

# ***SDAMLEmail March 2021***

Updates from South Dakota Middle Level Education

## **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

## **Upcoming Event - Edcamp SDAMLE!**



# Virtual EdCamp

When

*Saturday, March 27th 2021 at 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 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.

## 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.

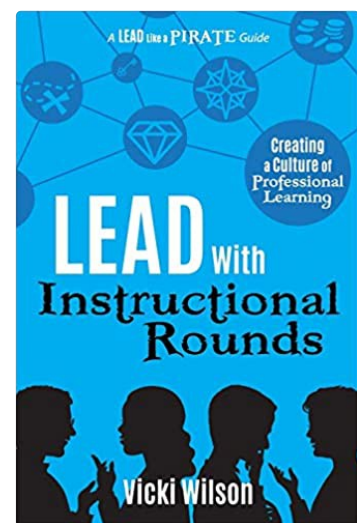
## Read This!

### 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



## 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

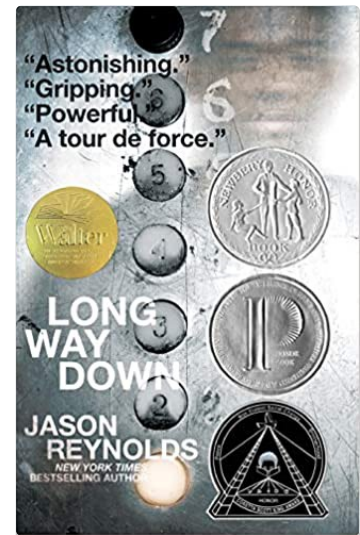
An Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction

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.



## 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/>



**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: 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: Kris Evje, Milbank School District

University Representative: Teri Bauerly, Black Hills State University

[sdamlemail@gmail.com](mailto:sdamlemail@gmail.com)

(605) 773-7330

[sdamle.weebly.com](http://sdamle.weebly.com)



### Board Bio of the Month: Steve Gors

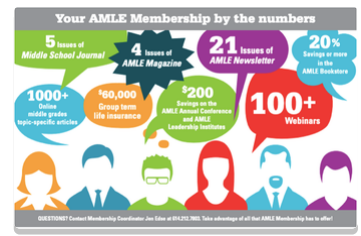
Steve is the Success Interventionist in the Alternative Education classroom in the middle school and high school at Madison Central School District. This is a new position for Steve this year. His main objectives are helping students with credit recovery to get back on track to graduate on time and to 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](mailto: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:**

<http://www.ample.org/membership.aspx>

