

SDAMLEmail

September 2019

Updates from South Dakota Middle Level Education

Will This Be Your Last SDAMLEmail?

Check with your principal today to make sure your school membership has been renewed for the 2019 - 2020 school year—we don't want you to miss out! Or, you can join as an individual. Click on the link below for more information about who we are, why you should join, and how you can join.



Key Personnel:
Kurt Pappas, Board President
Shawn Doherty, Board Secretary
Tina Hinkle, Treasurer
Kathy Gaudin, Director
Dana Gaudin, Director
Lisa Kruse, Director
Doreen Gaudin, Director
Cynthia Gaudin, Director
Michelle Gaudin, Director
Dana Gaudin, Director
Lisa Kruse, Director
Doreen Gaudin, Director
Cynthia Gaudin, Director
Michelle Gaudin, Director
Dana Gaudin, Director
Lisa Kruse, Director



Dear Fellow Educators:

I am writing to let you know about an awesome opportunity for those who work with adolescents in South Dakota. Anyone who has ever worked with 10-12 year old students knows it is a change unlike any other...it takes unique skills and training (and a special attitude). Because of the specialized nature of working with 10-12 year old students, SDAMLE (South Dakota Association for Middle Level Educators) was formed to support, promote, and celebrate those who work with middle level students in South Dakota.

[docs.google.com](#)



SDAMLE
South Dakota Association for Middle Level Education
c/o Lisa Kruse
2001 19th Street SW
Rapid, SD 57706



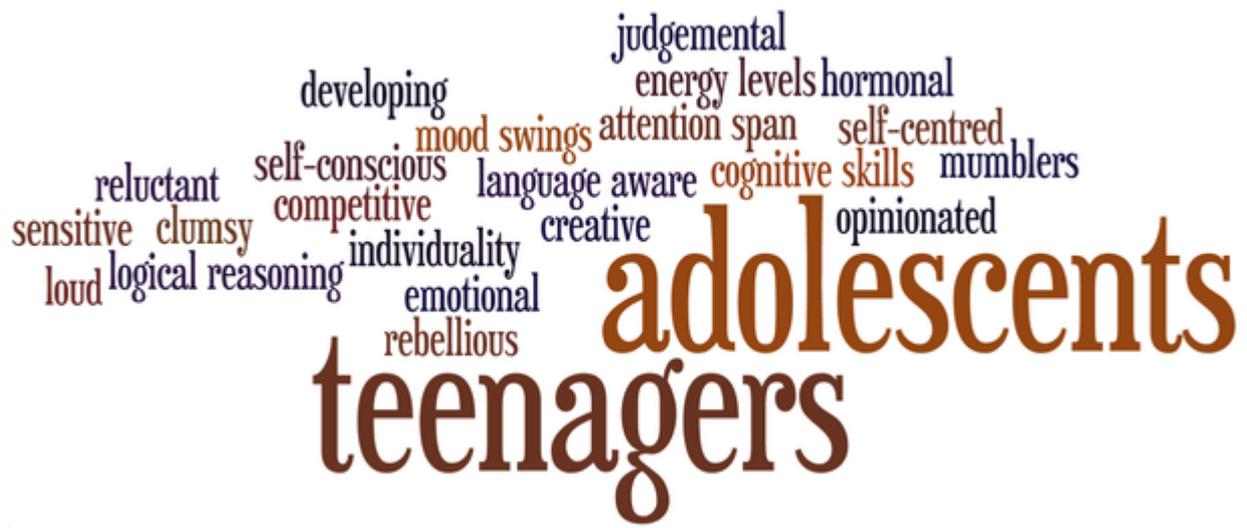
INVOICE

Description	Amount
Membership fee for SDAMLE	
Membership valid: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beginning July 1 - June 30• Includes all certified middle level teachers and administrators in the	

[docs.google.com](#)



Feature Topic



Developmental Characteristics of Young Adolescents

Early adolescence is a distinct period of human growth and development situated between childhood and adolescence. During this remarkable stage of the life cycle, young adolescents, 10- to 15-year-olds, experience rapid and significant developmental change. Understanding and responding to the unique developmental characteristics of young adolescents is central among the tenets of middle level education.

[Read the entire article about the developmental characteristics of young adolescents here.](#)



SDAMLE Fall Book Study

Grad Credit and CEUs Available!

Watch your email...details coming very soon!

Learn more about the book below.



A Calm Classroom Community

Being proactive by communicating expectations of classroom behavior

No need for a bull horn, the students could hear me shouting just fine. My voice was so hoarse after my first year, it sounded like I was constantly coming down with whooping cough. Expectations? Oh, my students were fully aware of the expectations ... after they displayed the disruptive behavior. How would they know what I expected? I never took the time to discuss classroom expectations, more specifically, behavior expectations. I let them know after the fact, and it was usually in a frustrated, anxious tone. I was displaying the classic signs of being reactive instead of proactive.

I knew if I wanted to have a positive impact on my students, I had to have a calm, safe, and inclusive learning environment.

[Click here to read the rest of the article.](#)



What Could Middle Schools Learn from Summer Camp

A successful school year starts—and continues—with knowing well the students we serve

A successful school year starts—and continues—with knowing well the students we serve. One of the highest forms of respect around the world is to prove to someone that we really know them, and that we see them as worth knowing. We can connect with the grumpiest of individuals when we prove such things, and, of course, we can respond thoughtfully to their challenges as well. Instead of generalizing widely, then, effective middle level teachers honor their students by getting to know them well, and they respond to them instructionally and successfully based on that knowledge.

They don't limit students to the contours of last year's class, nor do they coast on stock lessons from years gone by. Instead, they tailor lessons and interactions to the unique learners before them, and they do it all year long.

That's the key, though: It's all based on extended efforts to know our students, for we can't teach blind to the students we serve. Beginning-of-the-year success as well as success throughout the year is based on diligent awareness of our students, including knowing them as they change throughout the year. So, let's build that capacity.

[Click here to read the rest of the article.](#)



Just One Educator Can Completely Alter the Trajectory of a Child

Presenter: Baruti Kafele

Wednesday, September 18, 2019, 3-4pm CT

In this webinar, Baruti Kafele will make the case that despite the challenges, obstacles and even despair that a youngster may bring to school every day, there is always that one educator who can completely alter that youngster's trajectory for the rest of his life.

[Click here to join the webinar.](#)



Your AMLE Membership by the numbers

5 Issues of *Middle School Journal*

4 Issues of *AMLE Magazine*

21 Issues of *AMLE Newsletter*

20% Savings or more in the AMLE Bookstore

1000+ Online middle grades topic-specific articles

\$60,000 Group term life insurance

\$200 Savings on the AMLE Annual Conference and AMLE Leadership Institutes

100+ Webinars

QUESTIONS? Contact Membership Coordinator Jen Edse at 614.212.7803. Take advantage of all that AMLE Membership has to offer!



What's Cool In Our Schools!

SD middle school teaches students with video games

When eighth-grader Alyssa Lingen started her information and communications technology class this year at Patrick Henry Middle School, the art student was repulsed by anything related to computer science, she said.

But the minute she saw the little elephant she created move across a computer screen, dodging bad guys to gather coins, computer science completely changed her future, she said.

That wouldn't have been the case, though, if her teacher, Jason Whiting, had not opted to pioneer a coding course for middle school students this year. The course comes from Code.org, a national nonprofit focused on giving students access to computer science skills in schools for women and underrepresented minorities, according to the organization's website, the [Argus Leader](#) reported.

[Read the rest of the story here.](#)



Shelly Conlon/The Argus Leader via AP: In this March 21 photo, Information and Communications Technology instructor Jason Whiting talks Collin Feerick, 14, through how to create his own video game at Patrick Henry Middle School in Sioux Falls.



VIDEO SERIES

The History of the Middle School Movement

10. Specialized Middle Level Professional Preparation and Development



Tom Erb



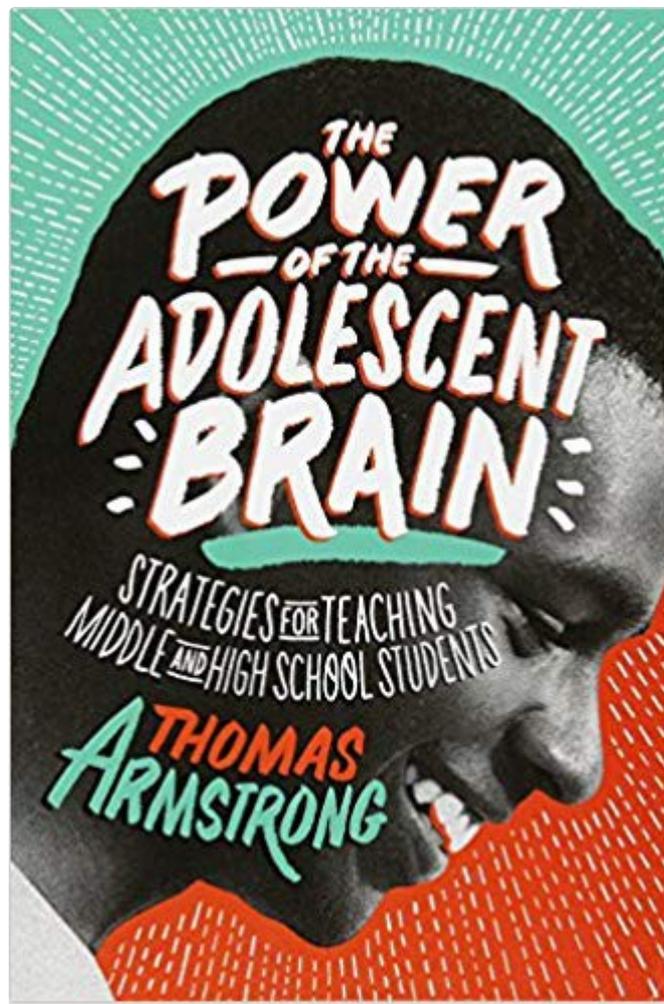
Sue Swaim

Specialized Middle Level Professional Preparation and Development

Legacy leaders in this video are advocates of middle level teacher preparation that focuses directly and distinctly upon the specialized knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed by teachers of young adolescents. They note that middle level teachers should be knowledgeable about young adolescent development, subject matter content, middle level curriculum and instruction, middle level schooling, and other key areas before they begin their careers. Legacy participants believe that middle level teachers should not have to learn to be highly effective after they begin teaching. It is unfortunate that the professional preparation many middle level teachers received was designed for those planning to teach young children or for those planning to be subject-matter specialists at the senior high school level. Middle level leaders noted that the lack of availability of sufficient numbers of teachers and other educators with specialized middle level professional preparation limited the success of early middle level schools and remains a barrier to full success today. Legacy participants acknowledged that progress has been made in many states and at the national level. However, malpractice continues in many states where almost anyone with some form of teaching license is allowed to teach at the middle level. Middle level leaders believe that the specialized professional preparation of middle level teachers, and licensure regulations that support this preparation, must become universal if full success is to be accomplished in the middle level schools of the nation.



READ THIS



The Power of the Adolescent Brain

Strategies for Teaching Middle and High School Students

Moody. Reckless. Impractical. Insecure. Distracted. These are all words commonly used to describe adolescents. But what if we recast these traits in a positive light? Teens possess insight, passion, idealism, sensitivity, and creativity in abundance—all qualities that can make a significant positive contribution to society.

In this thought-provoking book, Thomas Armstrong looks at the power and promise of the teenage brain from an empathetic, strength-based perspective—and describes what middle and high school educators can do to make the most of their students' potential.

Thoroughly grounded in current neuroscience research, the book explains what we know about how the adolescent brain works and proposes eight essential instructional elements that will help students develop the ability to think, make healthy choices, regulate their emotions, handle social conflict, consolidate their identities, and learn enough about the world to move into adulthood with dignity and grace.

Armstrong provides practical strategies and real-life examples from schools that illustrate these eight key practices in action. In addition, you'll find a glossary of brain terms, a selection of brain-friendly lesson plans across the content areas, and a list of resources to support and extend the book's ideas and practices.

There is a colossal mismatch between how the adolescent brain has evolved over the millennia and the passive, rote learning experiences that are all too common in today's test-obsessed educational climate. See the amazing difference—in school and beyond—when you use the insights from this book to help students tap into the power of their changing brains.



Tara's Tech Tip

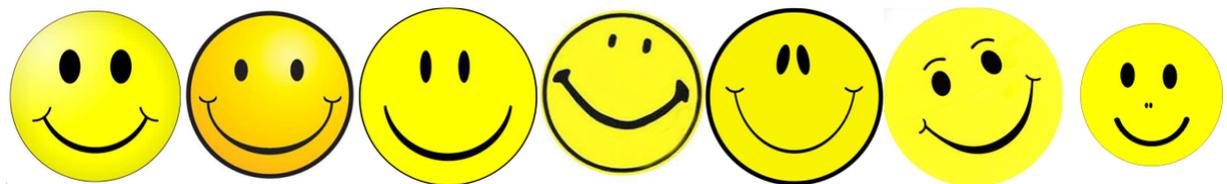
Did you know that when sharing a Google file with others, you have the ability to force users to make a copy of the file instead of viewing/editing your original version? All you need to do is modify the URL of the shared file by removing the "edit?usp=sharing" from the end and adding the word "copy." Then when you share the URL with others, the user will get a splash page asking if he/she wants to make a copy of the file. The file will then be owned by the user and saved in his/her "My Drive."

Step #1: Create your document and click on the share button.

Step #2: Click on the "Advanced" option in the sharing dialogue box.

Step #3: Copy the URL in sharing settings.

Step #4: In the omnibox (address bar), remove the "edit?usp=sharing" from the end of the URL and add the word "copy".



Middle School Humor



Upcoming Events

#edcampSDAMLE



#EdcampSDAMLE

When

Saturday, March 21st 2020 at 9am

Where

3100 West 41st Street Sioux Falls, SD

The Annual Conference for Middle Level Education

[#AMLE19](#)

November 7-9, 2019

Nashville, Tennessee

Gaylord Opryland Resort



AMLE

#AMLE19

Annual Conference for
Middle Level Education

Nashville, TN • November 7-9, 2019

\$50 OFF! Promo Code *A19SDAMLE*

The banner features a night view of the Nashville skyline with the AT&T Building as the central focus. Below the skyline is a horizontal bar with seven colored squares: cyan, orange, red, purple, green, cyan, and orange. The AMLE logo is on the left, and the event details and promo code are on the right.

Keynote Speakers



Jessica Lahey



Baruti Kafele

Jessica Lahey

Teacher and author of *The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed*

Baruti Kafele

Educator, school leadership expert, and author of *Is My School Better Because I Lead It?*

Attend #AMLE19, the 46th Annual Conference for Middle Level Education, November 7-9, 2019 in Nashville, Tennessee, where you will have your choice of more than 300 sessions on 30 topics specifically focused on reaching 10- to 15-year-olds. #AMLE19 will bring you practical, innovative ideas you can use immediately in your school and classroom and connect you with other dedicated and passionate middle level educators to enhance your work with middle school students. Save \$50 with promo code A19SDAMLE More at www.amle.org/annual



MMSA 2019 Annual Conference

Join us on **December 5th and 6th** for the annual Minnesota Middle School Association Conference. We are excited to have **Rick Wormeli** as this year's keynote.

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



Nebraska Middle Level Education Association

National Keynote Speaker Jack Berckemeyer

Featuring:

"Managing the Madness"

"35 Things That Make a Great Classroom"

"Optimism and Opportunity"

and

Breakout Sessions with Leading Nebraska Educators

Along with: Curriculum Roundtable and Big Fish Contest!

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



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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 educators in South Dakota.



Tweets by @EdSDAMLE



SDAMLE
@EdSDAMLE

Thank you for being a part of #sdedchat! So grateful for each and every one of you.



Mar 12, 2019



SDAMLE
@EdSDAMLE

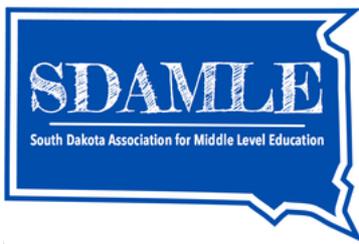


2018 - 2019 SDAMLE Board

MIDDLE SCHOOL



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



SDAMLE

 Facebook  @EdSDAMLE

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