

SDAMLEmail February 2022

Updates from South Dakota Middle Level Education

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Middle Level Education Month

..... March

The Association for Middle Level Education has joined with the [National Association of Secondary School Principals](#), [The National Association of Elementary School Principals](#), and [The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform](#) to declare March the official month to focus on students ages 10 to 15 and celebrate middle level education.

The key messages for the celebration are:

- The importance of parents being knowledgeable about young adolescents and being actively involved in their lives;

- The understanding that healthy bodies plus healthy minds equal healthy young adolescents;
- The realization that the education young adolescents experience during this formative period of life will, in large measure, determine the future for all citizens; and
- The knowledge that every young adolescent should have the opportunity to pursue his or her dreams and aspirations, and post-secondary education should be a possibility for all.

[Click here for more information about Middle Level Education Month!](#)

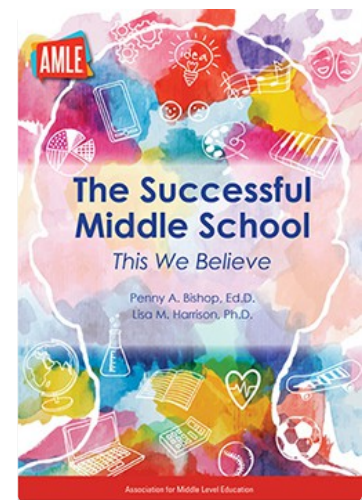
[Click here for more information on how to get involved with AMLE!](#)

SDAMLE Winter Book Study--Earn graduate credit or CEUs!

It's not too late to join the book study!

If you are looking for graduate credit or CEUs, join SDAMLE's winter book study on *The Successful Middle School: This We Believe!* The book study will run the months of February and March. The book study will be based in Google Classroom as a discussion forum and those participating for graduate credit will be expected to complete an action paper at the end of the course.

Both those interested in graduate credit and CEUs should go to <https://classroom.google.com/>, click on the plus, and enter class code **f2t54hr** to join the course. CEUs will be awarded at the end of the course.



If you are also taking for graduate credit, you should go to <https://reach.usiouxfalls.edu/modules/shop/index.html?action=section&OfferingID=1268140> and click on the register me button.

If you have any questions about the book study, please contact Todd Brist at todd.brist@k12.sd.us or Adriann Frankenhoff at adriann.frankenhoff@k12.sd.us.

[Click here for more information on The Successful Middle School.](#)

Be There! A Must Attend Event!



SDAMLE's Annual EdCamp March 5, 2022

[Click here to register for #EdcampSDAMLE!](#)

The Annual SDAMLE EdCamp is a one-day event for Middle Level Educators that follows the organic, teacher-driven model of all EdCamps where participants are able to pursue topics most important to their professional development. The topics at the SDAMLE EdCamp center around middle school concerns, practices, and innovations. There will be opportunities to connect with middle school educators from around the state and share insight and experience.

This year's EdCamp will be held at O'Gorman Jr. High in Sioux Falls on Saturday, March 5.

#EdcampSDAMLE

When

Saturday, March 5th, 9am

Where

3100 West 41st Street Sioux Falls, SD



SDAMLE GRANTS & AWARDS 2022

DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Each year SDAMLE offers two grants, a scholarship, and an award (described individually below).

- ["This We Believe" Award](#)--improving the middle school experience and focused on implementing the "This We Believe" middle school philosophy.
- [Innovation Grant](#)--for innovate efforts to enhance the educational experiences for middle school students.
- [Emerging MS Educator Scholarship](#)--for undergraduate students pursuing a teaching degree and anticipating to teach in a middle-level school upon graduation.
- Outstanding Middle Level Educator (OMLE)--this award serves to recognize and honor the tremendous contributions of an outstanding middle level educator in South Dakota. [Nominations must be made by the principal of member schools.](#)

These applications are due by Friday, February 26th.

Awards will be announced at the SDAMLE EdCamp on March 5th. Please join the SDAMLE Board of Directors and teachers from throughout the state as we grow as professional educators through this PD event and join together in recognizing exceptional educators during this awards ceremony.

SDAMLE Spotlight School

Bennett County Middle School

[Click here to check out SDAMLE's most recent spotlight school, Bennett County Middle School!](#)



Fun Facts

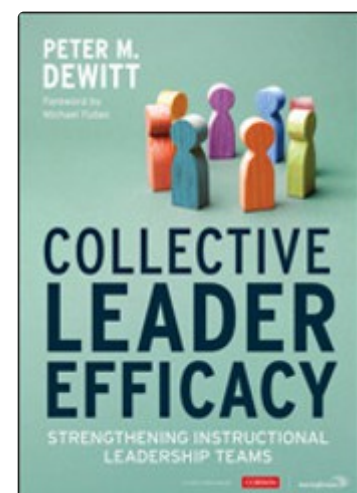
Principal: Mikaela O'Bryan
School Mascot: Warriors
School Colors: Purple & Gold
School Attendance (6th-8th): 110
Certified Teaching Staff: 13
Bennett County Middle School Website

READ THIS

Not just another book on leadership teams!

For school teams to succeed, they need leadership, independence, meaningful collaboration, and a shared conviction that they have real power to enact actual change. Educators know this, but they often lack an inquiry process that creates a community of learning leaders that is capable of deep collective impact on student learning and wellbeing.

In this research-based, hands-on guidebook, school leadership coach Peter DeWitt introduces eight key drivers to integrating teacher and leader efficacy (mindset, well-being, context beliefs, working conditions, professional learning, organizational commitment, skills, and confidence) and harnesses it with a process to help you focus on the nuances of instruction and teaming to develop powerful collective leader efficacy.



Readers will find:

- Activities and strategies designed to build collective efficacy in instructional teams and foster leadership and interdependence among teachers
- Theories of action to focus team efforts and how to create your own
- Tools, reflection prompts, and guiding questions to help you define your desired outcomes and the steps necessary to get there
-

With this book and the research within it, your instructional leadership team will develop a learner's mindset, a collective commitment to improvement, and a shared process for inquiry and continual growth so you can nurture greater impact together.

Strategic Plan 2022-2026: A vision for the future of AMLE and middle level education

Have you ever asked, what is the purpose of an association (like AMLE)? There are associations for just about every profession, for enumerable special interests, and even associations for associations! But what benefit do they provide, or should they provide, to the members they serve? AMLE's Board of Trustees and staff, led by its Strategic Planning Committee, set out last year to think deeply about this question and, amid so much disruption in education, what role AMLE should have in the future of educating young adolescents.

[Click here to read a summary of the AMLE Strategic Plan.](#)



Be sure to check out our website!

sdamle.weebly.com/

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 education in South Dakota.

Upcoming Events



April 2, 2022 | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm ET

Join us for a half-day workshop that will leave you both inspired and empowered with the latest strategies and tools for educating young adolescents.

We know this year has been another full of pivots and challenges, and that's why this special event has been designed by and for teachers to ensure it's time well spent and you get the most out of your experience. Connect with colleagues while together we focus on highly practical ideas that you can bring back to your classroom the following week.

Why Attend?

It's not your imagination, we know that our students truly are "different" this year. Shaped by two years of pandemic uncertainty, understanding the social and emotional impacts on our students is more important than ever. We'll kick off the workshop hearing from Phyllis Fagell, veteran school counselor and author of *Middle School Matters*, on the developmental needs of today's middle school student and implications for educators.

[Click here for more information on the Recharge Workshop!](#)

AMLE Institute for Middle Level Leadership

June 26-29, 2022 | San Diego, California

July 17-20, 2022 | Orlando, Florida

Are you ready to take your middle grades leadership practice to the next level?

For more than 15 years, the Institute for Middle Level Leadership has served as the marquee event for aspiring and current middle grades leaders and teams. Join us for a one-of-a-kind, personalized, and engaging learning retreat that will leave you ready and energized to transform your school.

[Click here for more information on the Institute for Middle Level Leadership!](#)

Katie's Top Five Reasons to Attend the 2022 AMLE Institute for Middle Level Leadership



AMLE Annual Conference--Save the Date!

#AMLE22 is Coming to Orlando, Florida
Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center
November 3-5



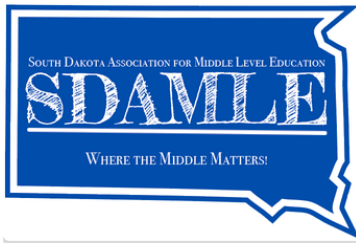
[More information coming soon including call for presentations, session details, registration rates, and hotel details.](#)



Middle School Humor



South Dakota Association for Middle Level Educators



SDAMLE

Facebook @EdSDAMLE

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2021-2022 SDAMLE Board Members

President: Kiley Cumbow, Georgia Morse Middle School

Treasurer: Lisa Kissner, Huron Middle School

Secretary: Adriann Frankenhoff, Aberdeen Simmons Middle School

Membership Coordinator: Reva Potter, Belle Fourche Middle School

Past President: Todd Brist, Watertown Middle School

Board Member: Kendra Becker, Redfield Middle School

Board Member: Kris Evje, Milbank School District

Board Member: Madeleine Gonsoir, Simmons Middle School

Board Member: Cotton Koch, Madison Middle School

Board Member: Mikaela O'Bryan, Bennett County Middle School

University Representative: Tara Johanneson, University of Sioux Falls

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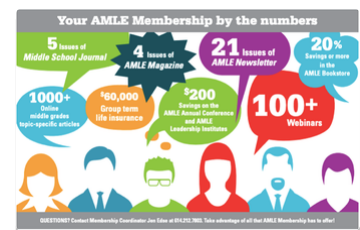
Association for Middle Level Education

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>



Bennett County Middle School--Spotlight School

<http://sdamle.weebly.com/bennett-county-middle-school.html>

