

SDAMLEmail

December 2020

Updates from South Dakota Middle Level Education

Featured SDAMLE School!

Millbank Middle School

Our goal is to work with students, staff, parents, and the community to make Millbank Middle School a highly productive school where our students are challenged and motivated to grow intellectually, are emotionally tied to our school and community, and socially connected to their peers.

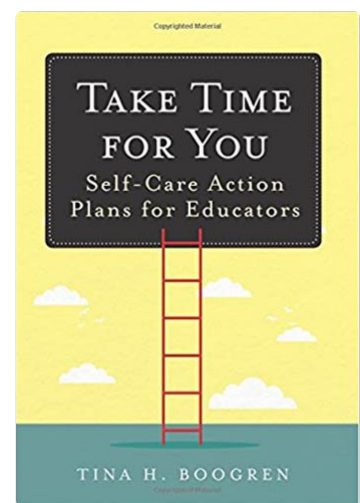


[Click on this link to check out their favorite books, apps, websites and teaching strategies!](#)

SDAMLE Winter Book Study

Do you ever feel like there is not enough time in the day for "YOU"? The South Dakota Association of Middle Level Educators (SDAMLE) would like to help you find time in your day for "YOU"! We are offering a book study titled: *Take Time for You: Self Care Action Plans for Educators*, written by Tina H. Boogren.

This book study is designed to help you create rituals, routines, procedures, habits, and mindsets that will remind you to take care of yourself. It is about giving yourself permission to be IMPERFECT! For you to do your best for students and your family you must take care of YOU. If are interested in learning tips and tricks to help you stay mentally and physically healthier, sign up for the book study.



Workload:

The purpose of the book is to take stress away and to provide you skills to take care of yourself. The book study will be low key and provide you plenty of time to complete the work. The class will be held from February 1 to April 30. You will have two weeks to read a short chapter and answer two discussion posts in Google Classroom. There are seven (7) chapters in the book. Every participant will

also develop a one-page self-care plan for just YOU. That plan will not be submitted to the class, it is for your eyes only! So, if you need some tips on how to take care of YOU or just need a college credit this book study is for YOU!

Below is the link to the USF registration.

EDU_SDAMLE.16 Education Focused Book Study

Section EDU 549J.1 (Registration Deadline – 02/26/2021) 1 s.h.

Link: <https://reach.usiouxfalls.edu/modules/shop/index.html?action=section&OfferingID=1041334>

Feel free to contact Cotton Koch at 605-256-7717 or email him at cotton.koch@k12.sd.us

The key to thriving, as both a human and an educator, rests in mindfulness, reflection, and daily self-care activities. With *Take Time for You*, you will discover a clear path to well-being by working through Maslow's hierarchy of needs: (1) physiological, (2) safety, (3) belonging, (4) esteem, (5) self-actualization, and (6) transcendence. The author offers a range of manageable research-based strategies, self-care surveys, and reflective teaching questions that will guide you in developing an individualized self-care plan.

Embrace imperfection as you develop your own self-care plan:

- Understand the challenges to mindfulness for teachers and how Maslow's hierarchy of needs comes into play in your personal and professional life.
- Design action plans so you can meet your own physiological, safety, belonging, esteem, and self-actualization needs and, finally, transcend and connect with something greater than yourself.
- Take surveys and perform a daily time audit to determine how well you are meeting each of your needs.
- Use the journaling space and self-reflection questions provided throughout the book to reflect on your implementation efforts.

Contents:

Introduction

Chapter 1: Understand the Framework

Chapter 2: Physiological Needs

Chapter 3: Safety Needs

Chapter 4: Belonging Needs

Chapter 5: Esteem Needs

Chapter 6: Self-Actualization Needs

Chapter 7: Transcendence Needs

Epilogue: Final Thoughts

Appendix: My Personalized Self-Care Plan

References and Resources

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[Link to Purchase Book](#)

MMSA Virtual Speaker Session

Self-Care and Staff Wellness with Todd Brist on Jan. 12th @ 4:15

It's time that educators start filling their buckets by embracing self-care! Teaching can be physically and emotionally challenging, but that doesn't mean it has to be stressful. Practicing self-care is not selfish or an indulgence; it is necessary in order to recharge, rejuvenate, and reclaim the joy in

education. Let's talk about how to take care of ourselves and everyone on the staff because you can't pour from an empty cup!

[Click here! Registration is open--please join us and thank you for spreading the word to colleagues.](#)

Todd Brist is the principal at Watertown (SD) Middle School. Todd is currently the Vice Chair of the AMLE Board of Trustees. He also serves on the South Dakota Association for Middle Level Education board and NAESP's Editorial Advisory Board. As a former high school teacher and principal, Todd became a convert to the middle level movement at an AMLE annual conference. Once he learned about the mission, vision, values, and goals of AMLE, he became a true believer in the value and significance of middle level education. Since that experience, Todd has built a strong understanding of the middle level concept and has presented at several state, regional, and national conferences on middle level teaching and learning. Todd is married to Jennifer, a literacy coach in the Watertown School District. They have three children Tomas, Allison, and Emma.



What's Cool In Our Schools!



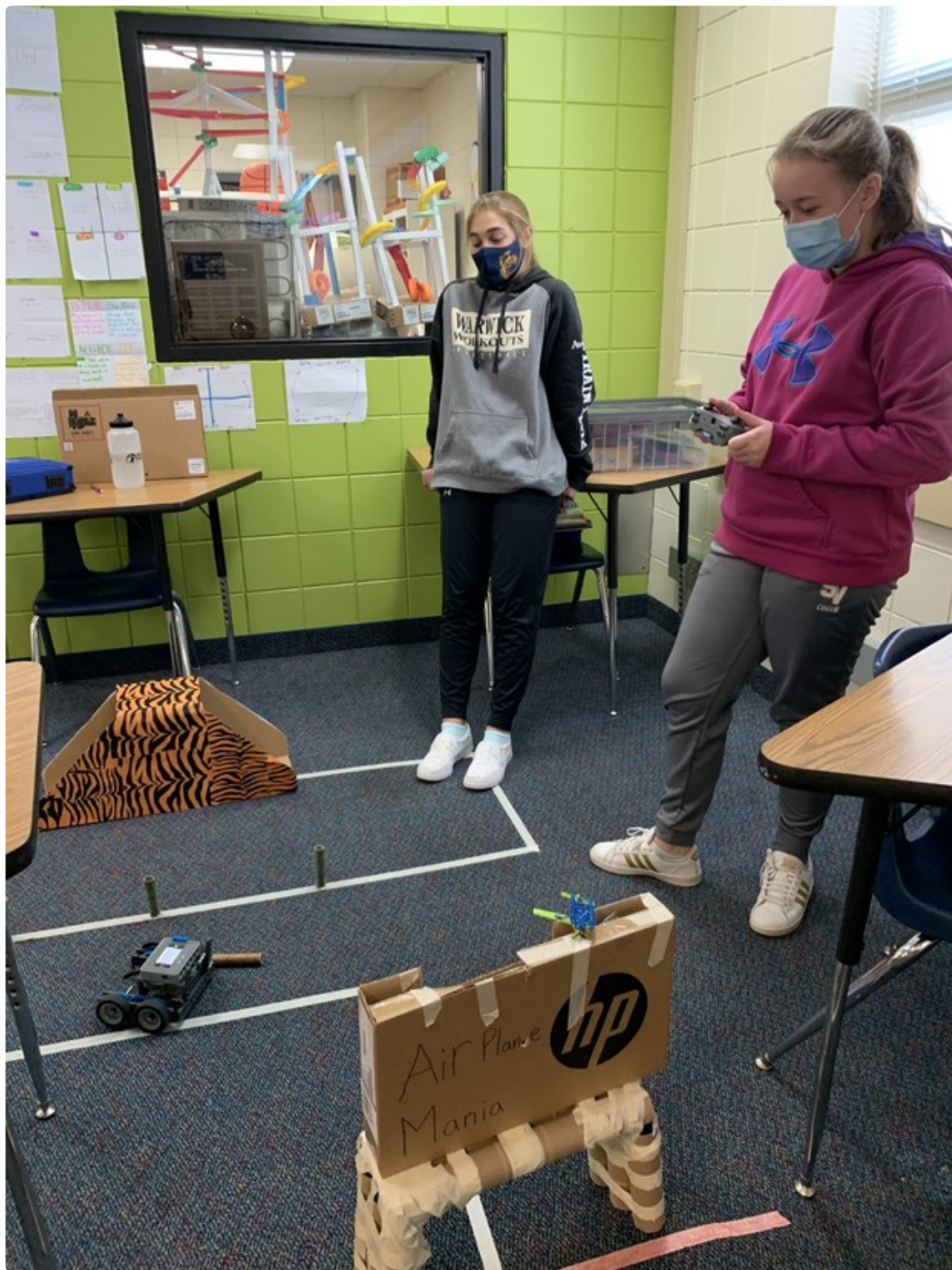
Sioux Valley Middle School STEM



The 6th grade students are ready to cook smores in solar cookers as they explore alternative energy sources. The smores were fully cooked in about a half an hour in solar cookers created by the students using pizza boxes.



The 7th grade students are developing ways to use the Problem Solving Method by building a boat out of aluminum foil to see how they can work to improve the first design after reflecting on the first attempt.



The 8th grade students are building VEX IQ robots and are ready to run the working robot through an obstacle course where the robot must perform a series of tasks.

Tara's Tech Tip



Hypatia
EazyTeX Solutions Inc.

[Docs Add-on](#)

[Forms Add-on](#)

[Slides Add-on](#)

App ALERT! - Hypatia

Online math just got a little bit easier! This is a new math add-on that can be very helpful with entering math equations and formulas in Google Docs, Slides, and Forms.

This app can be installed and pushed out to your whole domain by your Google Admin through the [Google Workspace Marketplace](#). Or individuals can add this to their account by going to a compatible GSFE application (Slides, Docs, or Forms), clicking on the "Add-ons" menu, choosing "Get add-ons", and searching for Hypatia.

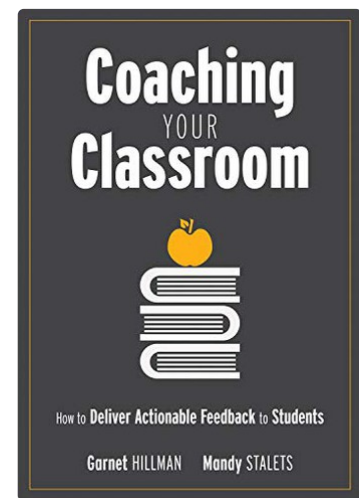
Read This!

Coaching Your Classroom: How to Deliver Actionable Feedback to Students

Maximize student self-efficacy and growth by providing high-quality feedback students can act on. In *Coaching Your Classroom*, authors Garnet Hillman and Mandy Stalets share a fresh perspective on effective classroom feedback for all grade levels and content areas. Explore the parallels between teaching students and coaching athletes, and then learn how you can coach every student to success every day.

Use this book to implement effective classroom communication and student feedback:

- Analyze the impact of learning-centered classroom language and formative assessment on student learning.
- Understand the importance of effective communication in the classroom, as well as how giving feedback works and what a student-centered culture looks like.
- Embrace the qualities of actionable classroom feedback and examine the effect on student engagement and intrinsic motivation.
- Learn how to deliver individualized next steps and support students through the feedback loop and the gradual release of responsibility.
- Read real-world accounts and examples from teachers who have successfully coached their classrooms with effective classroom communication.

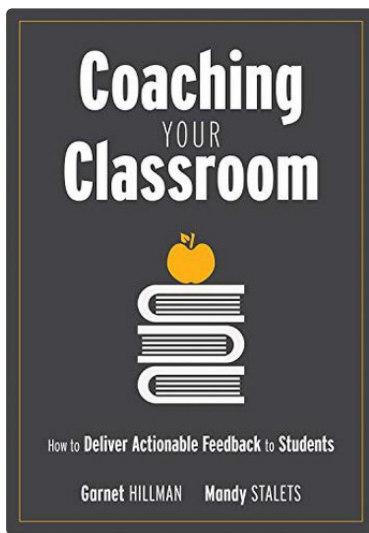


[Link](#)

Contents:

Introduction
Chapter 1: Adopt a Language of Learning
Chapter 2: Coach Every Student
Chapter 3: Craft High-Quality Feedback
Chapter 4: Utilize Feedback Methods
Chapter 5: Ensure Productive Response
Chapter 6: Employ Self- and Peer Assessment
Epilogue
References and Resources

Free PD!



Coaching Your Classroom Professional Development

In these Solution Tree session [recordings](#), *Coaching Your Classroom* authors Garnet Hillman and Mandy Stalets share a fresh perspective on effective classroom feedback for all grade levels and content areas. The authors explain how to deliver individualized next steps and support students through the feedback loop in any learning environment. Viewers will leave understanding the importance of effective communication in the classroom, the qualities of effective feedback, as well as what a student-centered culture looks like.

Session Recordings:

- [Monday, August 3 | How to create and maintain a culture of learning in the classroom](#)
- [Monday, August 10 | How to craft high-quality feedback](#)
- [Monday, August 17 | Delivery methods that ensure success and coaching for all](#)
- [Monday, August 24 | Completing the feedback loop](#)

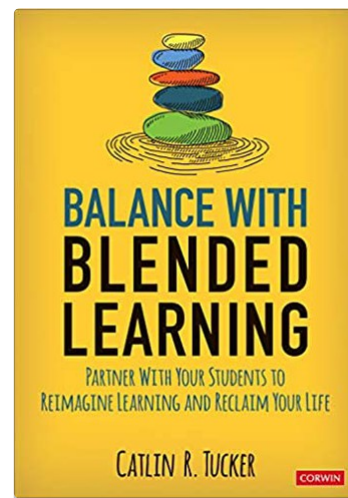
Read This!

Balance With Blended Learning: Partner With Your Students to Reimagine Learning and Reclaim Your Life by Catlyn Tucker

Rethink the roles, responsibilities, and workflow in your blended learning classroom and enjoy balance in your life.

Balance With Blended Learning provides teachers with strategies to actively engage students in setting goals, monitoring development, reflecting on growth, using feedback, assessing work quality, and communicating their progress with parents. It includes

- Practical strategies for teachers who are overwhelmed by their workloads
- Vignettes written by teachers across disciplines
- Ready-to-use templates to help students track their progress
- Stories from the author's experience as a teacher and blended learning coach



[Link](#)

Upcoming Events!



#EdcampSDAMLE

When

Saturday, March 13th 2021 at 9am

Where

3100 West 41st Street Sioux Falls, SD

#MSCHAT

Join us Thursdays, 7 PM CST / 6 PM MST to discuss relevant Middle School topics and a great easy way to keep on top of personal professional development!!

#MSCHAT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17
8PM EST / 7PM CST



Watch This!

Check Out These Past Webinars from AMLE

[Distance Learning: The Wave of the Future](#)

Presenters: Brian Cook, Kristi Schmidt, Katherine Shaffer

The distance learning model has many applications in the middle school classroom. Here's how teachers modified the model to work with students in two digitally connected language arts classes.



[When They Know TIK TOK And Not Google Doc: Strategies for Engaging Digitally Foreign Learners](#)

Presenter: Keith Burgess, Jimmeka Anderson, and Amanda Clapp

Since COVID-19, have you had challenges getting your students to engage in remote learning, even when the technology is provided? While many students are digitally active through entertainment or social media, some are not accustomed to using technology in academic and informative ways outside of school. This population has been identified as digitally foreign learners. In this webinar, participants will learn about a project that addressed these challenges and take away some strategies to implement in their classroom.

Topics: [Teaching](#), [Technology](#),

**Professional and School Members Only*

Leveraging Shared Leadership Teams for Better Learning Initiatives

Including diverse perspectives and avoiding sabotaging your own team

If many hands make light work, many minds make smart work. Bette Manchester headed the nation's first statewide 1-to-1 learning with technology initiative, an important middle grades learning initiative. In 2001 and 2002, Bette established a leadership team to design how to launch MLTI (Maine Learning Technology Initiative), especially how we would help middle schools prepare for every seventh and eighth grade student and teacher in the state having laptops.



Bette taught me at the beginning of MLTI not only that leadership was everything, but that shared leadership teams performed better for an initiative than single leaders did. They are not simply an advisory group, but function as the decision making body. And by assembling a team that represents multiple perspectives, you can garner buy-in from diverse stakeholders and improve the quality and effectiveness of the plan.

[Click here to read the rest of the story.](#)

What Gifts Can We Give?

Anxiety is a real thing. It affects every one of us. From our students' homes to our school buildings and into the district office, we are impacted by a myriad of things that require us to make decisions on a daily basis. Many of these decisions we have not made before, and we don't yet know the impacts they will have later. It is imperative that we are prepared to change if we become aware that what we are doing is having negative effects on our students and school community.



I heard the phrase last month that we need to have "Compassion before curriculum and grace before grades." What does that mean exactly? It means we need to take the time to understand where our students are as individuals. Now is not the time to protect the integrity of our courses, to hold students to all the curriculum standards normally taught in a school year, or to assign daily assignments and homework and justify credit as 90 hours of seat time. Now is the time to give the gift of grace to our students, our colleagues, and ourselves. Here are some ways we can do this.

Middle School Humor!



South Dakota Association for Middle Level Educators



SDAMLE

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South Dakota Association for Middle Level Education (SDAMLE) is the professional association of teachers, administrators, parents, and other stakeholders who have joined together to support the development of quality programs that serve the needs of young adolescents. SDAMLE exists to promote a better understanding of middle grades education in our state. SDAMLE is the source of ideas, information, and support for middle level educators in South Dakota.

2019-2020 SDAMLE Board Members

President: Kyley Cumbow, Georgia Morse Middle School

Treasurer: Lisa Kissner, Huron Middle School

Secretary: Tara Johanneson, O'Gorman Junior High

Membership Coordinator: Reva Potter, Belle Fourche Middle School

Past President: Todd Brist, Watertown Middle School

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Board Member: Cotton Koch, Madison Middle School

Board Member: Madeleine Gonsoir, Simmons Middle School

Board Member: Kris Evje, Milbank School District

University Representative: Teri Bauerly, Black Hills State University

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Board Bio of the Month

Reva Potter - Membership Coordinator

Reva Potter teaches seventh grade language arts at Belle Fouche Middle School where she also serves as the middle school theatre director and Veterans' Day program coordinator. She is a National Certified Teacher and has an Educational Specialist degree from the University of South Dakota in education administration and a M.S. degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Black Hills State University. She earned her B.S. degree in Speech Communications from South Dakota State University.



reva.potter@k12.sd.us

Association for Middle Level Education

You are a passionate middle grades educator.

You appreciate the uniqueness of every student in your classroom. You advocate for your students every day while helping them along their individual path to achievement. You chose the middle grades

because you understand the impact one teacher can make on the lives of 10 to 15 year olds. ***You are AMLE!***

AMLE Membership Information:

<http://www.amle.org/membership.aspx>

