

SDAMLEmail January 2020

Updates from South Dakota Middle Level Education

Applications are now OPEN for the 2020 SDAMLE OMLE, This We Believe Award, Innovations Grant, and Emerging Educator Award

SDAMLE is excited to announce that applications are now open for the 2020 grant, award, and scholarships. Each year SDAMLE recognizes the best in 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 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 school year. [Click here to apply for the Emerging Educator Scholarship.](#)

**The deadline to apply for any of these recognitions is Friday,
March 6th!**

TWITTER #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!

Congratulations!



O'GORMAN
JUNIOR HIGH



2019 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

In 1982, the United States Department of Education began the National Blue Ribbon School program to recognize schools across the country in two categories: (1) exemplary academic excellence and (2) closing student achievement gaps within student subgroups. Since inception in 1982, over 9,000 schools have been recognized for this award in one of these two categories.

In October, O'Gorman Junior High was named a 2019 Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School in the category of exemplary academic excellence. It is the first junior high/middle school in SD to ever achieve this honor in this category. In November, Principal Wade Charron and Melanie Kirsch, math teacher, were officially presented with the 2019 National Blue Ribbon Award in Washington, DC. O'Gorman Junior High was one of 362 schools from around the US to be recognized this year. [Click here](#) to read the National Blue Ribbon School profile for O'Gorman Junior High.



Advent Service Projects

Each year the students and families of O'Gorman Junior High participate in two Advent service projects.

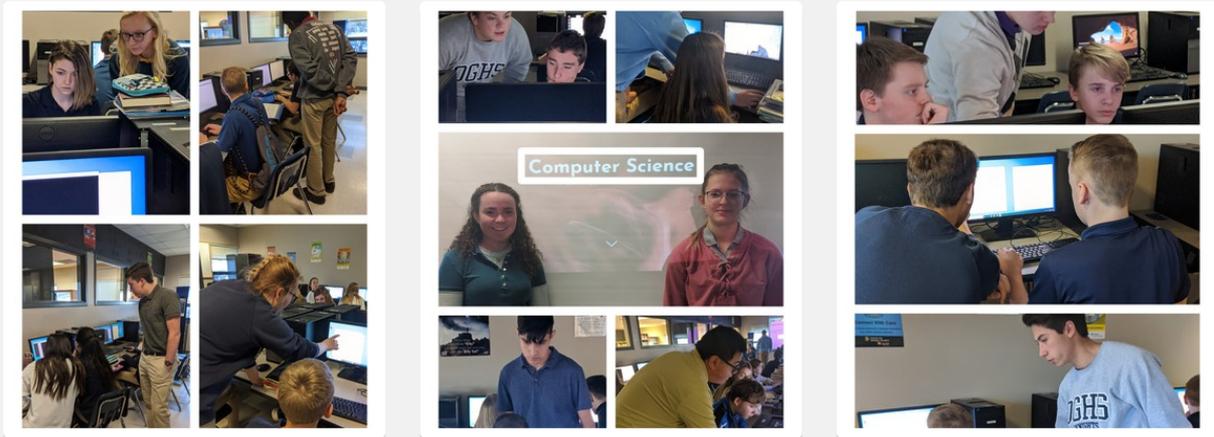
The first project is the Advent Baby Shower which is sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls. From Thanksgiving break to Christmas break, donations are collected to help supply new and expecting mothers in the community with supplies for their newborns like diapers, bibs, and onesies.

The second project is the Student Hunger Drive for Feeding South Dakota. This year, O'Gorman Junior High raised over \$5,000 for Feeding South Dakota which will provide for 15,500 meals!

Computer Science Education Week

Each year students at O'Gorman High School and O'Gorman Junior High participate in activities to recognize Computer Science in Education Week. To kick off the week, the students taking Introduction to Computer Programming at O'Gorman High School visit O'Gorman Junior High to share their knowledge by designing/delivering an intro to Python lesson & encourage 8th graders to consider giving Computer Science a whirl in high school!

The remainder of the week, students in both 7th and 8th grade had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities in Hour of Code through Code.org.



Introducing DRAMA Club

The most recent addition to the O'Gorman Junior High (OGJH) extra-curricular offerings is Drama Club. Rachael Andersen and Julie Manning (both ELA teachers at OGJH) are the co-advisors for the club. The two teachers, who both have acting, directing, and oral interpretation coaching experience, decided last year to team up to provide this new opportunity for students. In the club, students do lots of acting and improvisation exercises, learn about parts of the stage, write their own scripts, and perform for each other and parents. Students have also had the opportunities to travel to the high school to meet and learn from student actors, directors, and technicians (and to watch the Children's Show), volunteer to help usher at the high school, enjoy guest speakers such as Improv Falls (a local improv troupe), and will get to meet author Tom Roberts at the end of the month.



Drama Club is open to all OGJH students, both 7th and 8th grade with currently 33 students participating. The Drama Club meets every Wednesday from 3:30-5:00 pm.

Here is what a couple of the students say about Drama Club:

"The Drama Club will most likely be the greatest club at OGJH. There are so many unique people all together, and discussing something we collectively love. It is a great start on the basics of drama before we go to the high school." - Lorelei, 8th Grade

"The O'Gorman Junior High Drama Club is an opportunity to learn the basics of drama. It's a chance to understand how to write and read scripts, and it's a fun class. We play voicing games and acting activities, and everyone walks out with a smile." - Paige, 8th Grade

If you are interested in learning more, please feel free to email [Julie Manning](#) or [Rachael Andersen](#).



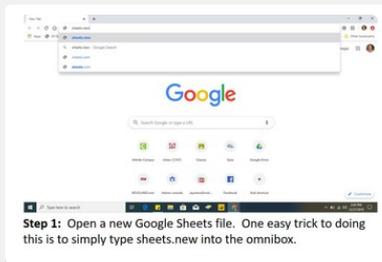
Tara's Tech Tip

Using Google Sheets to Translate Words

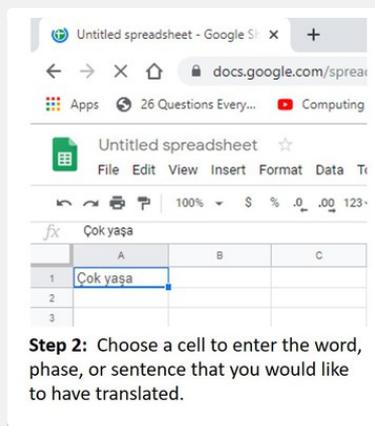
Were you aware that through the use of functions, Google Sheets can identify the language that inputted words are displayed in and also translate words into a variety of different languages?

The screenshots below will walk you through this process and more information can also be found at [Docs Editors Help](#).

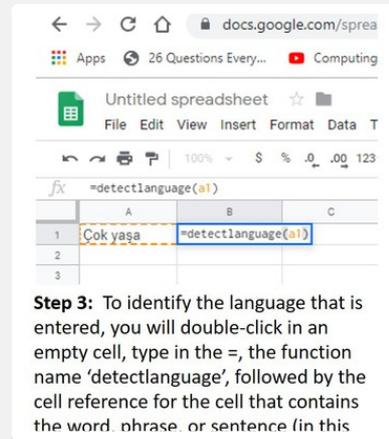
Information on Google Translate languages and language codes can be found [by clicking here](#).



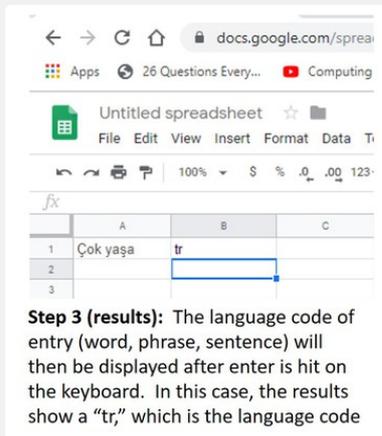
Step 1: Open a new Google Sheets file. One easy trick to doing this is to simply type sheets.new into the omnibox.



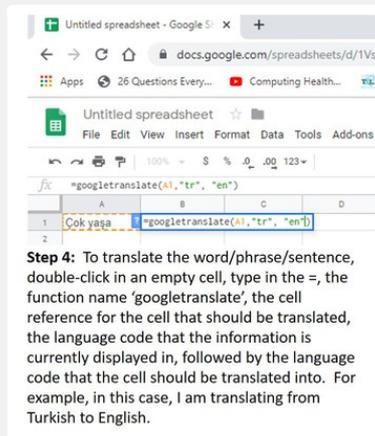
Step 2: Choose a cell to enter the word, phrase, or sentence that you would like to have translated.



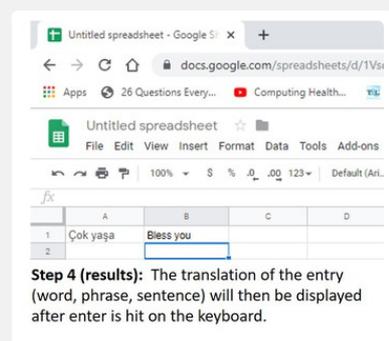
Step 3: To identify the language that is entered, you will double-click in an empty cell, type in the =, the function name 'detectlanguage', followed by the cell reference for the cell that contains the word, phrase, or sentence (in this



Step 3 (results): The language code of entry (word, phrase, sentence) will then be displayed after enter is hit on the keyboard. In this case, the results show a "tr," which is the language code



Step 4: To translate the word/phrase/sentence, double-click in an empty cell, type in the =, the function name 'googletranslate', the cell reference for the cell that should be translated, the language code that the information is currently displayed in, followed by the language code that the cell should be translated into. For example, in this case, I am translating from Turkish to English.



Step 4 (results): The translation of the entry (word, phrase, sentence) will then be displayed after enter is hit on the keyboard.

Fall 2020: Featured SDAMLE School!

Brandon Valley Middle School

Check out their favorite books, apps, websites and strategies!

<http://sdamle.weebly.com/brandon-valley-middle-school.html>



BVMS Brochure 2019.pdf



Download

243.2 KB

Read This!

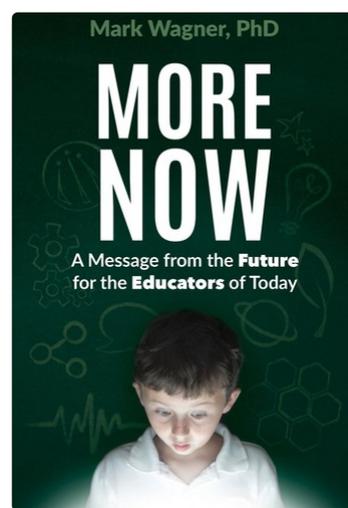
[More Now - Mark Wagner](#)

School change is never easy, but it is necessary to prepare today's students for tomorrow's world.

Our job as educators is no longer to help students memorize a few things they might need someday. Our job is to help students access and use information in ways that are meaningful to them—and to others. This doesn't mean students don't need schools or teachers; kids need educators as their guides now more than ever. It does mean the priorities and processes of education must change.

In *More Now*, EdTechTeam Founder, Mark Wagner, PhD, explores the six essential elements of effective school change: courageous leaders, empowered teachers, student agency, inspiring spaces, robust infrastructure, and engaged communities. You'll learn from educational leaders, teachers, and technologists how you can make each of these essential elements part of your school or district culture—starting now.

It's time to “dream out loud” and be “an architect of the possible” in creating the future students need. We can't afford to wait.



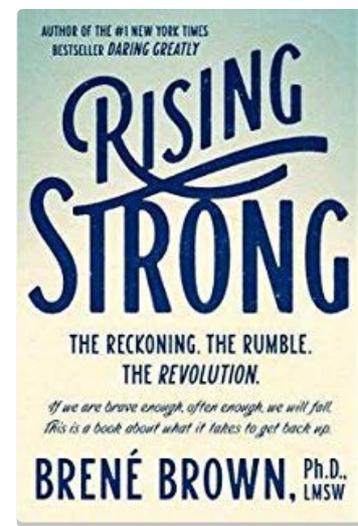
[Rising Strong - Brene Brown](#)

Social scientist Brené Brown has ignited a global conversation on courage, vulnerability, shame, and worthiness. Her pioneering work uncovered a profound truth: Vulnerability—the willingness to show up and be seen with no guarantee of outcome—is the only path to more love, belonging, creativity, and joy. But living a brave life is not always easy: We are, inevitably, going to stumble and fall.

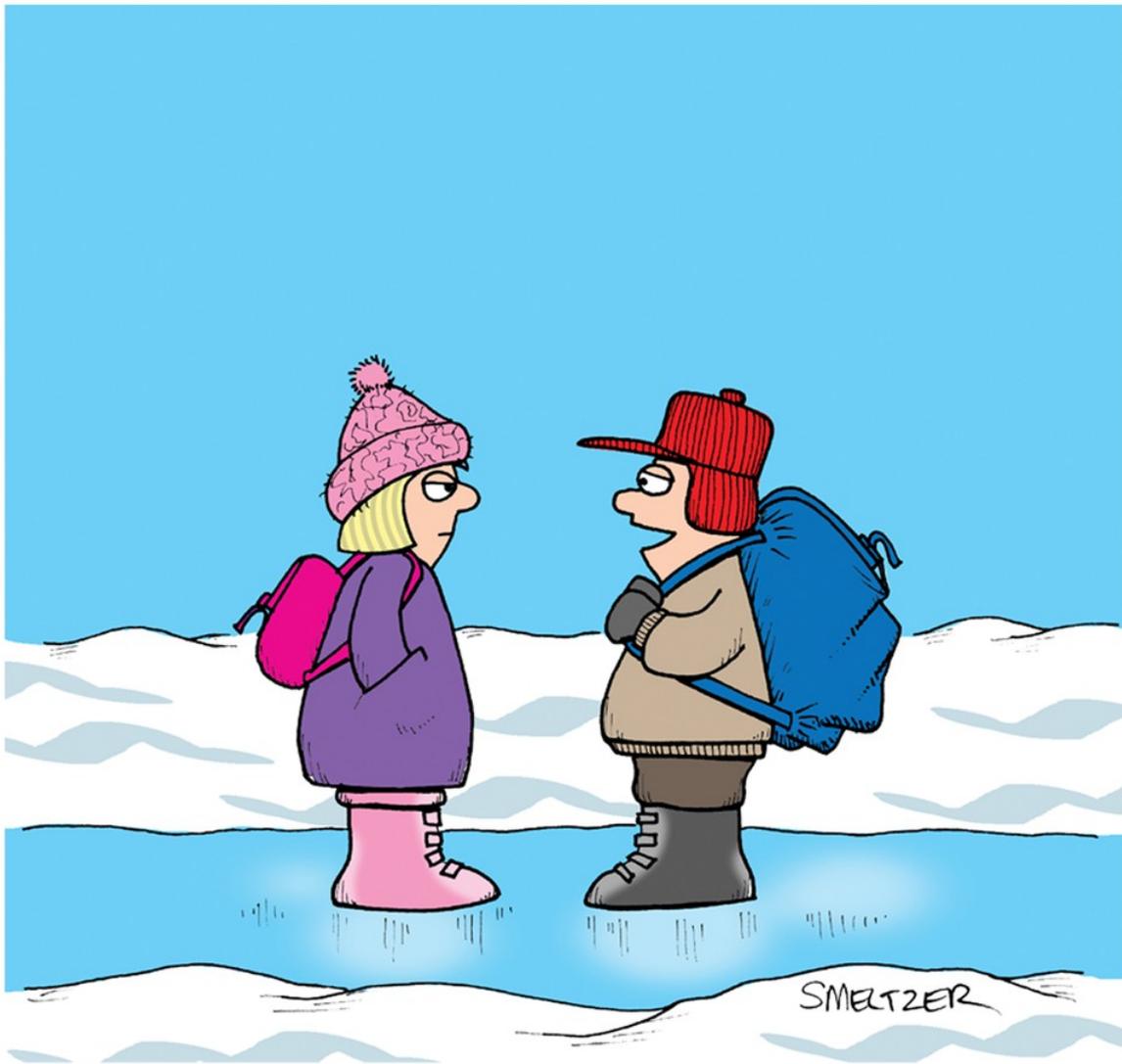
It is the rise from falling that Brown takes as her subject in *Rising Strong*. As a grounded theory researcher, Brown has listened as a range of people—from leaders in Fortune 500 companies and the

military to artists, couples in long-term relationships, teachers, and parents—shared their stories of being brave, falling, and getting back up. She asked herself, *What do these people with strong and loving relationships, leaders nurturing creativity, artists pushing innovation, and clergy walking with people through faith and mystery have in common?* The answer was clear: They recognize the power of emotion and they're not afraid to lean in to discomfort.

Walking into our stories of hurt can feel dangerous. But the process of regaining our footing in the midst of struggle is where our courage is tested and our values are forged. Our stories of struggle can be big ones, like the loss of a job or the end of a relationship, or smaller ones, like a conflict with a friend or colleague. Regardless of magnitude or circumstance, the rising strong process is the same: We *reckon* with our emotions and get curious about what we're feeling; we *rumble* with our stories until we get to a place of truth; and we live this process, every day, until it becomes a practice and creates nothing short of a *revolution* in our lives. Rising strong after a fall is how we cultivate wholeheartedness. It's the process, Brown writes, that teaches us the most about who we are.



Middle School Humor!



"It's not for homework. It's for traction."



It's Different Now

Four experiences for educators to consider about today's young adolescents

By: Jen Cort

It's not our imagination, kids really are different.

Today's youth face four constructs that adults either did not experience at all or did not experience in the same way as youth today.

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



Creating a Mindful Classroom

Four mindful practices to promote optimal learning in the middle school classroom

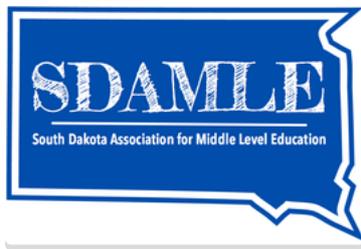
By: David Hughes

With all the talk about mindfulness and learning, are there simple mindful practices teachers can use to make students available for optimal learning? The answer seems to be promising as growing enthusiasm for professional development and mindful teacher certificate courses support a positive shift in the classroom.

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



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: 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
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: Jason Whiting, Sioux Falls School District
University Representative: Teri Bauerly, Black Hills State University

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🌐 sdamle.weebly.com

Board Bio of the Month

Tara Johanneson is the Technology Integrationist for the Bishop O'Gorman Catholic Schools and Computer Science teacher at O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. 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 is actively involved as a school board member for Tea Area School District, a gymnastics official in both the South Dakota High School Activities Association, Past-President of the South Dakota Gymnastics Judges Association, board member for the South Dakota Middle-Level Educators Association, board secretary for the South Dakota Society for Technology in Education, and member of the Helpline Center's Survivor of Suicide Loss Advisory Committee. Tara also finds time to volunteer as the community coordinator for the Tea Easter "Eggstravaganza", the Girl Scout Dakota Horizons 8th grade troop leader, and Girl Scout Dakota Horizons Outer Limits Service Unit Manager.

Tara lives in Tea, SD, with her husband, Jason, and their three children, Taylor (13), Jaxon (11), and Jadon (10). In her free time, Tara's hobbies include traveling, baking, and reading.

Tara can be contacted at tjohanneson@ogknights.org.

2018-2019 SDAMLE Board Members

Left to Right--Taylor Hamblin, Lisa Kissner, Kyley Cumbow, Teri Bauerly, Sherri Nelson, Reva Potter, Todd Brist, Steve Gors, and Tara Johanneson



Upcoming Events!

#EdcampSDAMLE

When

Saturday, March 28th, 9am

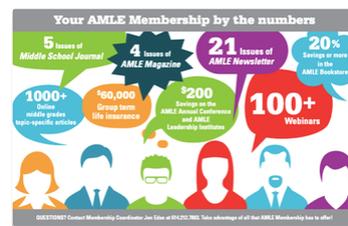
Where

*3201 South Kiwanis Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD*

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>