

SDAMLEmail

DECEMBER 2021

South Dakota Association for Middle Level Education

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN! SDAMLE GRANTS & AWARDS '22

SDAMLE Sponsors four grants & awards (described individually below).

"This We Believe" Award

Innovation Grant

Emerging MS Educator Scholarship

Outstanding Middle Level Educator (OMLE)

"THIS WE BELIEVE" AWARD - \$500

SDAMLE is committed to recognizing fellow educators who are outstanding leaders dedicated to improving the middle school experience and focused on implementing the "This We Believe" middle school philosophy.

This year SDAMLE will be presenting (1) \$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.

This nomination can be submitted by an individual teacher to recognize her/his own work or by a colleague wishing to recognize his/her peer(s). [CLICK HERE for the APPLICATION.](#)

These applications are due by Friday, February 11th 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 session and join together in recognizing exceptional educators during this awards ceremony.

For more information regarding "This We Believe" please access http://www.amle.org/portals/0/pdf/twb/TWB_StudyGuide_Aug2013.pdf.

SDAMLE INNOVATION GRANT - \$500

As an organization, we are committed to recognizing teachers for being outstanding leaders who are committed to finding innovative ways to enhance the educational experience for students in their classrooms.

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 2022-2023 school year.

This nomination can be submitted by an individual teacher to recognize their own work or by a colleague wishing to recognize his/her peer(s). [CLICK here for the APPLICATION.](#)

These applications are due by Friday, February 11th.

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.

Emerging MS Educator Scholarship - \$250

These scholarships show SDAMLE's commitment to helping undergraduate students achieve their goals of becoming a teacher and outstanding leaders.

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 2022-2023 school year.

Applicants must submit an application - [CLICK here to access the APPLICATION.](#)

These applications are due by Friday, February 11th. 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.

PRINCIPALS: Nominate an Outstanding Middle Level Educator (OMLE)

Thank you for taking the time to submit a nomination for an exceptional teachers for the SDAMLE OMLE. As an organization, we are committed to recognizing teachers who are committed to middle-level learners.

[CLICK here to NOMINATE.](#)

These nominations are due by Friday, February 11th. 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.



SAVE THE DATE: SDAMLE's Annual EdCamp March 5, 2022

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. Watch for registration details in the upcoming SDAMLEmail.

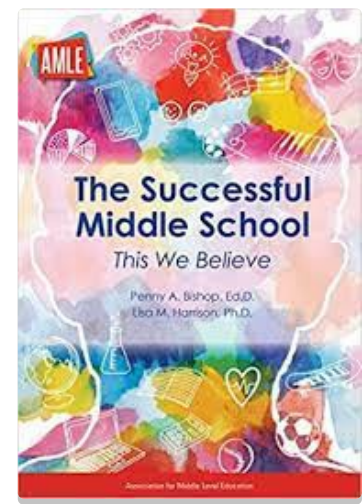
Book Study Upcoming!

February 1st - April 15th SDAMLE will be offering a book study on the newly released *Successful Middle School: This We Believe*.

DESCRIPTION: For educators committed to success for every student, this updated edition of AMLE's position paper offers a set of attributes and characteristics that define successful middle schools. Rooted in research cited throughout the book, you will find a framework for creating the learning environments and opportunities that all young adolescents deserve. When its concepts are embraced, students are prepared for success in school and career. Successful middle schools exhibit 18 characteristics to support an education for young adolescents that is responsive, challenging, empowering, equitable, and engaging. The fifth edition of *This We Believe* provides a narrative of

beliefs and practices today as well as the challenges schools will face in the coming years. A study of this book will frame a common understanding of the middle school concept and build a foundation for an honest evaluation of current middle grades practices in your school. It also will generate rich conversations around current challenges that will serve as a basis for targeted professional learning to meet those challenges.

Graduate credit through the University of Sioux Falls will be offered, as well as CEUs. The book study will run approximately eight weeks from the beginning of February to the middle of April. The book study will be asynchronous, but paced each week with discussion posts on Google Classroom and an action paper being the primary assignments.

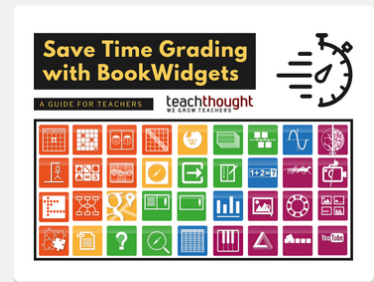
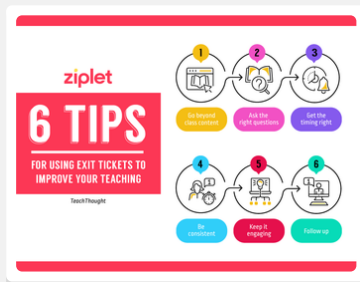


[SIGN UP HERE.](#)



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: BETTER ASSESSMENT

There are many great assessment tools & ideas online. [TeachThought has this collection that may give you some new ideas in 2022!](#)



IN OUR SCHOOL: ARTIST DICK TERMS



Above: A distributive view of the Tetra sculpture by BFMS students. Photos by D. Termes

Belle Fourche Middle School has partnered with internationally-acclaimed artist, Dick Termes of Spearfish, to bring art and mathematics workshops to their 7th grade students for many years. His workshops in 2021 resulted in a sculpture composed by students under the direction of Mr. Termes. The photos show the final stages of students adding color to the combined art of 40+ students in the Tetra Art piece to be displayed in the entrance of the school.

For more information about Dick Termes and his Termosphere art, [click here to check out his website.](#)



Dick Termes with 7th grade students during the coloring phase of the Tetra Art piece.



The large sculpture allowed many students to work together...



... and create a masterpiece.





10 Take-Aways From #AMLE21

What a fantastic weekend of inspiration, idea sharing, and connecting at #AMLE21!



Since not all of our members were able to join us online this weekend, we've collected some top insights from our 48th Annual Conference for Middle Level Education. Feeling #AMLE21 FOMO? You can still participate by registering for #AMLE21 On Demand with access to the conference platform and recorded sessions through December 17th. Learn more about #AMLE21 On Demand.

There were big announcements, like the kick off of the Solve Together 2.0 student contest and the launch of the Career Exploration in the Middle Grades Playbook Challenge. There was recognition of wonderful educators working tirelessly to advocate for the middle grades, like Linda Hopping, Nikki Woodson, and Lisa Harrison. And there was the shared collegiality of together figuring out how we can reach every student and create great schools.

1. Amid an increase in highly-scripted curriculum and programs, Rick Wormeli reminded us of the **power of a teacher as an instructional professional**. “It’s pompous and reckless for districts to demand educators follow a purchased curriculum with no ability to deviate. The word fidelity is an insult to teachers, who are hired for their wisdom and creativity, not to read scripts.” Rick also provided great strategies for responding to a student’s, “I don’t know.” Instead try, “If you DID know, what would you say?”
2. Jack Berkemeyer reminded us that **the cornerstone of the middle school model is good teaming** and provided excellent tips to help teams to help increase student engagement, improve relationships, and increase teacher.
3. Laurie Barron and Patti Kinney emphasized that **belonging is at the heart of classroom management**. Need a great idea to promote positive relationships with students’ families? In each staff meeting, get two post cards to send home to connect with students and their families.
4. Our students are struggling socially and emotionally amid another challenging school year. Kim Campbell reminded us that **the characteristics of trauma can mimic those of ADHD** and to be aware of the potential for misdiagnosis.
5. Dr. Ghody Muhammad delivered an impactful keynote address on providing culturally and historically responsive education. She reminded us of the importance of the words. The next time a student walks in late, instead of admonishing, try instead, “Now that you are here, we are more complete.
6. Phyllis Fagell reminded us that our young adolescent students are resilient, and how to foster that resiliency.
7. Shelli Casler-Failing and Taylor Norman helped us **examine the value of productive struggle**. “Let students use each other as a support system rather than just giving them the answers,” they explain. Giving answers promotes learned helplessness, while not giving answers can build students into problem solvers.
8. Dynamic duo Amber Benson and Ruby Voss outlined their **strategy for effective co-teaching**. Themes of communication, data review, and student-centeredness emerged.
9. Our amazing student participants, from keynote panelists to our Great Middle School Student Voice Off Contest finalists, **reminded us of the power of the student voice** and what tremendous things can happen when we give them meaningful opportunities to share their own visions for their educations and their futures. As Voice Off finalist Riley Sipe put it, “No matter what language you speak, the middle school years are the ideal time to set students on the path to being good leaders.”
10. A common theme of relationships emerged – not just between educator and student but between educators themselves as well. Relationships were at the heart of every topic. We heard about the role of relationship in culture, discipline, engagement, instruction, and staff development. Most importantly, we learned from all our presenters, sponsors, and thousands of participants, the value of each other and **finding out we never have to go it alone**.



South Dakota Association for Middle Level Educators



SDAMLE

f 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.

✉ sdamlemail@gmail.com

☎ (605) 773-7330

🌐 sdamle.weebly.com

SDAMLE BOARD MEMBERS 2021-22

SDAMLE is a group of educators who love everything about middle school students (even on full moons!). Our purpose is to make connections between educators across the state, provide professional development and support, and understand the needs of our middle school educators. The SDAMLE board is more than willing to work on the needs presented to us so please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the board members for 2021-2022.

Kyley Cumbow GMMS/Pierre MS principal

Lisa Kissner Huron MS teacher

Reva Potter Belle Fourche MS teacher

Todd Brist Watertown MS principal

Tara Johanneson College (USF) representative

Cotton Koch Madison MS principal

Madeline Goinser Aberdeen MS teacher

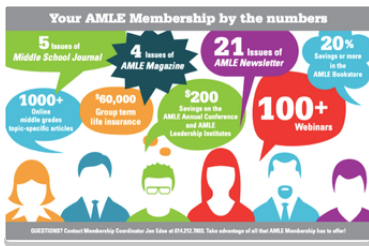
Mikaela O'Bryan Bennett County MS principal

Adriann Frankenhoff Aberdeen MS teacher

Kris Evje Milbank MS principal

Kendra Becker Redfield MS principal





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/>