the process taken to reach a Standards-Based Report Card for parents and students at Black River Falls Middle School. Presenters will answer questions about the Professional Learning Community-steps they took to create Essential Elements in each curricular area, develop a Standards-Based grading program using the Skyward system, and draft a Standards-Based Report Card for parents. We will share feedback from parents and address struggles and concerns among staff.
Standards ~ T: 2,3,5,8 A: 1,2,5

Inside the Cover...G.R.E.A.T. Portfolios and Beyond.....Salon D
Presented by Becky Pokrandt, Teacher, Northland Pines Middle School
Todd Wilfer, Teacher, Northland Pines Middle School
Kari Brown-Herbst, Teacher, Northland Pines Middle School

In this sectional, familiarize yourself with a revised accountability approach used with 8th graders at Northland Pines Middle School in Eagle River. Become knowledgeable of the G.R.E.A.T. components, this year long student-created portfolio process. (Goal setting, Responsibility, Exit Interview, Accountability, Team Building). Handouts will be available in order for you to jump start such a program in your school.
Standards ~ T: 2,3,5,10 A: 5



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1:00-2:00 Concurrent Sectionals (continued)

Using School Clubs to Build Leadership in Middle School Students.....Salon E

Presented by Jeff Reiche, Principal, Marathon Middle School
Patty Hall, Teacher, Marathon Middle School

What opportunities for leadership have you provided for the students in your middle school? The presenters will speak to the topic of how providing leadership opportunities in school clubs will benefit the students in so many ways. Evidence has been found to further students' educational development, provide "real life" opportunities, improve self-esteem, make positive connections to school and transform your school culture. The presenters will share success stories involving "at risk" students in school clubs.

Standards ~ T: 1,4,6 PS: 3 A: 2,3



Losing Our Middle School Boys.....Salon F

Presented by David Allen, Platteville School Curriculum Coordinator

This sectional will be an interactive discussion based on Leonard Sax's book, *Boys Adrift*. Something scary is happening to boys today from kindergarten to college: they're less resilient and less ambitious than they were twenty years ago. We will look at five potential factors that are involved in this change and will also explore some potential remedies that can be implemented by educators and parents. Our discussions will focus on implications for middle level students and specifically middle level classrooms. Having read the book is not a necessary pre-requisite for attending this sectional.

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

Video Gaming and the Middle School Classroom.....Salon G

Presented by Elizabeth King, PhD Candidate, UW-Madison

These days everyone is talking about using video games and virtual worlds for education, and there is a growing body of research that supports the benefits of using these technologies for learning. In this sectional, we will take a look at some of these video games and online spaces and talk about their affordances for learning. In addition, we will explore how these spaces might be used to expand the standard curriculum and incorporate diverse interests while honing in on key digital literacy practices.

Standards ~ T: 4,5



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