

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION FOR MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION
Conference Learning Labs

*Recommended for individuals new to Middle Level Education
and those looking for a refresher on current best practices surrounding the key
elements of high-quality middle school..*



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8:30 – 11:30 Concurrent Learning Labs



LEARNING 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

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



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WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION FOR MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION
Conference Sectionals

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9:30-10:30 Concurrent Sectionals



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



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



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



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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



Grading For Learning.....Salon C

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

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 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



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



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



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 in 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



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