

# SDAMLEmail

## May 2021

Updates from South Dakota Middle Level Education



### SD ELA and Math Assessment Resources: A one-stop-shop for all of the assessment resources so you can start your fall semester off right

[https://padlet.com/amanda\\_thronson/8f60doaf1gbzm07g](https://padlet.com/amanda_thronson/8f60doaf1gbzm07g)



### Teacher Clarity

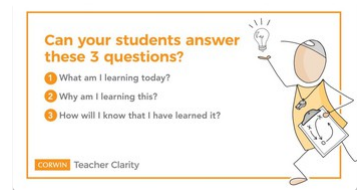
"Teacher Clarity" - Unleashed. Who b/4 what?

We spend the majority of our time looking at and talking about the "what" of education. Standards, essential standards, assessment, etc.

We must never lose sight of the "who", and understand that the goals for the "what" will not be accomplished without a consistent emphasis on our "who", the students.

According to research, Teacher Clarity is said to have a 0.75 effect size, which in essence is a teaching strategy that yields almost 2 years' worth of growth. However, to realize that potential, we must understand what it means and the parts involved. It is both a method and a mindset.

It has been said that clarity precedes competence. But this is more than just writing an "I can statement" on the board from an unpacked standard like R.L.6.4 or others. Simply writing this and even reading it will not ensure the kind of positive impact clarity promises. True clarity begins with the "who", not the "what". It begins with knowing your students. The time that is invested in understanding their S.T.O.R.Y. they bring to your classroom. To fully reach the true impact teacher clarity has to offer one must understand their students, Strengths (and build upon them/leverage them), Tendencies (how they work the best), Opportunities (what gets them into something), Resources (what supports does the student have at home or school), and finally their Yearnings (getting to know their interests & learning preferences.) So as we enter the final stretch of the 2021 school year, reflect on how well you



know your student's "Story" and how that is impacting the results you are or are not getting from them.

## Upcoming Book Study

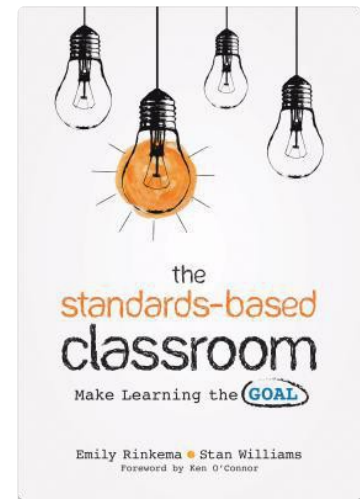
*Connect Students to learning & standards - Coordinate with fellow educators to plan more effectively - Consider how individual learners can be supported - AND earn credit.*

SDAMLE Summer Book Study Opportunity

**JULY 5th - AUGUST 13th**

Contact: Reva Potter, [reva.potter@k12.sd.us](mailto:reva.potter@k12.sd.us), to register.

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.

[Click here for more details about the book and/or to preorder the book.](#)



## Tech Tip

### All Sides For Schools

We're living in a time when anyone can create and publish anything and make it look credible, a time when our students spend the bulk of their days consuming user-generated content, a time when algorithms are showing us more of the stuff we agree with and less of what we don't.

<https://allsidesforschools.org/>

## Media Bias: How AllSides Provides Balanced, Unbiased News



### When-then sentences: An evidence-based behavior strategy



Do you have students in your classes who don't always understand what behaviors are expected of them? A when-then sentence can help you nudge students towards appropriate behaviors. It clearly states what you expect and the positive outcome that will result. Here is an example.

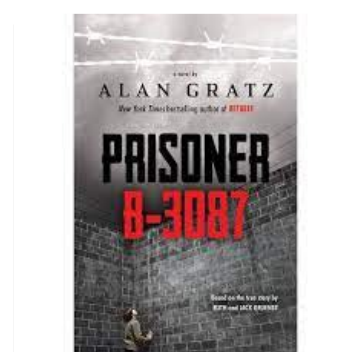
"When" you speak to me in a calmer voice, then we can talk this through. Think about how this sentence sounds different from, "If you don't stop yelling, you are going to have to leave the room."

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/for-educators/teaching-strategies/behavior-strategy-when-then>

### Popular Book Recommendations from Middle School Students

These books were flying off the shelves this year and would be great recommendations for our middle school readers!

Some of the most popular books this year:





Prisoner B3087 by Alan Gratz  
Ghost by Jason Reynolds  
Game Changer by Tim Greenwald  
Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds  
Amulet graphic novel series  
Ground Zero by Alan Gratz  
Benefits of Being an Octopus by Ann Braden  
Coyote Sunrise by Dan Gemeinhart

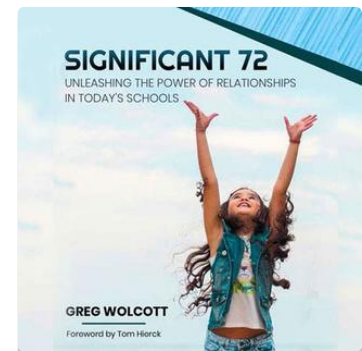


## Read This!

### Significant 72

#### Unleashing the Power of Relationships in Today's Schools

Building a quality relationship is, at its core, about creating a positive learning environment that allows every student to experience success, regardless of his or her starting point. We have no control over where a student has been, but the absolute capacity to influence where they are going. This is regardless of the student's current status, approach to learning, baggage, or disposition. The greater the challenge a teacher places on a student, the greater the importance of the relationship between the two.



This is an excerpt from the book, Significant 72, which is a thought-provoking and important book for educators who are looking for ways to authentically create the kinds of relationships with their students that will lead to increases in student engagement, achievement, and learning.

### You Are Awesome

#### Find Your Confidence and Dare to be Brilliant at (Almost) Anything! by Matthew Syed

#### Children's Book of the Year 2019

"Challenge the beliefs that hold you back! Whatever you want to be good at, the right mindset can help you achieve your dreams."

*Times* journalist, two-time Olympian, and bestselling author Matthew Syed demonstrates how grit, resilience, and a positive mindset can help in every aspect of your life -- from school to friendships to sports to hobbies. Using examples of role models from Serena Williams to Mozart, *You Are Awesome*, shows how success is earned rather than given, and that talent can be acquired through practice and a positive attitude.





## 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.

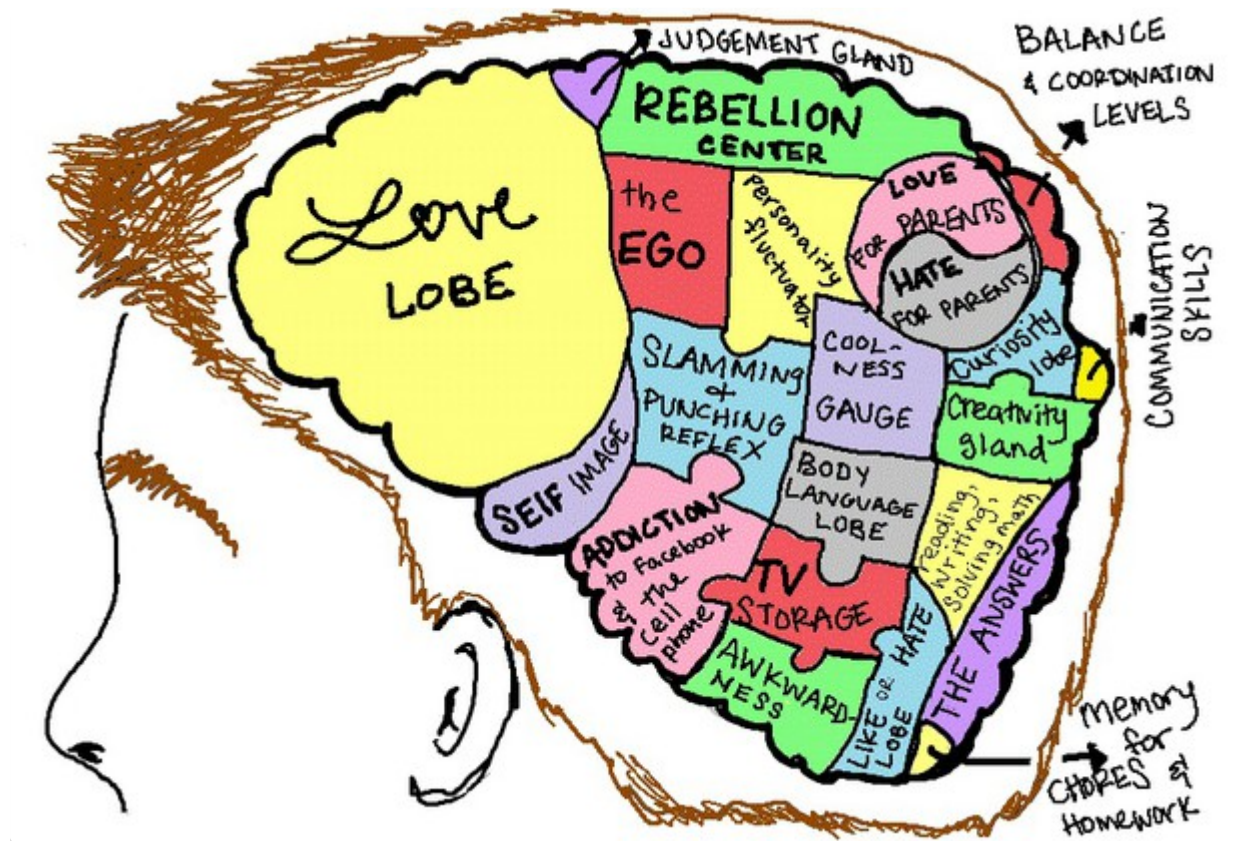
RESET and give ourselves the opportunity to reflect on an unprecedented year.

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/>.



## The Average Teenage Brain



## Upcoming Event - Edcamp SDAMLE!

March 2022  
Date and location TBA





**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.

### 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  
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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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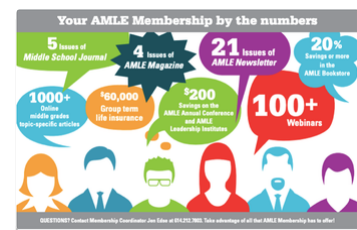
## Association for Middle Level Education

**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/>

