

SDAMLEmail

April 2021

Updates from South Dakota Middle Level Education



SDAMLE Board Openings

SDAMLE is currently looking for highly-motivated and dedicated middle level educators to join our board of directors. Board terms are three years. Details about the board of director positions are available via the link below or by emailing the SDAMLE President (kyley.cumbow@k12.sd.us). Applications are due by May 10th.

[South Dakota Association of Middle Level Educators Board of Directors Application](#)

South Dakota Association for Middle Level Education 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.



Featured SDAMLE School!

Madison Middle School

At Madison Middle School Mission is to provide all students personalized instruction by certified faculty, through diverse class offerings in a technologically enhanced environment.



We Believe in

- Doing The Right Thing
- Doing Your Best
- Treat Others With Respect

What's Cool In Our Schools!

Celebration of Culture at Madison Middle School

MMS Winter Blue Popcorn and Bingo

To help break up the winter blues the MMS Staff developed the Winter Blues Popcorn and Bingo event. Every student received a bag of popcorn and a bingo card. Staff called out bingo numbers and winners received \$5 Madison Mad Money to spend in Madison. We gave away \$500 to the kids.



We also have random trivia questions and the student who emails in the correct answer wins candy for the class and a chance to draw for a \$5 bill. The teacher gets to draw for a \$50 bill. We have given out over \$150 dollars. The kids love to play and the teachers like the opportunity to win big dollars!



MS All-State Band

We have a wonderful band program at MMS. Even during the pandemic we found ways to hold band class!



Ukulele Cruise

This year we offered Ukulele as a cruise class and it quickly became a favorite of the students. It is fun to watch them learn music notes and put them into practice.



Every month we select student of the month

We have many students who deserve to be students of the month and it is always a tough decision. We are proud of all of our students!

MMS Students Organize a Food Pantry for MMS Students and Families

Several Madison Middle School students created a food pantry for our students and families. Their idea was showcased in the Madison Daily Leader. See the article below.

https://www.dailyleaderextra.com/news/local/article_7664eaa0-76e5-11eb-85df-8b3f3ad02d93.html



Upcoming Book Study

SDAMLE Summer Book Study Opportunity

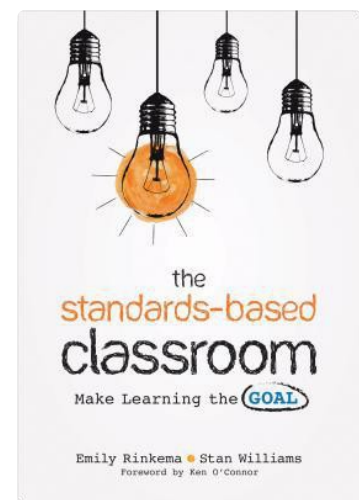
Based on the text *The Standards-Based Classroom: Make Learning the Goal*, this (1-credit, \$45 through USF) course will explore the steps for implementing standards-based practices in the classroom including an emphasis on diverse student needs and subject areas.

Workshop Objectives:

Educators will gain an overview of standards-based curriculum practices and will implement these practices in a draft unit using the four sections of the text: Articulate Desired Results, Develop Targeted Assessments, Design Effective Instruction, and Monitor and Communicate Learning.

Evaluation Criteria:

Participants in this course will reflect on text chapters by discussing book sections in a small group team, developing their own standards-based unit, and sharing unit components throughout the class.



Weekly discussion participation (50%) and completed unit components (50%) will be given completion grades for each section of the text.

Check the upcoming May Newsletter for more info. [Click here for more details about the book and/or to preorder the book.](#)



Tara's Tech Tip

GIZMOS- Making Earth Science Fun!

GIZMOS is a program supported by the SD Dept. of Education. To access this you will need to work with your SBAC testing coordinator as it needs to be accessed through TIDE

<https://sd.portal.cambiumast.com/>

Rotations (turns), reflections (flips), and translations (slides) are known as isometric transformations because they preserve the size and shape of figures. In fact, the word "isometric" comes from the Greek word "isometria," meaning "equality of measure."

In the Rotations, Reflections, and Translations Gizmo, students can explore the relationship between a shape and its isometric transformation on a coordinate plane. They can choose a figure type (either a point, a segment, a triangle, or a quadrilateral) and then choose how they want to transform the figure (either rotate it around the origin, reflect it over the x- or y-axis, or translate it). The measuring tools under the graph can be used by students to confirm that the preimage (original figure) and image (the transformed figure) are congruent. As students drag the vertices of the preimage, they will see the vertices of the image change and observe that the two figures are always the same size and shape.

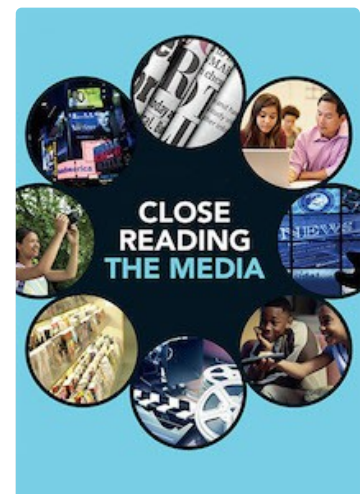


Teach Kids to 'Read' the Images They See

Every day, images pass across our screens. They exist everywhere: on television, webpages, social media, newspapers, magazines, textbooks, mobile phones and more.

Photographic images get attention in the 21st century. They get respect. They can teach.

In Social Studies, for example, they are considered "primary sources." In English Language Arts, they are the "non-print informational texts" that teachers use. And in the Visual Arts, they are art forms – media that students will analyze for technique and creative value.



Photos are so ubiquitous, we often don't give them much thought. Who took that picture? (authorship); why did they take it? (purpose); where is it seen? (media, exposure); what message might it convey? (interpretation); has it been altered and if so, why? (creative expression, manipulation).

These are the kinds of "media literacy" questions that students should be taught to consider as they encounter photos in the news, in marketing situations, in social media.

[Read the rest of the article here.](#)

Assessing with Instructional Integrity Before, During and After the Pandemic

By Sherri Nelson (SDAMLE Board of Directors) and
Ken O'Connor

Build it and They Will Come

The need for quality assignments is constant, but particularly important during pandemic learning. When a considerable number of students have late, incomplete, and missing assignments, educators have a professional obligation to examine their assessments to determine if they are instructionally sound and worthy of the time and effort required for students to complete them.

It has been our experience that if teachers construct quality assessments, students will complete them to the best of their abilities. When students submit assessments on time, teachers can more appropriately provide specific, timely, and actionable feedback. This may lead to instructional adjustments and prescribing specific and targeted extra practice for students to build self-confidence and ultimately achieve greater learning. Therefore, we must ensure our assessments possess instructional integrity.

Standards for Quality Assignments

But how do we know that we've constructed a quality assessment? To empower learning, every assessment, especially those included in grades, must provide accurate evidence of student achievement. Author Jan Chappuis, In *Seven Strategies of Assessment for Learning*, author Jan Chappuis suggests students are truly empowered if assessments help them to answer the three learning questions:

1. Where am I going?
2. Where am I now?
3. What do I need to close the gap or get better?

Essentially there are only three standards for a quality assessment that helps answer those driving questions: clear learning goals, clear purpose, and sound design. Let's look at each of these in more detail, and be sure to download the [Quality Assignment Checklist](#).

[Read the rest of the article here.](#)



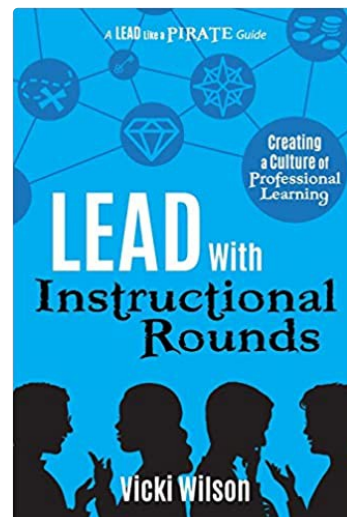
Read This!

LEAD with Instructional Rounds by Vicki Wilson

A practical guide to instructional rounds for educators

Isolation is a pervasive characteristic of life for a teacher in a modern school. Teachers meet in professional learning communities, attend trainings, and are even observed by administrators while they teach, but they rarely get the chance to see what other teachers do in the classroom. When the bell rings, they find themselves alone with their students.

Instructional rounds can counter that isolation. The idea itself—centered around teachers observing and providing feedback on each others' teaching—is relatively simple, but as Vicki Wilson shows, the effects are profound: Observing educators pick up new ideas. Observed teachers experience a confidence boost. New school-wide instructional initiatives can be adopted more quickly. And broader school-improvement goals can be supported with concrete examples. Most important of all, instructional rounds rescue teachers from isolation by fostering a shared sense of mission and growing trust between fellow educators, who realize they have a team that supports and values them. Wilson's willingness to be honest about the process she implemented in her own school—the moments of doubt, the ups and downs, the mistakes and successes—transforms this practical book into something inspiring



Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

This a book many of our MMS students have enjoyed.

An intense snapshot of the chain reaction caused by pulling a trigger.”

—*Booklist* (starred review)

“Astonishing.” —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

“A tour de force.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

A Newbery Honor Book

A Coretta Scott King Honor Book

A Printz Honor Book

A *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize Winner for Young Adult Literature

Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature

Winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award

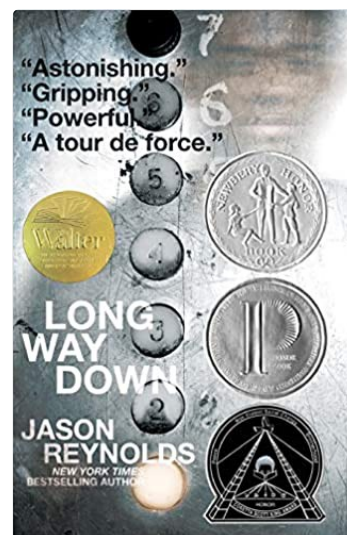
An Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction

Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner

An *Entertainment Weekly* Best YA Book of 2017

A *Vulture* Best YA Book of 2017

A *Buzzfeed* Best YA Book of 2017



An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is *New York Times* bestselling author Jason Reynolds's electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother.



Institute for Middle Level Leadership

The marquee event for aspiring and current leaders in middle school education is back! To ensure the health and safety of all attendees, we're holding one, socially-distanced Institute this year capped at 200 – so be sure to register soon to secure your spot.



Join us for a one-of-a-kind, personalized, and engaging learning experience that will leave you with key insights, fresh perspectives, and the chance to jump-start ideas that will transform your school.

[Click here for more information about the Institute for Middle Level Leadership.](#)

#AMLE21

The 48th Annual Conference for Middle Level Education
November 4 - 6, 2021
Louisville, Kentucky



Welcome to the world's largest gathering of middle grades educators. Gathering is something we may have taken for granted in past years – but not this year. We are so excited for our AMLE community to come together once again to share in collegiality and our mutual passion for building great schools. We hope you'll join us as we:

REFRESH our professional passion and reconnect with colleagues from around the world.

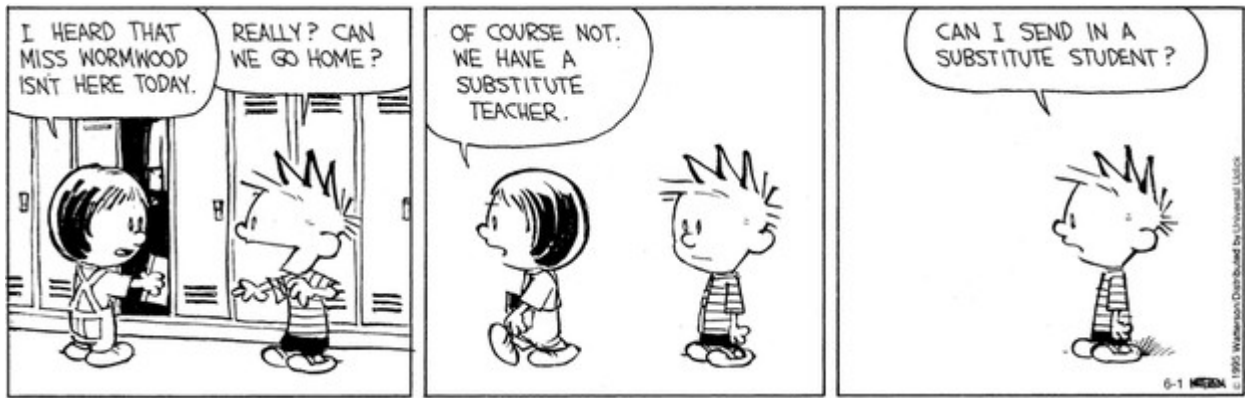
RESET and give ourselves the opportunity to reflect on an unprecedented year.

REIMAGINE the future of our schools as we work to make our learning environments more equitable, empowering, and engaging.

Learn more about the conference by clicking here:
<https://amle.org/annual/>.



Middle School Humor!



Upcoming Event - Edcamp SDAMLE!

March 2022
Date and location TBA





South Dakota Association for Middle Level Educators



SDAMLE

 Facebook  @EdSDAMLE

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2020-2021 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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 (605) 773-7330

 sdamle.weebly.com



Board Bio of the Month: Steve Gors

Steve is the Success Interventionist in the Alternative Education classroom in the middle school and high school at Madison Central School District. This is a new position for Steve this year. His main objectives are helping students with credit recovery to get back on track to graduate on time and to help students who have earned ISS create a plan to re-enter the classroom and create coping skills to avoid being suspended again in the future. In the summers he paints houses and attends baseball games. This summer he is planning to

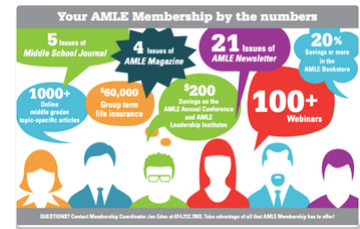
create a backyard BBQ wonderland at his house to entertain himself, family and friends.

Steve can be contacted at Steven.E.Gors@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:

<https://my.amle.org/Membership/Join>

AMLE is the only international organization of its kind for middle school educators. With a community more than 35,000 members strong, AMLE is the go-to source for middle level education peer-reviewed research, best practice, and professional development. Explore our content and resources to learn why we are so passionate about young adolescents and get a sense of what's possible when middle school educators support each other with a shared vision of success. <https://www.amle.org/>

The Culture of Pedagogy with Jennifer Gonzalez- MMS Favorite Podcast

Best podcast for teachers! Jennifer Gonzalez puts a huge amount of work into making her podcasts useful. She has simultaneous blog articles with all the links mentioned. She does a lot of research ahead of time and summarizes it for us. She prepares excellent questions for her guests ahead of time so that every interview proceeds quickly and with direction. She never interrupts her guests, lets them finish their points.

<https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/pod/>

