

SDAMLEmail February 2021

Updates from South Dakota Middle Level Education

Featured SDAMLE School!

Whittier Middle School

At Whittier, attitude is everything, and the attitude is one of respect.

Everyone is valued at Whittier. The primary goal of education is to help each student become an effective citizen in our society. Your success is directly proportionate to your efforts. We have high expectations for staff and students, and expect all to follow the Whittier Way:

- Respectful Communication
- Dress for Success
- Support Each Other
- Helping Hands
- Bring Your Best Self



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

Upcoming Event - Edcamp SDAMLE!



Virtual EdCamp

When

Saturday, March 27th, 9am-12pm

Where

This is an online event.

Registration Form

Registration for the EdCamp will close on Tuesday, March 9th.

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.](#)

Upcoming 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!!



What's Cool In Our Schools!

Celebration of Culture at Whittier Middle School



WMS Culture Squad

This team of staff members is responsible for the look, sound, and feel of Whittier in terms of culture. We know that even though we have many cultures in our school, we don't always take the time to recognize them. The Culture Squad organized our Celebration of Culture Day but their work goes beyond planning celebrations; it serves as a springboard for developing student confidence and recognition.

WMS Staff Development

We know we need to continually address events that happen in our world and in our school. Racism and racist language abounds everywhere. We hope as we become more comfortable with our differences, we will address these issues without fear of saying or doing the wrong thing. Book studies for teaching students about civil discourse, response systems, and more are being developed and explored by Whittier staff.

WMS Culture Day

1. Each subject area was given a different holiday celebrated by students at Whittier Middle School.
2. The Culture Squad researched and sent the culture information to staff and then teachers planned the activities.
3. Students participated in a variety of activities such as dancing, singing, creating art, and developing presentations to share with their peers.
4. This was a GREAT day for Whittier and our students!!!



PE students playing and learning about LaCrosse as an Oceti Sakowin traditional game.



Mr. Reck and his class playing Lotería! A Mexican game similar to Bingo.



Students with the jingle bracelets (modern form of protest) they made while learning about the Oceti Sakowin culture.



Students practicing feather painting.

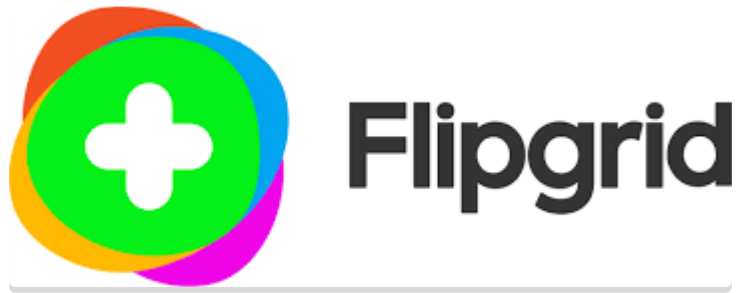


[Diversity and repres...](#)

www.keloland.com

Whittier Middle School and Washington High School are two of the most diverse schools within the Sioux Falls School District.

Tara's Tech Tip



Taking Flipgrid to the Next Level!

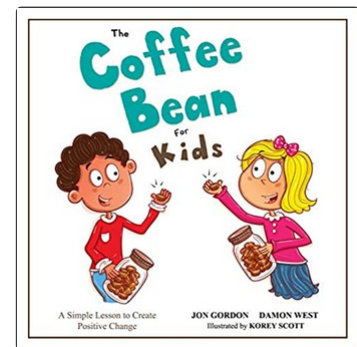
With FlipgridAR, you can “stick” any Flipgrid video wherever you want by printing the video’s QR code and then scanning the QR code with the Flipgrid mobile app. [To learn more about FlipgridAR, click here.](#)

Through the use of GridPals, Flipgrid can be used to connect educators and students around the globe to share in the exchange of ideas, opinions, and life experiences. [To learn more about GridPals, click here.](#)

Read This!

The Coffee Bean for Kids

From the bestselling authors of *The Coffee Bean*, inspire and encourage children with this transformative tale of personal strength. *The Coffee Bean for Kids* tells the inspiring story of Gavin, a young boy with the difficult task of starting school in a new town. Gavin’s teacher, Mrs. Spring, teaches him the story of the carrot, the egg, and the coffee bean. The environments we find ourselves in, like a pot of boiling, hot water, can change, weaken, or harden us, and test who we truly are. We can be like the carrot that weakens in the pot or like the egg that hardens. Or, we can be like the coffee bean and discover the power inside us to transform our environment. Energized by his teacher’s lesson, Gavin embarks on an enlightening journey to transform the world around him.



In *The Coffee Bean for Kids*, authors Jon Gordon and Damon West offer lessons to children to help them:

- Impact the environment around them
- Improve their own outlook
- Become a leader who creates positive change
- Make new friends
- Become a positive influence by sharing smiles, kindness, and positive energy

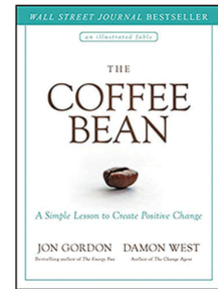
Perfect for parents, teachers, and children who wish to overcome negativity and challenging situations, *The Coffee Bean for Kids* teaches readers about the potential that each one of us has to lead, influence, and make a positive impact on others and the world.

[Order Here](#)

The Coffee Bean

From bestselling author Jon Gordon and rising star Damon West comes *The Coffee Bean*, illustrated fable that teaches readers how to transform their environment, overcome challenges, and create positive change.

Life is often difficult. It can be harsh, stressful, and feel like a pot of boiling hot water. The environments we find ourselves in can change, weaken, or harden us, and test who we truly are. We can be like the carrot that weakens in the pot or like the egg that hardens. Or, we can be like the coffee bean and discover the power inside us to transform our environment.



A delightful, quick read, *The Coffee Bean* is purposely written and designed for readers of all ages so that everyone can benefit from this transformational lesson. This is a book and message that, when read and shared, has the power to change your life and the world around you. You just have to decide: are you a carrot, egg, or coffee bean?

[Order Here](#)



[🔗](#) **How one book is ins...**

www.keloland.com

BRANDON, S.D. (KELO) - A small book is inspiring a KELOLAND community to make a big impact. Students and staff are taking the week to read 'The Coffee Bean.'



Assessing with Instructional Integrity Before, During and After the Pandemic

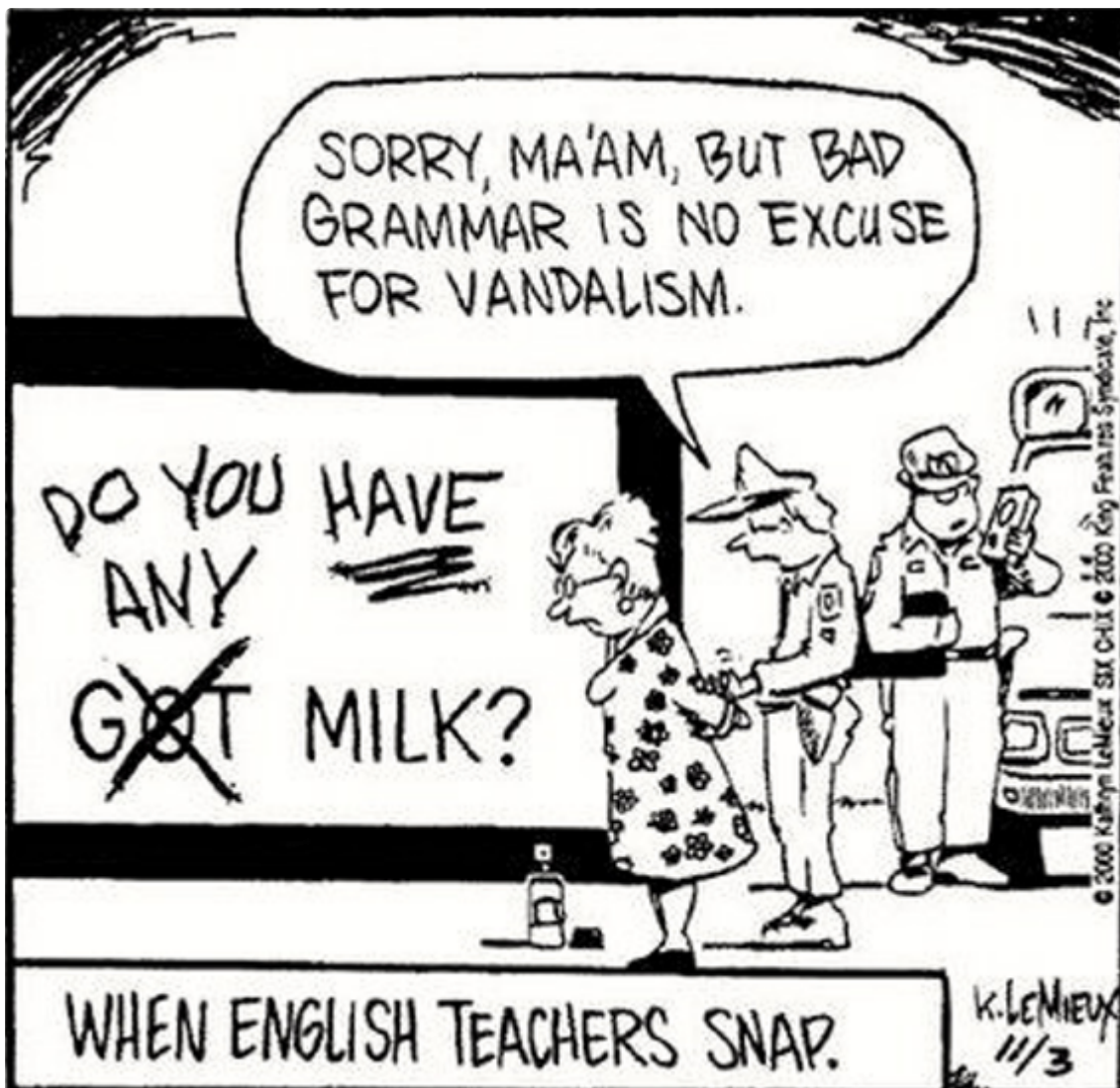
By: Sherri Nelson and Ken O'Connor

Assessments should be worthy of the time and effort required for students to complete them. That means designing quality assessments that let students submit the best evidence of their learning. The Quality Assignment Checklist can help.



[Click here to read the article and view the checklist](#)

Middle School Humor!





South Dakota Association for Middle Level Educators



SDAMLE

 Facebook  @EdSDAMLE

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: Madeleine Gonsoir

Madeleine Gonsoir is an eighth grade U.S. history teacher at Simmons Middle School in Aberdeen. This is her second year teaching at Simmons. Madeleine did her undergraduate at College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN. She graduated with a B.A. in History with emphasis in Ancient Languages. She was accepted into an accelerated education program and received her certificate. She is currently working on her master's degree at Northern State University.

Madeleine has a 4 year old son and loves to travel. Her goal for this next summer is to travel to the major historical landmarks of the



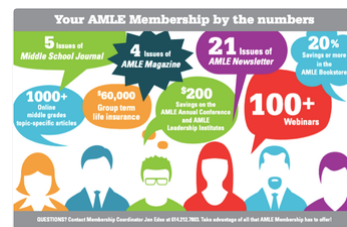
Revolutionary War. She will also be doing continuing education and conferences.

Madeleine can be contacted at Madeleine.Gonsoir@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>