

SDAMLEmail

January 2021

Updates from South Dakota Middle Level Education

Applications are now OPEN for the 2021 SDAMLE Awards, Grants, and Scholarships

SDAMLE OMLE, This We Believe Award, Innovations Grant, & Emerging Educator Scholarship

SDAMLE is excited to once again be able to recognize the best in South Dakota middle-level education in four different categories:

1. **SDAMLE OMLE**--The South Dakota Association for Middle-Level Education Outstanding Middle-Level Educator serves to recognize and honor the tremendous contributions of outstanding middle-level educators. A nomination link will be sent to the administrator of member schools.
2. **This We Believe Award**--This year SDAMLE will be presenting one \$500 award to a deserving individual or group in recognition of his/her/their work implementing a process, project, or activity that honors the middle school philosophy. [Click here to apply for the This We Believe Award.](#)
3. **Innovation Grant**--This year there will be one grant awarded by SDAMLE for innovation in the classroom. One teacher will be awarded \$500.00 to use as seed money for a project that they would like to implement during the 2021-2022 school year. [Click here to apply for the Innovation Grant.](#)
4. **Emerging Educator Scholarship**--This year there will be two scholarships awarded by SDAMLE to be used by undergraduate students pursuing a teaching degree and anticipating to teach in a middle-level school upon graduation. Each student will be awarded \$250.00 to use towards tuition or books during the 2021-2022 school year. [Click here to apply for the Emerging Educator Scholarship.](#)

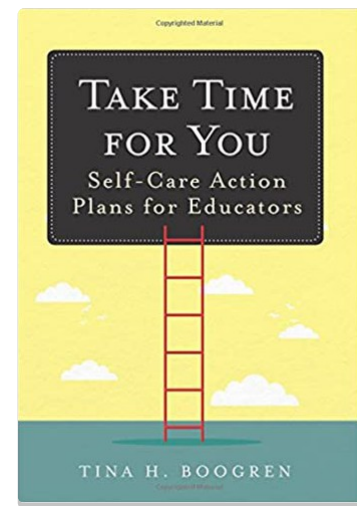
SDAMLE Winter Book Study

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

Epiloque: Final Thoughts

[Link to Purchase Book](#)

ASA Solve Together Challenge for Middle Schools

Solve Together is an engaging opportunity for educators looking to easily embed career exploration and 21st century skill development in their middle school classrooms. Once entered, teachers split their classrooms into student teams and select from four challenges based on problems affecting the world right now. Students then problem-solve through collaboration and innovation, competing for a chance to win some pretty exceptional prizes for their schools!

To Learn More: <https://asasolvetogether.org/>.

Tara's Tech Tip

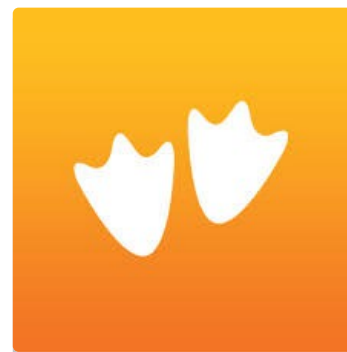


Mobile Scavenger Hunts for K-12 Students

If you are looking to add interactivity and engagement to your content through movement and creativity, look no further than a GooseChase scavenger hunt. This program allows educators to bring mobile technology into the classroom in a way that can enrich the educational content and goals of the classroom.

With a [games library](#) that can be filtered by grade level and/or content getting started can be quick and easy!

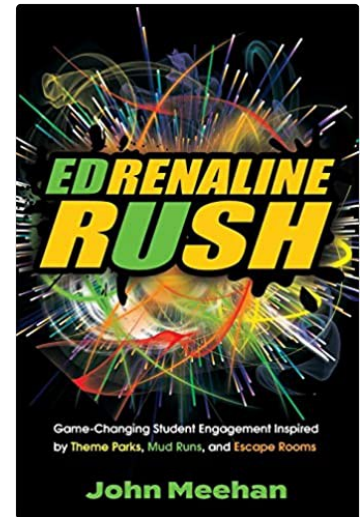
Learn more at www.goosechase.com/edu/.



Read This!

Just imagine what your classroom would be like if the activities inside elicited the same sense of fun and exhilaration as a roller coaster! How much more engaged would your students be if your curriculum were filled with the same mystery and mastery they found in an escape room full of puzzles and surprising twists?

School should be fun! In *EDrenaline Rush*, John Meehan pulls back the curtain on what it takes to create thrilling learning experiences in your classroom. Packed with lesson planning tips, instructional design ideas, and plug-and-play teaching resources, *EDrenaline Rush* will challenge you to think differently and equip you to push your pedagogy to incredible limits.



[Link here to order this book on Amazon.](#)

To learn more about and from John Meehan check out [his website](#) and follow him on Twitter @MeehanEDU.

Upcoming Events!



SDAMLE HAPY HOUR - Virtual Meet-Up

Join other middle level teachers for an hour of conversation and support. Join for a bit or the entire hour.

Topic: SDAMLE Happy Hour

Time: February 11, 2021 04:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

#EdcampSDAMLE

When

Saturday, March 27th, 9am

Where

This is an online event.

#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



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!](#)



AMLE: Articles of Interest

Finding Calm in the Classroom in the Midst of Chaos

Middle grades students have always been at risk for anxiety and stress due to social, academic, and societal factors. [Read more by clicking here.](#)

Google Can Do What? Five Activities for Engaging Students

By: Matt Miller

Google Apps, now called G Suite, is really catching on in classrooms around the United States and beyond. But the way we think about its tools, such as Docs, Sheets, or Slides is stuck in first gear. [Click here to read more about anteing up the usage of G-Suite in your classroom.](#)



Creating Connections in Our Schools: It was BIGGER than We Thought!

By: Ellen D'Amore and Erin Tobul

When we first began creating our advisory program, its purpose was to replace a 30-minute homeroom embedded in our day. One of the problems with advisory time was that teachers were struggling to create worthwhile activities. [Click here to read more about this advisory journey.](#)

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: Kiley 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

Board Member: Sherri Nelson, Brandon Valley School District


Board Member: Steven Gors, Madison Middle School


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: Tara Johanneson

Tara Johanneson teaches Computer Science for O'Gorman High School. She is also the Director of Online Education for the University of Sioux Falls. Tara earned her Masters of Science in Technology for Education and Training from the University of South Dakota, her Bachelor of Science in Business Education and Associate's Degree in Business Management from Dakota State University. She also has endorsements in K-12 Technology Education, Technology Integration, and Technology Coordination. In 2015, Tara became a Google for Education Certified Trainer followed by a Google Certified Administrator in 2016.



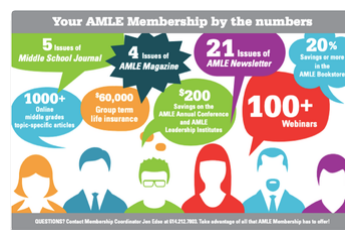
Tara lives in Tea, SD, with her husband, Jason, and their three children, Taylor (15), Jaxon (12), and Jadon (11). In her free time, Tara's hobbies include traveling, baking, and reading.

Tara can be contacted at tjohanneson@ogknights.org.

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>