



Tech Corner
Going Mobile Or
Not
Page 4

**32nd Annual
Conference**
April 4 & 5, 2013
Page 8

**Conference
Reflections**
Page 4



Editor's Message
Linda Bourne
Welcome to Winter!
Page 2

Winter 2013
Volume 3 • Number 1
New England League of Middle Schools

MidLines

Providing Educators With Deeper Understanding & Strategies For Prevention Of Bullying

Sue Gee, VAMLE Executive Director

VAMLE sponsored a showing of the movie, *Bully*, at the Randolph Theater in June of 2012, for participants in The Middle Grades Institute (MGI), which was held at Vermont Technical College. 122 teachers, administrators, and Gear Up students viewed the film and joined in discussions in the evening.

This film, co-sponsored by The Middle Grades Collaborative, was the kick-off for a year-long study VAMLE will lead, of the causes and prevention of bullying among middle school students.

Lindsey Halman, Phil Young, and Elizabeth Ploof, teachers at The Edge Academy at Essex Middle School, used the curriculum prepared by Facing History Facing Ourselves in collaboration with Lee Hirsch, the director of *Bully*, to explore various strategies for creating awareness and empathy among middle school students. Included in this unit of instruction on social justice was ongoing work with Flynn teaching artist, Kim Jordan, who specializes in using theater as a tool for empowerment, conflict transformation, social justice education and social change. To

download a free PDF of the curriculum, go to www.facinghistoryfacingourselves.org/safeschools.

Meg O'Donnell, teacher in the Alpha Team, at Shelburne Community School, engaged student leaders in creating a "flash mob" presentation in the cafeteria as part of that school's participation in "The Million T-Shirt March Against Bullying" in May. This national movement, sponsored

VAMLE will be actively promoting Vermont schools' participation in the May 2, 2013 Million T-Shirt March.

Plans are underway by VAMLE and The Middle Grades Collaborative, with partners NELMS and Ben and Jerry's Foundation, to present a one-day workshop on March 29, 2013 at UVM Waterman Lounge. **Stand Up! Speak Up! Authentic Ways to End Bullying and Change School Culture** will feature

A growing body of research suggests that bullying raises a teen's likelihood for depression, anxiety, suicidal tendencies, and in rare cases, violent acts.

by AMLE and Olweus, encourages schools and communities to create awareness and raise funds for projects to combat bullying. T-Shirts stating "It's Time to End Bullying" are worn on one day by all involved, creating the "world's largest anti-bullying rally." www.themilliontshirtmarch.org

John Halligan, the parent of an Essex Junction Middle School student who committed suicide in 2003 as a result of bullying. Mr. Halligan is a nationally-known speaker who was a major contributor to the legislation on bullying in Vermont. Other presenters include; Doug Wilhelm, Vermont author, will present how

Continued on page 8

News from Twitter

The Sunk-Cost Effect on Standardized Testing

Standardized testing, in my view, is a perfect example. The cost of tests, testing services and test-prep materials is estimated to be more

than \$2.3 billion a year and rapidly growing, according to Eduventures Inc. But we refuse to admit that the evidence does not support our fanatical commitment to these tests. bit.ly/11ejEL2

Do's and Don'ts for Better Project-Based Learning

The new standards call on students to—among other things—think critically, read carefully, apply math to analyze and solve real-world

problems, make well-founded arguments, and use technology to communicate effectively. It's a tall order, but these are typical outcomes of well-designed project experiences that put inquiry at the center. <http://ow.ly/heMpm>



120 Water Street – Suite 403
 North Andover, MA 01845
 P: (978) 557-9311
 F: (978) 557-9312
www.nelms.org

The NELMS Mission: The New England League of Middle Schools through its vision, leadership, and programs provides a network of services for learning about and implementing developmentally appropriate practices for young adolescents that will serve them in their ever changing world.

Mid Lines is a thrice yearly newspaper distributed to its membership and published by the New England League of Middle Schools, Inc., a non-profit organization for professional educators.

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Mid Lines welcomes your thoughts and suggestions as well as your editorial comments. Please send them to Mid Lines, c/o NELMS, 120 Water St., Suite 403, North Andover, MA 01845

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The editors reserve the right to omit articles, activities or advertising not in keeping with NELMS philosophy.

The New England League of Middle Schools takes no financial responsibility for misprints or errors, but will reprint corrections in a later issue, if given notice two months prior to publication.

Call 978-557-9311 for further information. Editorial issues: call Brenda Needham, Executive Director.

NELMS OFFICE STAFF

Brenda L. Needham, Executive Director,
bneedham@nelms.org

Mary Jean Fawcett, Assistant Executive Director of Professional Services
mjfawcett@nelms.org

Karin Wilmarth, Events Coordinator,
kwilmarth@nelms.org

Stephen Nicholas,
 Graphic Designer/Web Developer,
snicholas@nelms.org

Donna Arnold, Business Practices Coordinator,
darnold@nelms.org

Bernice MacKenzie, Business Practices Team Associate,
bmackenzie@nelms.org

Suzanne Gallagher, Professional Services Team Assistant,
sgallagher@nelms.org

Linda Bourne, Mid Lines Editor,
lbourne@nelms.org

ADVERTISING IN MID LINES

Publications of the New England League of Middle Schools are read by thousands of middle level educators. We invite you to strive with NELMS to continuously refresh the learning experience for young adolescents. NELMS only advertises products and services which serve the professional and educational needs of our membership.

Mid Lines is e-published three times a year and circulated to 20,000 members. Contact NELMS for current advertisement rates.

Deadlines:

November 1 for Winter issue

March 1 for Spring issue

July 1 for Fall issue

View from the Chair



Greetings and Happy New Year!

As we begin another calendar year our thoughts naturally turn to those resolutions for self-improvement. In addition to caring for physical and emotional well being, consider a resolution for professional improvement in the coming days. We are entrusted with the educational preparation of young learners and it is hard work that requires focus, diligence, and commitment. While we all approach this task with a sense of fidelity, it is a task that can require support.

As advocates for young adolescents, I encourage you to tap the resources NELMS has available to support the work you do. This support can be off site at one of our workshops or institutes or it can be brought to your door tailored to your specific needs. If a complete inventory of your school's strengths and weaknesses is in order, we can offer the opportunity for a whole school assessment. Though just a few weeks into our New England winter, we are busy with preparations for our capstone

Editor's Desk



Welcome to winter. Here in VT we are experiencing a genuine old-fashioned cold and snowy one. Most of us rejoice in this season of white blanketing the otherwise brown landscape, the

red noses and tingling toes. The crunch of crisp snow underfoot will soon be replaced by the ooze of brown mud and the smell of spring. But, until then we relish what we have and connect our childhood winter experiences with our children and grandchildren with sledding parties, downhill runs, snowshoe treks, snowman building, all followed of course with a warm cup of hot chocolate. The equipment used today far exceeds the early day models. All go faster, are lighter in weight, and incorporate the expanded knowledge of physics and engineering. Clothing also is less bulky, warmer, and doesn't itch.

We've included in this issue some new ideas about some old experiences. Bullying was not an issue when I was a child but now our enhanced experience with the results has led us to know that the old must be replaced with new ideas and techniques. Congratulations to

event, the NELMS Annual Conference in Providence Rhode Island, April 4-5, 2013. This conference is replete with concurrent sessions and half-day workshops led by middle level practitioners who walk in your shoes every day. If you yearn to listen and reflect with a national education expert then come be part of Carol Ann Tomlinson's audience. If you are looking for positive inspiration then Tom Burton has what you need. We are proud to have these professionals as our Keynote speakers and invite you to take advantage of what they offer. Additional information about our Annual Conference can be found on our website at www.nelms.org. Come join us in Providence. You will not be disappointed!

I wish you many gratifying days surrounded by the young adolescents with whom we love to work. When we pause to appreciate the goodness of the work we do in our classrooms each day, may we all continue to honor the victims of Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, CT by continuing this good work in their memory and on their behalf.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hill, Board Chair

the NELMS affiliate in VT for tackling this issue in a broad and comprehensive up-to-date manner. Their article invites you to investigate your own opportunities for improving a safe and healthy school experience for your students.

Soon, when the mud begins forming here, Rhode Island will be beckoning educators to welcome spring with the NELMS Annual Conference. Each year, many educators attend and some use the conference as an opportunity to gain additional professional development credit. Meaghan Koelker is one of these educators and she shares some of her experiences. We hope that her submissions will inspire you to attend this worthy event and gain some new and improved perspectives for your own practice.

Being a middle level educator requires that we constantly review the old practices and beliefs and expand their potential with the latest research and techniques assuring that our middle level kids can go faster, stay safe and warm, and fully enjoy this important life experience.

Feedback to:

Linda – eduhelp@myfairpoint.net

Steve – snicholas@nelms.org

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NELMS *News from Brenda*



Since last fall when Midlines was published NELMS has been incredibly busy, active, and engaged with middle level educators. I am particularly thankful for our “working” board that is made up of amazing educators.

Along with MJ Fawcett and me the board recently had a fun brainstorming session to design and develop the 32nd Annual Conference program and brochure. Their thoughts and ideas resulted in a program that meets the contemporary challenges facing educators and one that will engage, energize, and motivate a continuation of learning. Our board has also been directly engaged in reaching out to both our member and non-member schools. I am thankful for the ongoing support that they give to the NELMS organization.

We have had some outstanding professional development events. With the support of Earle Bidwell, a one-day session, Preparing Middle Level Educators Demands of Common Core State Standards, was held at the CT Association of Schools headquarters. Well informed, quality presenters included representatives from the CT Department of Education. The day was filled with information and strategies. Again this fall we were able to engage Rick Wormeli for a two-day event. As usual this was a hit with lots to learn and share. Also, as we traditionally have done, we offered two days related to literacy. Our outstanding partnership with Keys to Literacy makes this possible. We are always thankful for the depth of knowledge, the specific strategies, and the excitement about literacy that they bring to us. In addition to these examples of our work

we of course continue to provide support to schools in a variety of ways including school assessment, program consultation, and individualized technical assistance.

As we look to the spring our big event is the NELMS Annual Conference April 4 and 5. We hope to see you there. It is a great event, lots of fun, invigorating, opportunities for collaboration, and extensive learning occurs. We are fortunate to have Carol Tomlinson and Tom Burton as keynote speakers and the associated presenters are providing some wonderful choices. Prior to this we are hosting a math related event in MA and a technology event in NH. We are also in the midst of planning the scholar leader dinners and are firming up the content for Summer NELMS. Always something to do!

NELMS continues to be committed to offering professional development that is designed to meet and support the needs of middle level educators. We are proud to be part of the work that middle level educators are doing to promote student success. We look forward to continuing to be seen as a leader in promoting effective middle level education. At times, it seems that the “middle” may be lost in the myriad of common core, regulations, certification, restructuring, and just the challenges of the day so our connection and collaboration as middle level educators seems more important than ever. I appreciate that together we are keeping the “middle” alive and well.

See you at the NELMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE April 4 and 5 in Providence!!!

Watch our website for other events too.
www.nelms.org.

*Brenda Needham is the NELMS executive director
& the superintendent of the Rivendell Interstate
School District.*

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Tech Corner Going Mobile or Not

The first computers filled entire rooms in university research facilities and it is rumored that the lights would dim for clocks around when the machines were powered on. By the 1970's, consumers could buy computers that fit on the tops of desks; in the early 1990's laptops were common, and in the 2000's handheld computers and smartphones became ubiquitous. Educators followed a similar timeline, but lagged behind consumers by a few years.

As computers went from specialized rooms, on to our desktops, and then into our pockets, a number of changes occurred in how we use technology. Computers went from tools used by highly-trained technicians to tools used by "computer geeks," to tools used by everybody. Computers also changed from being tools used to manage information to tools used to consumer media and interact.

The computers in classrooms have changed as well. Consider the changes a teacher who has been around for a few years has probably experienced:

- She was probably trained in "the one computer classroom," and developed lessons in which the computer was used for presentation or for use by small groups, and they enhanced the lesson.
- She probably scheduled a computer room and walked her students to a single room with dozens of computers. She scheduled the room well in advance of when she needed it, and when her students were there, others could not use it.
- At some point, she began to have the choice of using laptops with her students; the computers came to the users.

Today, she is probably being encouraged to develop lessons in which students use their cell phones to respond to discussions or polls, and she probably has tablets to use with her students.

While the handhelds we carry today are very powerful computers, my iPhone for example has about the same amount of memory as the laptop that I bought

Continued on page 5

2012 NELMS Annual Conference Reflection

by Maegan Koelker

As I reflect on my first time at the NELMS Annual Conference, I am struck with a few resounding thoughts. First of all, it was such a great experience to be surrounded by middle level educators from across New England who are so dedicated to this profession. I know that the teachers in my school are dedicated, but it's so refreshing to be around other people who know what it's like to be "the middle child" in education! Secondly, I was so grateful to bring new ideas back to my building. I learned so many new things it's hard to even think of how I'll reflect on them all, share them all, and implement them all! Lastly, and I think most importantly, I had the chance to realize that my school, Timberlane Regional Middle School (a 2012 NELMS Spotlight

School) is doing some awesome things.

Along with many workshops with practitioners I attended a workshop, Living

It, Loving It, Laughing About It, presented by Keynote speaker, Jack Berckemeyer. This was the first chance I've had to see Mr. Berckemeyer personally, but many of my colleagues have seen him before and they rave about him. Jack did just that for me. I found myself nodding long with ALL that he was saying, laughing so hard I was crying at times, and repeatedly thinking how much he "got it" when it came to understanding middle school

My principal told me before I left, "I always know who goes to NELMS and sees Jack—those teachers always come back with a little pep in their step to carry them through to April vacation."

students. He said that if he were the Ruler of Education, he would have four edicts: 1- PE/Health teachers get to retire 5 years before

Continued on following page

Teacher Tips!

To work with teenagers every day, we need to be a little wacky, a lot flexible, and be willing to laugh our way through lots of situations!

"Ask 3 Before Me" is when students must ask questions to 3 other students before approaching the teacher. I think this is a great procedure because as a middle school teacher, I repeat myself a lot.

Maegan Koelker teaches at Timberlane Regional Middle School in Plaistow, New Hampshire



Common Core...continued from previous page

any other subject-area teacher, 2-Band/Choir teachers should be allowed liquor at any time (especially during middle school tune up), 3-Middle School tic is great for attention, and



4-No more 'crappy' PD for teachers.

Through Jack's humor, he did a really great job sharing some great take-away ideas. He reminded us that if you want to teach at the middle level that you must be 100% committed and invested (or the kids will weed you out). I bet that none of us ever expected to have to be up to date with our knowledge of fads, fashion, trends, and language...who needs the PRAXIS when you have all of this to keep up with?! Jack also reminded us that we are adult advocates for our students and we may very well be the most stable person in a student's

life. It's the least we can do to make sure we are there for our students and advocating for them all day every day. He reminded us that all students and teachers are part of a symphony and that there are no "most important" parts.

The things that stuck with me the most during this keynote were that we need to preach about professionalism (and that every teacher needs to say hi to 12 year old students no matter what). Also, that we need to continue to think differently about how we deal with kids in the classroom. "Shhh!" is not a form of effective classroom management, but what may work is talking to the whiteboard (to get students' attention) and yelling at a student who's not in the classroom (if cooperative groups aren't working). He reminded us that there's nothing wrong with looking emotionally unstable in front of middle school kids.

Overall, I really (really!) enjoyed the session with Mr. Berckemeyer. Not only did he remind me why I love teaching middle school (6th graders flocking like pigeons and 7th grade teachers repeating (repeating) themselves constantly) but he did give me a little pep in my step that I brought back to school...along with a big smile as a reminder of his excellent presentation.

Some of the sessions I attended at the conference reinforced many things that I, and the entire staff at my school, have been doing for years. That feels really great, knowing that we truly are doing what's right for our middle school students.

*Maegan Koelkert teaches at
Timberlane Regional Middle School in
Plaistow, New Hampshire*

Tech Corner...continued from page 4

in 1998 and cost about 20% the price of that laptop, they have only a fraction of the computing power of a laptop or desktop. Also, many of the apps that I use on my phone are limited compared to the applications I have installed on my laptop.

My computing work is now divided in a way that it never was previously. Most of my computing occurs on my phone, but it is limited. I interact via email and twitter; I keep up with TED talks, and a few other sources of ideas, I do simple searches and I use WolframAlpha, and I keep an eye on the virtual classrooms I manage. My phone is the tool of choice when I am consuming information. When I create or analyze information, however, I go to a laptop or desktop. The input devices are easier to use, the processors and networks function faster, and the output is far more pleasing to consume.

It appears I am not the only person who has adopted this type of computing habit. A recent study by California State University San Marcos found that the most popular technology tools in the libraries were desktop computers. Their patrons were heavy users of mobile devices, but they also sought out the powerful machines in the library for many tasks. In addition, those students who arrived at the library to use the desktops available there were more likely to use the physical collection and to use other library services.

The lesson for middle school educators is clear: Our students need diverse computing environments and diverse information tasks. Our curriculum should be amenable to ubiquitous handheld devices, but it should also require frequent use of the computing only available on a full computer.

You can read the full report of the San Marcos research project here: <http://ejournals.bc.edu/ojs/index.php/ital/article/view/2284/pdf> or use this QR code



Dr. Gary Ackerman has taught middle school science and math and computers for more than 20 years in Vermont schools.

*Read Gary's blog:
<http://nelmstech.blogspot.com/>*

NHAMLE Annual Education Summit! Connecting with Technology

March 8, 2013

**Plymouth State University, Concord Campus
2 Pillsbury Street, Concord NH, 5th Floor**

[Click here for more info](#)

A Message From Walden University

Now is the perfect time to take your career to the next level, thanks to a New partnership between NELMS and **Walden University**. As a NELMS member, you can earn a degree online from Walden at a 10% tuition reduction.†

The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership at Walden University which was identified by U.S. News & World Report as having the largest online graduate program in education by enrollment (May 2010), is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), a recognized standard of excellence in professional education for the preparation of teachers, administrators, and other preK-12 school professionals. Dedicated to enhancing educator effectiveness, the college is the choice of more than 52,000 student and alumni, including more than 70 state teachers of the year, and is proud to have awarded the fourth most TEACH Grants to students nationwide in 2010-2011, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Our online degree programs are designed to provide the skills you need to grow as a professional and the credentials you'll want to make a positive change in the lives of others. Many of our students and graduates apply their Walden knowledge to find creative and innovative solutions to challenges facing their industries and the greater community.

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- Apply what you learn immediately to your own workplace.
- Share ideas, discuss concepts and challenges, and network with faculty and fellow students alike.
- Develop critical-thinking and communication skills required to be an effective leader.
- Learn current best practices from expert faculty and, for some programs, contributing scholars via DVDs and videos.
- Reflect on what you've learned and adapt strategies and skills to meet your specific needs and challenges.

To learn more about Walden's degree programs or to schedule an onsite visit to your school or district, please contact Kim LaMontagne, New England Field Representative at 603-479-2415 or Kimberly.lamontagne@waldenu.edu

†Only one tuition-reduction benefit may be applied to tuition.

Walden University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association, www.ncahlc.org.

Prevention of Bullying... Continued from page 1
literature can be used to raise awareness; Kim Jordan, Theater-in-Action, will present the use of drama in the classroom to address bullying issues, and Tracey Tsugawa of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, will present the legal aspects of the bullying law. The conference will conclude with a panel presentation by students from Vergennes Middle School, who have been engaging peer leaders in changing the culture of their school. Registration materials are available at www.vamle.org Space is limited, so please register early!

A growing body of research suggests that bullying raises a teen's likelihood for depression, anxiety, suicidal tendencies, and in rare cases, violent acts. Psychologists have found that relentless teasing that occurs over years can cause children to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder that lingers well into adulthood, with detrimental effects for learning and healthy relationships.

As the primary advocacy organization for middle school-age student in Vermont, VAMLE is committed to providing educators with deeper understanding and strategies for prevention of bullying.

Sue Gee is currently the executive director of VAMLE, the VT Association for Middle Level Education.



Kids can make **big** changes in people's lives through small acts of kindness. Help a neighbor, pick up trash, or thank your mailman! Use your imagination!

We'd love your help (and your friends too)! Please contact us at info@thelittlestchange.com to receive your cards to use as your complete random acts of kindness. Then take a photo and send it back to us. You can make a difference!! www.thelittlestchange.com

Support your state organization!

These organizations are great resources for support, information about local events and issues, and advocacy opportunities.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middle Level Educators

www.commlle.org/

RI Middle Level Educators

www.rimle.org

VT Association for Middle Level Education

www.vamle.org

Connecticut Association of Schools

www.casciac.org

Maine Association for Middle Level Education

www.mamleonline.org

New Hampshire Association for Middle

Level Education

<http://www.nhamle.org/>



New Offering at the Annual Conference

On Thursday April 4th, following the keynote address by Tom Burton NELMS will be offering a full day session titled Student Success Plans + “Cutting Edge” “New” Advisory = Student Success. This session is designed for school teams who wish to learn more about individualized student plans, the effective use of contemporary advisory initiatives, and strategies for student success.

Student Success Plans “Cutting Edge” “New” Advisory = Student Success as described by Earle Bidwell, Assistant Executive Director for Middle level Programs and Services, CT Association of Schools



Student Success Plans + “Cutting Edge” “New” Advisory = Student Success

A new all day event at the Annual Conference

In 1996, the National Association for Secondary School Principals published their seminal work, *Breaking Ranks*, followed by *“Breaking Ranks in the Middle”* in 2007 which called for a restructuring of the American secondary schools . “The [secondary] school of the 21st century must be much more student-centered and above all much more personalized in programs, support services, and intellectual rigor.” These works gained prominence in response to two key developments:

- 1) calls for middle and high schools to become more personalized and student-centered in order to improve academic achievement, student engagement, and healthy youth development, particularly for students at risk of dropping out; and
- 2) the need to ensure that all students have access to an educational experience that builds the necessary academic, workforce and personal skills required for postsecondary success.



As a result of the “call for action” relative to personalization, 23 states and the District of Columbia adopted legislation or statewide mandates relative to learning plans for secondary students and there is legislation pending in three others.



In response to this call to action, NELMS is offering a unique opportunity for your school to create effective Individualized Learning Plans for your students through a one-day workshop and optional embedded professional development throughout the year in your school. Because effective SLP implementation requires collaboration among administrators, counselors and teachers, planning teams should include representation from each group.



The workshop is designed to inform school teams of the growing body of evidence that personalization works, and to share tried and true plans. This session, which begins at 9:30 and ends at 3:30, will inform schools about strategies to connect personalization/advisory to SLPs, feature exemplars and templates, and provide guided practice for teams in creating and/or developing their school plans. The lead presenter is a certified trainer in *“Breaking Ranks in the Middle”* and an expert in creating and sustaining advisory programs. He will be aided by experienced NELMS trainers who will provide individualized support to teams as they develop their plans. They will also be available for follow-up consultation at your school site.





New England League
of Middle Schools

NELMS 32nd Annual Conference & Exhibits
April 4 & 5, 2013
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, RI

Meeting the Multifaceted Needs of the Middle Level Learner

STUDENT SUCCESS



COLLABORATION
CURRICULUM
CUTTING EDGE

New Offering For This Year! Full Day Session (Thursday)

Student Success Plans + “Cutting Edge”, “New” Advisory = Student Success

Attend with a school team to learn about individualized student plans, the effective use of contemporary advisory initiatives, and strategies for student success. The afternoon will be organized around the collaborative development of your own action plan. Leave with specific ideas and implementation strategies.

Collaboration Sessions

Meet with colleagues at this facilitated session to share, discuss, brainstorm strategies, successes, and ideas to support the implementation of Common Core Standards in your content area.

Attendees will participate in sessions identified by areas of:

- ❖ Math
- ❖ Science
- ❖ Fine Arts
- ❖ Health/Physical Education
- ❖ Special Education
- ❖ World Languages
- ❖ ELA/ELL
- ❖ Social Studies
- ❖ Administration
- ❖ Guidance
- ❖ Technology/Media

Featured Topics—Half Day Sessions

Developing an Effective Advisory Program for Today's Middle-Level Students: Personalizing the Learning Environment for Student Success
Dr. John Niska, Associate Professor, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

Data Practices for Improving Student Achievement: Developing School-wide Data Teams
Dr. Linda Carrier, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Monson Public Schools, Monson, MA

How Can We Use Strategies and Assessments to Prepare for the Transition to Common Core State Standards?
Deb Scarpelli, RIMLE President, Samuel Slater Junior High School, Pawtucket, RI

Two Teachers in the Room
Laurie Wasserman, Learning Disabilities/National Board Certified Teacher, Andrews Middle School, Medford, MA

Digital Tools for Project Based Learning
Jill Spencer, National Consultant, Workshop Leader, Facilitator and Coach, Lisbon Falls, ME

Developing Student Leaders One Day at a Time
Tom Burton, Director of Administrative Services, Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio

The Key Vocabulary Routine: Teaching Content-Area Vocabulary
Elissa Arndt Rader, Ph.D., Keys to Literacy

The Key Writing Routine: Writing to Learn in the Content Areas
Elissa Arndt Rader, Ph.D., Keys to Literacy

Courageous Leadership in the Middle
Lyn Ward Healy, Director of Professional Learning, Epping School District, Epping, NH

Exploring and Applying Web 2.0 Tools and Resources in the Middle
Chris Toy, Educator, Facilitator, Consultant, Apple Professional Development Specialist Senior Partner Learning Capacity Unlimited

Beginning RTI: Strategies and Tips for First Year Implementation
Kate Segal, Vice Principal and Jen Haight, Teacher, Somersworth Middle School, Somersworth, NH

Please note: This is not a complete list of Featured Topics. Please go to nelms.org for more topics, full descriptions of the sessions, and the time and date of the sessions.

Professional Development & Lunch Too!

\$40 each
(tickets need to be purchased in advance)

Thursday

Tom Burton “It’s More Than A Name”

Learn about middle level philosophy and the essential components of middle level education as it relates to the 2013 environment and challenges of the future.

Friday

Carol Ann Tomlinson “Listen To What The Students Say”

Consider ways to respect students, truly listen and “hear” students, give positive feedback, and use words and actions to diffuse difficult situations. Learn from Carol Ann Tomlinson’s wealth of knowledge and experience working with teachers, administrators, and schools throughout the world.

Enjoy The Keynotes

Thursday

Tom Burton “Magic, Motivation & Our ‘Sparkling’ Middle Level Students”

This keynote will explore characteristics of great teachers and ways to make “it” happen every day. Be inspired and energized, leave motivated, renewed and ready to face the day to day educational challenges of the classroom.

Friday

Carol Ann Tomlinson “The Demographics, Research & Ethics Of Differentiation”

This keynote will examine the nature and needs of contemporary students as well as the ethics of teaching. Consider and reflect on what it means to teach a broad range of students in ethically defensible ways. Learn about the nature of students we teach, their needs and their prospects.

About the Keynote Presenters

Carol Ann Tomlinson is an award winning author, researcher, national speaker and Professor of Education at the University of Virginia.

Tom Burton is the Director of Administrative Services, Cuyahoga Heights Schools, Ohio, former middle school principal and President of Ohio Middle Level Assoc., and a published writer.

2013 Conference Schedule

Wednesday, April 3

5:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M.	Welcome/Recognition Reception at the Westin
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Thursday, April 4

7:15 A.M.–3:00 P.M.	Registration/Information
7:30 A.M.–3:30 P.M.	NELMS Bookstore
8:00 A.M.–9:15 A.M.	General Session and Keynote: Tom Burton
9:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.	Exhibit Hall
9:30 A.M.–12:15 P.M.	Featured Topics
9:30 A.M.–10:45 A.M.	Workshop Sessions I
9:30 A.M.–3:30 P.M.	Full Day Session
10:45 A.M.–11:15 A.M.	Special Exhibit Time
11:15 A.M.–12:30 P.M.	Workshop Sessions II
12:00 P.M.–1:15 P.M.	Keynote Luncheon: (extra charge) Tom Burton
12:15 P.M.–1:15 P.M.	Lunch & Visit Exhibits
1:15 P.M.–2:30 P.M.	Workshop Sessions III
2:45 P.M.–4:00 P.M.	Collaboration Sessions IV
4:15 P.M.–5:30 P.M.	State Receptions

Friday, April 5

7:15 A.M.–2:00 P.M.	Registration/Information
7:30 A.M.–2:00 P.M.	NELMS Bookstore
8:00 A.M.–9:15 A.M.	General Session and Keynote: Carol Ann Tomlinson
8:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.	Exhibit Hall
9:30 A.M.–12:15 P.M.	Featured Topics
9:30 A.M.–10:45 A.M.	Workshop Sessions V
10:45 A.M.–11:15 A.M.	Special Exhibit Time
11:15 A.M.–12:30 P.M.	Workshop Sessions VI
12:00 P.M.–1:15 P.M.	Keynote Luncheon: (extra charge) Carol Ann Tomlinson
12:15 P.M.–1:15 P.M.	Lunch & Visit Exhibits
1:15 P.M.–2:30 P.M.	Workshop Sessions VII
1:30 P.M.–3:00 P.M.	Tomlinson Sessions

NELMS reserves the right to make changes to this program as deemed necessary

Student Success How Do We Get There?

- ❖ Active, engaged learning
- ❖ Rigor, relevance, responsibility
- ❖ Leadership
- ❖ Effective instruction
- ❖ Assessment
- ❖ Communication & collaboration
- ❖ Personalization
- ❖ Advisory, Teams, PLC's
- ❖ Safe & healthy learning environments
- ❖ Integrated technology
- ❖ Lifelong learning

Who Makes It Happen? Who Should Attend?

- ❖ Content teachers
- ❖ Administrators
- ❖ Special Educators
- ❖ Guidance Counselors
- ❖ Related services

Remember you can receive GRADUATE CREDIT or CONTINUING EDUCATION credits for attending the conference. Please see www.nelms for more information and/or to register

If you are arriving on Wednesday why not plan on attending the Welcome Reception and Recognition Awards from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Westin. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

State Receptions will be at the Westin on Thursday, April 4 from 4:15 to 5:30 PM Sponsored by...



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Innovation Strategies

Middle Level Questions
Middle Level Answers

2 Luncheon Keynotes

	<i>Early Registration ends by 3/1/13</i>		<i>Standard/On Site Registration</i>	
	Day Rates	2-day rate	Day Rates	2-day rate
NELMS Member	\$149	\$265	\$179	\$325
Non-Member	\$179	\$325	\$209	\$385
Full Time Student/Retiree Member	\$50	N/A	\$75	N/A
Full Time Student/Retiree Non-Member	\$75	N/A	\$100	N/A

We Get The Middle!

School Success

School group rate (10 or more from same school) 20% discount

Policies & Procedures

For all registration policies and procedures or to download a registration form visit www.nelms.org or call 978-557-9311.

Meeting Space

All meetings will take place at the Rhode Island Convention Center and the Westin Hotel.

Housing Information

Housing information is available online at www.nelms.org

Bookstore Information

Open at 7:30 a.m. each day of the conference. Be sure to stop by for new books, professional information, special deals, and conference specials.

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