



45th Annual Middle Level Conference & Exhibits

March 19 & 20, 2026

Sheraton Springfield
Monarch Place,
Springfield, MA



**GROW LEAD
INSPIRE**

#NELMS26

1 - EcoOdyssey: An Interdisciplinary, Interstellar Adventure

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Charles (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Caroline Kepka and Anna Mallory, Rye Junior High School, Rye, NH

EcoOdyssey is a project requiring planning, designing, and building a self-sustaining biosphere, drawing investors, giving a presentation, and writing a 'Choose-Your-Own-Adventure' story set in the biosphere. 'Clients' invest in biospheres that are likely to succeed. Students demonstrate research skills and an understanding of the science content, creativity, and argumentative writing.

2 - Vibes Don't Lie: The Real Power of School Culture

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Highland (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Shyanne Allbee and Laurie Restelli, Haverhill Cooperative Middle School, North Haverhill, NH

Culture is everything! This interactive session will focus on practical strategies to build a positive, connected culture—starting with students and extending through every level of staff. Participants will explore real-life examples of culture-building in action, walk away with a toolkit of ready-to-use resources, and begin creating a customized "culture calendar."

3 - Building Relationships that WORK!

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Mahogany (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Vilenti Tulloch Sr, Academic Leadership Association, Springfield, MA, and Timothy Allen, New England League of Middle Schools,, Georgetown, MA

Building strong connections with at-risk students is essential and one of educators' greatest challenges. When relationships break down, students disengage and teachers experience stress and frustration. Good news: there are practical, research-based strategies that strengthen relationships and improve learning. This workshop explores four actionable steps to build trust, cultivate belonging, and better support vulnerable learners.

4 - Building a Successful Student-Led Conference Model

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Monarch (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Kristen Callahan, Daniel Hausermann, and Sarah Oelkers, Concord Middle School, Concord, MA

This session explores a middle school model where students lead parent-teacher conferences using a reflective portfolio to showcase learning, set goals, and take ownership of progress. Participants will learn structures and strategies that elevate student voice, strengthen family engagement, and deepen meaningful school-home partnerships.

5 - Pie the Principal, Pitch a Tent, Positive Peer Visit: How are You Adding Purposeful Positivity to Your School?

Thursday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Tyler Steffey, Clinton Middle School, Clinton, MA

In this principal-led workshop, school leaders explore how purposeful joy and positive feedback transform culture. Participants learn strategies like Positive Peer Visits, assemblies, and creative celebrations to boost engagement, morale, and well-being. Focus includes building teacher buy-in, celebrating strengths, and fostering recognition that uplifts staff, students, and overall school success.

6 - Mindset Matters from Surviving to Thriving

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Worthy (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

JoAnne Woods Young, JoAnne Woods Young, South Easton, MA

In this fun, interactive and uplifting session, educators learn simple, practical strategies to reduce stress, shift out of survival mode and strengthen resilience. Participants leave with easy, actionable tools to boost wellbeing, focus, and energy-making it easier to thrive in today's demanding educational environment while feeling inspired and empowered.

8 - Rediscovering Problems

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Longford (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Dr. Gary Ackerman, Greenfield Community College, Rutland, VT

In an age dominated by AI, and answers generated by it, problems can be an engaging part of any classroom. In this session, we consider some problems, place them in the context of instruction, and review the rationale for using them.

9 - Adventures in Competency-Based Education

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: C

Emily Case and Katie Guiel, Smith Academy, Hatfield, ME

Competency-based education allows students to start where they are and grow to their full potential. We are teachers with decades of experience implementing competency-based practices. We will share our challenges and triumphs and practical strategies for educators who are interested in this model, whether you are on a team or going it alone.

9 - AI as an Educator's Thought Assistant

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: King Edward East (3rd Floor)

Strand: F

Sue Fenn and Rebecca Magary, AI Navigator, LLC, Contoocook, NH

How can AI really support experienced educators? Let's leverage generative AI as a "thought assistant." We will share strategies to differentiate instruction, scaffold learning, and enhance creativity while ensuring educators remain in charge. We'll practice high quality prompt engineering to help you cultivate personalized, impactful learning experiences for every student.

10 - When Online Hate Hits the Classroom: Helping Students Break the Cycle of Harmful Media

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: King Edward West (3rd Floor)

Strand: D

Sebastian Ortega Gutierrez and Skylar Prinzhorn, Springfield College, Springfield, MA

Two Springfield College students pull back the curtain on the harmful digital world your students navigate daily. Through real examples and classroom-ready strategies, this session will equip educators to understand the depths of student-media engagement and to teach critical thinking skills, allowing for increased media-literacy inside and outside the classroom.

11 - Building Success Through Tiered Instruction: A Framework for Literacy and Learning

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: King George North (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Tracie Berry, HILL for Literacy, Beverly, MA

This session explores frameworks that ensure equitable, responsive, and tiered instruction for young adolescents as an essential component of effective middle level leadership. Leaders and learners will determine steps for strengthening Tier 1 instruction and reflect on leveraging program frameworks to meet diverse student needs and improve outcomes in literacy.

12 - Understanding a Neurodivergent Brain

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: King George South (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Megg Thompson, No Brain is the Same, Hampton, NH

When we give students the message that no brain is the same, we give students the tools to build empathy, compassion and understanding. We help kids participate, understand and accept instead of manipulate, judge and reject. Let's dig into neurodivergent brains together!

13 - Optimize Your Advisory

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

Strand: B

Lisa Howard, Lisa Howard & Associates, Great Barrington, MA

Optimize your advisory time with engaging, purposeful activities that build connection while also teaching valuable social and emotional lessons. Experience a variety of fun, inclusive activities that fit within an advisory format and connect with relevant curriculum themes such as collaboration, responsible decision-making and emotional intelligence.

14 - Ditch the Feedback: Coach Instead

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Waterford (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Andrew Olson, Ed.D., Stetson University, DeLand, FL

Leaders are told to “give feedback”—but what if that’s the wrong focus? In today’s complex schools, traditional feedback often fails to motivate or change behavior. This session introduces a powerful alternative: daily coaching. Discover how to coach good work, poor work, and even dead-end situations with practical tools you can use immediately.

15 - Be That Teacher - The One You Want Your Kid To Have!

Thursday, March 19, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Middlesex (4th Floor)

Strand: A

David M. Riordan, Hingham Middle School, Hingham, MA

3 Do's and Don'ts of getting our kids more connected to our schools and our classrooms! Teacher leaders have several things in common, things they do and believe. This session will explore some “Do’s and Don’ts” of how these teacher leaders get their kids to improve wellness and become more connected to school, their classroom, and their learning!

16 – Lesson Plan Speed Learning Sessions

Thursday, March 19, 2026
Room: Grand Ballroom

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

17 - Picture This: US History Through the Lens

Thursday, March 19, 2026
Room: Charles (2nd Floor)

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM
Strand: A

Brandie Burrows and Meghan Haugevik, Frank H. Harrison Middle School, Yarmouth, ME
Participants explore the use of primary source photographs to teach challenging U.S. history topics, asking: "How do photographs shape our understanding?" They'll examine whose stories are preserved, what these reveal about power hierarchies, and design a culminating project where students create their own documentary photographs for future historians.

18 - Using Choice Boards to Increase Engagement and Comprehension

Thursday, March 19, 2026
Room: Highland (2nd Floor)

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM
Strand: A

Andrea McKenzie, Sterling Community School, Sterling, CT
When you have 20 unique learners in your classroom, how can you engage them all? Learn how to create and implement choice boards to automatically differentiate material while increasing engagement and reading comprehension. You will see examples of choice boards as well as student work.

19 - Metaphors and Analogies in the Middle School: Power Tools for Instructional Design

Thursday, March 19, 2026
Room: Mahogany (2nd Floor)

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM
Strand: A

Rick Wormeli, , Herndon, VT
Metaphors are highly effective bridges between middle school students' developmental stages and course content, helping them recode new learning in terms of familiar reference points. Clarity and meaning-making are key to that instructional design, helping students move new learning into long-term memory. Join us for a practical session on powerful techniques for using metaphors in all subjects.

20 - HomeBASE: Building an Effective School-Wide Advisory Model

Thursday, March 19, 2026
Room: Monarch (2nd Floor)

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM
Strand: B

Justin Cameron, Jennifer Coty, Tara Fernandez-Davila, and Reiko Funaki, Concord Middle School, Concord, MA, MA

HomeBASE: Building an Effective School-Wide Advisory Model

In our 9th year of HomeBASE at the Ellen Garrison Building at Concord Middle School, this session highlights the strengths of our advisory program and shares best practices for building strong student relationships, consistent routines, and meaningful advisory experiences that promote belonging, well-being, and positive school culture.

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

21 - Lead Upstream, Inspire Wellness: Foundations and Practices of MHL in Middle Grades Classrooms

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Brooke Eisenbach, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA and, Annie Slease, MHLC - Mental Health Literacy Collaborative, Newark, DE

Young adolescents face growing mental health challenges, and schools need effective, sustainable ways to promote mental health literacy (MHL). Pro-active approaches can foster well-being and prevent crises before they begin. This session will introduce the four pillars of MHL and offer suggestions for infusing MHL into the middle grades classroom.

22 - Inspire, Engage, Connect, & Reflect: Experiential, Brain-Based Techniques to Integrate Community Building, Social and Emotional Learning, and Academics

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Worthy (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Jen Stanchfield, Experiential Tools, South Newfane, VT

Join this interactive session and fill your toolbox with brain-based techniques to cultivate engagement, belonging, and empower student voice and ownership of learning. Build a connected and supportive community. Integrate academics with social and emotional learning. Take away creative inspiration and practical methods to enhance involvement and retention in academics, advisory, and groupwork.

23 - Leading the Way: What Maine's LD 291 Can Teach New England About Indigenous Education

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: C

Heather O'Leary, Telstar Middle School, Andover, ME

As more states join Maine in bringing Native Studies into classrooms, this session guides educators through creating authentic land acknowledgments and integrating Indigenous perspectives respectfully. Participants will explore culturally responsive strategies, age-appropriate content, and ways to teach history through multiple perspectives and oral traditions.

24 - How to Teach Trauma Students from a Former Trauma Student...That Made It!

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Longford (2nd Floor)

Strand: D

Shyanne Allbee, Haverhill Cooperative Middle School, North Haverhill, NH

This training isn't coming from a professional manual. It's coming from real life; a kid who lived through chaos and things I never asked for—and still showed up at school like everything was fine. And now shows up everyday supporting the next generation and the adults that change their lives.

25 - Voice, Collaboration, and Deep Thinking: Elevating Socratic Seminars with Google Docs and Mote

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: King Edward East (3rd Floor)

Strand: F

Canissa Grant, Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, MA

Transform Socratic Seminars with collaborative Google Docs and the Mote extension. Teachers will learn to structure group discussions and use Mote's voice, text-to-speech, dictionary, and translation features to provide accessible scaffolding and deep engagement for middle school students, fostering critical thinking and inclusive participation.

26 - Empowering Student Citizen Scientists: Miniboat Program for Global Ocean Stewardship

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: King Edward West (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Stacy M. Lynch, Dudley Middle School, Dudley, MA

Come aboard and explore how twenty-five sixth-grade students spent three years steering the Anita Miniboat project, taking ownership of every phase—from design and construction to launch, data collection, and international collaboration—while intentionally involving elementary students in the design process. This project-centered experience fosters leadership, teamwork, scientific inquiry, ocean literacy, environmental stewardship, and global connections.

27 - Healthy Leadership: Prioritizing Administrator Well-being

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: King George North (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Eric Arabian, Athol Royalston Middle School, West Springfield, MA

Healthy leaders build healthy schools. This presentation empowers school administrators to prioritize their physical, mental, and relational well-being. Participants will explore common health challenges, learn practical movement and mindfulness strategies for the workday, and develop a personal wellness plan. These small, sustainable changes will support long-term personal and professional success.

28 - Highlighting the Blind Spots: Building Your Students' Ability To Ask Questions

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: King George South (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Christy Brodeur and Camille Oosterman, Project Adventure, Inc, Beverly, MA

Come explore the overlap between The Johari Window and the Experiential Learning Cycle by playing two activities and engaging in several guided discussions. Experience strategies to help your students identify their areas of weakness and gaps of knowledge by expanding their ability to analyze information.

29 - Social Emotional Learning in Action

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

Strand: B

Andrew Wood, The Browne Center for Innovative Learning, Durham, NH

Join The Browne Center for an hour of play and learning, as we walk through a series of intentionally-sequenced experiential SEL activities which you can transfer directly to your classroom. Inspired by our full-day professional development workshop, we hope this will put new tools in your toolbox (or refresh some old ones), and offer a chance to connect with other conference goers!

30 - Mindset, Teamwork, and Coaching: The New Playbook for Middle-Level Leaders

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Waterford (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Andrew Olson, Ed.D., Stetson University, DeBary, FL

Discover the three major evolutions reshaping school leadership—Mindset, Teamwork, and Coaching—and how “People First, Mission Always” transforms middle-level culture. This session equips leaders with practical strategies to boost engagement, develop collaborative teams, and apply coaching practices that elevate staff performance and student success.

31 - LGBTQ+ 101 - and Beyond: Lessons for Middle Schoolers

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Middlesex (4th Floor)

Strand: C

Bill Ivey, Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Shelburne Falls, MA

Whether they are out or not, LGBTQ+ students exist in every school. Both they and cisgender-heterosexual students can benefit when the full range of gender and sexual identities are known and understood. These sample lessons are a possible means to that end.

32 - It IS Possible for Middle Schoolers to Set Reasonable, Attainable, and Successful Goals

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Charles (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Emily Kelley and Judith Williams, Holderness Central School, Holderness, NH

Students can be guided to honestly reflect on their strengths and challenges and set realistic goals. With the help of Tom Brady, John Legend, Carol Dweck (Growth Mindset), and James Clear (Atomic Habits), we will share strategies to guide students to create SMART goals to improve their academics and beyond.

33 - The Art of the Hook: Engaging Your Students from the First Day to the Last

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Highland (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Dr. Dan Zukergood, Springfield College, Springfield, MA

In this fast-paced, interactive workshop, you'll learn The Art of the Hook—a practical, creative method to capture students' attention and keep it all year long. You'll leave with ready-to-use strategies for creating powerful hooks, energizing lessons, and building classroom connections that make learning relevant, fun, and unforgettable.

34 - Igniting Student Motivation

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Mahogany (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Maureen Chapman and James Simons, cor creative partners, Quincy, MA

Building on concepts from the keynote, The Motivated, Motivating Leader, participants explore strategies to motivate and engage all students. Strategies include speaking motivationally about academics; incorporating reflection and goal-setting; building emotional awareness; supporting students to connect academic work to elements of their identity; and engaging in effective teacher-student coaching conversations.

35 - Building Connection and Confidence: How Middle School Squads Strengthen Relationships, Identity, and Learning

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Monarch (2nd Floor)

Strand: C

Michelle Panciocco and Kelly Rao, Millis Middle School, Millis, MA

Discover a squad model that goes beyond traditional advisory. Each educator leads the same twenty students for three years, serving as their main school contact and guiding student-led conferences, identity work, and daily reflection. Learn how this structure builds deep relationships, boosts agency, and strengthens support for every learner.

36 - Curiosity to Impact: Undergraduate Genius Hour Projects Advancing Equity and Access

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: C

Frank Daniello and Brooke Eisenbach, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA

In this interactive session, undergraduate education majors present their "Genius Hour" research in a walk-through poster gallery, inviting dialogue on critical issues in middle-level teaching and learning. Participants will explore research-based practices to enhance teaching, while preservice teachers gain valuable insights into the realities of today's middle grades classrooms.

37 - Inspired Educational Leader, Engaged and Connected Teams: Experiential, Brain-Based Approaches to Building Community, Enlivening Meetings, and Facilitating Meaningful Professional Learning

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Worthy (2nd Floor)

Strand: E

Jen Stanchfield, Experiential Tools, South Newfane, VT

Join this interactive session to learn practical, brain-based techniques that inspire, engage, connect, and empower your faculty and professional learning teams. Explore experiential activities, reflection, and community-building strategies to enliven meetings and spark meaningful dialogue, involvement, and collaboration among adult learners. Leave with lasting lessons, a shared positive vision, and renewed inspiration from fellow leaders.

38 - Teacher Mentor Programs: One District's Story

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Dr. Melissa Moultroup, SAU #34 - Hillsboro-Deering School District, Weare, NH

What does it take to run an effective teacher mentor program? This session will highlight one district's research-based, data-driven process for revising their teacher mentor program. Participants will brainstorm ideas and start thinking about the process of redesigning the mentor program in their own school or district.

39 - Ditching Divide and Conquer!

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Longford (2nd Floor)

Strand: E

Katie Laird and Bryan Rickert, Hillcrest Middle School, Trumbull, CT

Middle schools face growing complexities. This session details our collaborative approach to professional learning, organizational strategies, and leadership. We'll help you balance daily stressors, offering strategies teachers, leaders, and administrators can use immediately. Through scenarios and reflections, you'll see how "Ditching Divide and Conquer" improves student outcomes, reduces teacher burnout, and increases fun at school!

40 - Beyond the Bot: How Robotics Transforms Learning for Every Student

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: King Edward East (3rd Floor)

Strand: F

Anthony Galgano, True Robotics, Worcester, MA

Discover how robotics can enhance learning in every subject, not just STEM. This session explores real student case studies, cross-curricular applications, and low-cost strategies to engage diverse learners through robotics. Walk away with free resources and practical ideas to build future-ready skills across your classroom or school.

41 - How Avoidance of Race Conversations Stunts Our Growth: Strategies to Engage Students in Race Conversations

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: King Edward West (3rd Floor)

Strand: C

Dave F. Brown, EdD, West Chester University, Buffalo Grove, IL

Are you hesitant to engage in conversations about race? Do you reflect on your biases and share those with students to encourage them to talk about race, and its impact on their lives? Begin to recognize your hesitations and learn strategies to engage students and colleagues in critical race conversations.

42 - Bringing Your Vision To Life: Merging District Mission, Instructional Frameworks, and Visible Learning

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: King George North (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Andrew Anderson and Brian E. Fernandes, Ed. D., Barrington Middle School, Barrington, RI

Discover how Rhode Island's #1 middle school, Barrington Middle School, transforms its Vision of the Graduate into daily practice. Learn practical strategies for implementing district instructional frameworks that develop the 6 C's while fostering student belonging and visible thinking. Leave with actionable tools to elevate adolescent learning in your community.

43 - 25+ Things to Add to Your Teacher Toolbox

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: King George South (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Susanna Sharpe, Biddeford Middle School, Biddeford, ME

This interactive session shares a collection of middle level best practices across five essential areas: technology tools, vocabulary activities, games, instructional routines, and classroom management. Participants will explore multiple strategies in each category with practical examples and leave with ready-to-implement ideas for immediate classroom use.

44 - Game On: Enhancing Math and Language Through Hands-On Games

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

Strand: B

Kurt Whited, Savvas Learning, South Portland, ME

Students learn important math skills through fun activities while building a positive regard for mathematics. Explore the value of math games to encourage mental problem solving and communication skills, as well as playful exploration and skill practice.

45 - Geographical Fiction Travel Project

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Waterford (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Charley Harbach and Karen Pfeffer, The Gilbert School, Winsted, CT

Join us as we share a collaborative English, Social Studies, and Math project where students plan a trip to a foreign country. Beginning with a Geographical Fiction book, students research destinations, choose flights and hotels, and apply math skills to create budgets and calculate currency exchanges.

46 - Targeted Supports for Adolescent Striving Readers

Thursday, March 19, 2026

1:40 PM to 2:40 PM

Room: Middlesex (4th Floor)

Strand: A

Emily Russin, HILL for Literacy, Boston, MA and, Shira Engel, Storyshares,, Boston, MA

Transform adolescent literacy with research-based interventions that strengthen structured literacy skills. Discover how to differentiate instruction to meet diverse needs and build confidence in middle school learners. Participants will gain practical strategies and tools educators and leaders can implement immediately to advance foundational skills and support grade-level rigor.

47 - Building Brave Classrooms

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Charles (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Natalie Jensen and Sara Macon, Forest Park Middle School, Springfield, MA

Help your students build the confidence to take academic and creative risks. This session focuses on how to foster a classroom culture where students feel safe to try, fail, and try again- developing resilience and a growth mindset along the way.

48 - The Highs and Lows of Starting an Advisory Program in Middle School

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Highland (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Timothy Carignan, Haverhill Cooperative Middle School, Lyman, NH

New or relatively new to advisory at your school? Interested in learning what works well and what doesn't? Attend this session to start your learning journey. Hear the highs and lows of a school in the midst of establishing good advisory practice. Maybe come to share your journey as well.

49 - Generative AI in the Middle School Classroom and How the Brain Learns: Cautions Among the Cool Stuff

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Mahogany (2nd Floor)

Strand: F

Rick Wormeli, , Herndon, VT

Amidst our generative AI excitement are real concerns about how some uses do not align with what we know about how students learn best. Join us for a candid session looking at learning-constructive and learning-destructive uses of AI in middle schools, including their impact on motivation, brain development, policies for its use, and our professional ethics.

50 - Protect Your Peace: Leading With Healthy Boundaries At School & Home

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Monarch (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Molly Kennedy, Molly Kennedy Productions, LLC, Buffalo, NY

You will transform from doing it all by yourself to collaborating with your team. Mastering the art of setting healthy boundaries at work will create more trust, morale and collaboration. Lead with clarity to enjoy professional success and personal well-being. It's time to regain your peace of mind!

51 - Emotionally Intelligent Practices: The Key to Educator and Student Well-Being

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Dr. Jessica Hoffmann, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, New Haven, CT

Research shows that educator emotional intelligence leads to more engaging and supportive learning communities and enhanced well-being for students and educators themselves. This session unpacks the science of emotional intelligence and well-being, including strategies middle school educators can embed into their personal and professional lives and their classroom practices.

52 - Student and Staff Culture Builders

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Worthy (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Jason Peledge, Lincoln School 5-8, Lincoln, MA

Improving school culture for students and staff can be a powerful way to improve the sense of belonging and togetherness in a school. This session will explore three impactful choices our school made that we hope can support your school too.

53 - Our NELMS Journey - Changes for All by All

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Al Spader, Rochester Middle School, Rochester, NH

You will see how a NELMS visit and assessment can be used to modify a school's systems and adapt to a new generation of learners. See how we shifted our summer school program, our advisory program, and our teacher support model based on the feedback we received from the NELMS visit.

54 - The Spark Behind the Session: Crafting Engaging PD

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Longford (2nd Floor)

Strand: E

Katie Laird and Bryan Rickert, Hillcrest Middle School, Trumbull, CT

Tired of boring PD? We'll share "The Spark Behind the Session," our strategies for crafting fun, engaging, and practical professional development that gets results. Learn to move beyond lectures, design relevant sessions, and foster collaboration. Leave with an action plan and a fresh perspective to make every PD session truly count!

55 - AI and Our Sustainable Future - Teaching Internet Research with AI Scaffolds

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: King Edward East (3rd Floor)

Strand: F

Gaby Richard-Harrington, Greater Commonwealth Virtual School, South Deerfield, MA

This presentation showcases the reimagined Bean-Brodhagen Award-winning integrated unit on The UN Sustainable Development Goals - redesigned to include AI literacy by scaffolding the research process and embedding new AI experiences. First-semester outcomes, student work, lessons learned, and planned modifications for a stronger second-semester iteration will be shared.

56 - What You Should Know About Young Adolescents: How This Information Should Influence Middle Level Practices

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: King Edward West (3rd Floor)

Strand: D

Dave F. Brown, EdD, West Chester University, Buffalo Grove, IL

What do you know about young adolescent development (10–15-year-olds)? Take this quiz with your colleagues to learn the latest findings about their physical, cognitive, and identity needs. Understanding young adolescents' unique developmental traits can help educators design better school environments that meet their needs.

57 - Purpose Over Pressure

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: King George North (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Sue Fenn and Rebecca Magary, AI Navigator, LLC, Contoocook, NH

Avoid the reactionary “We should integrate because...” approach, which only solves immediate problems. Instead, adopt a value-based mindset: “We want to integrate, and here is why.” This fosters growth as technology evolves. Let’s define your values to ensure your AI strategy aligns with your broader priorities and goals.

58 - Create Community and Revolutionize Classroom Management

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: King George South (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Susanna Sharpe, Biddeford Middle School, Biddeford, ME

This session will equip teachers with practical strategies for building classroom community that transforms classroom management from reactive discipline to proactive relationship-building. Participants will learn about specific community-building activities across seven key areas, how to apply social-emotional learning principles to reduce behavioral challenges and design student-centered structures that naturally minimize management issues.

59 - Empowering Readers: Using Self-Monitoring and Questioning to Build Comprehension

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Tracie Berry, HILL for Literacy, Boston, MA

This session equips middle level readers and teachers with strategies to strengthen adolescent literacy through metacognitive regulation and questioning. Participants will learn how to self monitor and three question types deepen comprehension of complex texts and empower students to become independent critical readers.

60 - Listening Beneath the Behavior: Leading Systems that Strengthen Belonging and Psychological Flexibility

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Waterford (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Dr. Holly Blais, Projectlife Services, Epping, NH

What if the behaviors we fear most are signals, not threats?

Grounded in doctoral research on adolescents who engage in prejudicial bullying, this session helps leaders interpret these behaviors through a contextual lens—revealing how systems can strengthen belonging, reduce bias-driven conflict, and model psychologically flexible leadership across classrooms and teams.

61 - Aspiring to be a Middle Level Administrator

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Room: Middlesex (4th Floor)

Strand: E

Scott Clayton, Stamford Public Schools, Stamford, CT, Robert Griffin, Haverhill

Cooperative Middle School, North Haverhill, NH, and, Jeff Rodman, New England League of Middle School, Georgetown, MA

"The Successful Middle School" states Effective Leadership is critical to a school's success. The question that needs to be addressed is, so what is effective "middle level" leadership? Interested in becoming an administrator? Join veteran administrators Bob Griffin, Scott Clayton, and Jeff Rodman for an in-depth discussion on middle level leadership.

62 - Hands on Health

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Charles (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Robert Hanover, Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, Windsor, CT

Do you teach middle school health and want to make your class more engaging, hands-on, and student-centered? If so, join us for Hands-on Health! I will share practical strategies I use to increase student engagement and create interactive lessons. Participants will also have opportunities to share their own successful ideas and classroom practices.

63 - How They Learned on their Summer Vacation: The Common Goals of Schools & Camps

Friday, March 20, 2029

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Highland (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Julie Horton, The Bromfield School, Littleton, MA

Summer camps and schools have common goals in supporting the growth of middle schoolers, but often camps seem uniquely suited to helping kids to become their best selves. Come talk about these shared goals and brainstorm ways that schools and classrooms can camp-ify to enhance learning and engagement.

64 - Teaching Perseverance

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Mahogany (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Maureen Chapman and James Simons, cor creative partners, Quincy, MA

When the going gets tough, it's tempting for students – and the educators supporting them – to give up. In this session, participants practice specific strategies for developing and teaching the skills required to persevere in the face of challenge, reflecting on how they might utilize these strategies in their own classrooms.

65 - Increasing Student Voice: Chat and Chew Lunch Conversations

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Monarch (2nd Floor)

Strand: C

Meghan Haugevik and Amanda Lewis, Frank H. Harrison Middle School, Yarmouth, ME

To make gains in equity work, student voice is essential. Come listen, learn, and collaborate to build systems in your spaces that elevate student voice, furthering all students' sense of belonging. Attendees will walk away with specific ideas and logistical steps to implement Chat and Chews within their school community.

65 - Emotional Intelligence Skills Building for Educators

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Elyse Norton, Oak Grove School, Brattleboro, VT

Success in nearly every aspect of life is due to how well we can manage and leverage emotions in the moment. Emotional regulation and intelligence is a skill all educators need, but often we overlook. Come explore the tools, mindsets, and practices that can strengthen and improve your own emotional intelligence.

66 - Small Joys, Big Impact: Simple Systems That Strengthen Wellbeing in Middle School

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Anne Gilbert, Rye Junior High School, Rye, NH

Our middle school builds wellbeing through simple, joyful routines—quick games, shared snacks, and community moments—paired with systems that keep teachers focused on instruction. This session shows how combining low-cost fun with clear support structures improves climate, reduces frustration, and strengthens learning. Participants leave with practical strategies they can use immediately.

67 - Maximize Your Minutes and Refine Your Teaching Strategies!

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Worthy (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Alyssa Dowe and Dawn Raymond, Seabrook Middle School, Seabrook, NH

Join us to refine your engagement strategies, maximize your minutes in the classroom, and capitalize on productive struggle with your students! Prepare to be fully engaged and leave with takeaway strategies that you can use in your classroom today!

68 - Security Considerations for Middle School Field Trips

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Peter W. Cook, R. J. Goan & Associates, Gorham,, ME

Provide students and leaders with proven methods of preparing for student travel. Efficient group management techniques to insure meeting curriculum goals as well as enhancing developmental needs for safe conduct in public. Presenters are a former MS Principal and School Resource officer. 20 years teaching in Lesley university Graduate School of Education.

69 - Is Your School Designed to Meet the Needs of 10–15-Year-Olds? Appropriate Middle Level Practices

Friday, March 20, 2026 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Longford (2nd Floor) Strand: D

Dave F. Brown, EdD, West Chester University, Buffalo Grove, IL

You may not have a “middle school” name on your building, but you have 10–15-year-olds in your school. How does your school meet the research-based best practices of effective middle level schools? Evaluate your school’s support for young adolescents and learn which practices you should be implementing.

70 - Using AI to Help Your Teaching

Friday, March 20, 2026 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: King Edward East (3rd Floor) Strand: F

Dr. Gary Ackerman, Greenfield Community College, Rutland, VT

AI is like every other technology as it has taken time for educators to figure out how to best integrate it into teaching and learning. We will explore multiple strategies for using AI to improve your efficiency and effectiveness in the classroom. This session focuses on tools for teachers to use rather than students.

71 - Spotting and Stopping Burnout: Practical Tools for Supporting Teachers and Middle School Students

Friday, March 20, 2026 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: King Edward West (3rd Floor) Strand: B

Ned T Sahin, PhD, IEP Solutions LLC, Wilmington, DE

Middle school life is full of pressure—for students and teachers alike. In this session, a brain science PhD breaks down how burnout develops and what to do about it. Learn easy, research-backed strategies for recognizing stress, preventing overload, and creating a calmer, more focused classroom for everyone.

72 - Culture Building by Design: Practices to Build and Maintain Positive School Climate

Friday, March 20, 2026 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: King George North (3rd Floor) Strand: B

Jeff Frigon, The Browne Center for Innovative Learning, Durham, NH

In this interactive workshop we will create shared understanding of school/organizational culture. Attendees will ideate and share their experiences with workplace rituals and culture (healthy as well as not) and begin to develop a tool kit to enhance and increase positive culture in their schools/districts.

73 - Engage to Excel

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: King George South (3rd Floor)

Strand: C

Vilenti Tulloch Sr, Academic Leadership Association, Springfield, MA

This transformative guide equips educators to build stronger relationships, empower students, and create equitable learning environments. Learn the Engage to Excel framework allows educators to move students by building connection, mentorship, and intentional relationship-building that drives confidence, ownership, and academic success.

74 - Getting the Most Out of Experiential Learning in the Classroom

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Lisa Howard, Lisa Howard & Associates, Great Barrington, MA

Incorporating experiential activities in the classroom can sometimes feel like a constantly moving target. Learn how to make the most out of each experience with a few key tools for facilitating and guiding reflection so that students can identify their learning and begin to apply it with greater impact.

75 - Stuck In The Middle With You!

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Waterford (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Samantha Grobard, Amy Klebart, Jacqueline Petrella, and Debra Schott, Henry James Memorial School, Simsbury, CT

Middle school can feel like a tricky in-between stage. Learn how we're helping students make a smooth, successful transition in and out of middle school. Discover how our Study Skills Committee welcomes students from day one and equips them with practical tools, resources, and strategies to thrive through eighth grade.

76 - Teaching About Identity

Friday, March 20, 2026

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Room: Middlesex (4th Floor)

Strand: C

Bill Ivey, Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Shelburne Falls, MA

Identity work is one of the most important tasks of young adolescence. This session will share a series of lessons used with 7th and 8th grade students in an attempt to help them reach a deeper understanding of the fullness of their own identities - and the range of possibilities.

77 - Middle School Businesses--Personal Finance for Everyone

Friday, March 20, 2026
Room: Charles (2nd Floor)

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM
Strand: A

Scott Davenport, Brattleboro Area Middle School, Brattleboro, VT

Personal finance helps you achieve your goals and live a happier, less stressful life. It is also fun to see students make a goal and get it by starting a businesses in your school.

78 - Inclusive Teaching That Works: Distinguishing Supports and Designing Accessible Lessons

Friday, March 20, 2026
Room: Highland (2nd Floor)

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM
Strand: A

KD MacDonald and Nicholas Santoro, Marblehead Community Charter Public School, Marblehead, MA

This session clarifies the difference between accommodations and modifications in middle school inclusion classrooms. Participants learn how UDL-based lesson design reduces barriers proactively, and how to layer additional accommodations when needed. Practical examples, planning tools, and collaboration strategies help teachers support diverse learners while maintaining rigor and access to grade-level content.

79 - Being Child Centered in a World That Wants Us to Center Everything Else

Friday, March 20, 2026
Room: Mahogany (2nd Floor)

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM
Strand: A

Cornelius Minor, The Minor Collective, Brooklyn, NY

We know data should inform instruction and classroom decision-making—and that data is more than last year's test scores. The most important data walks into our schools each morning: what students do, how they do it, and how they respond to our practice. This session explores sustainable tools and methods that center learning from young people.

80 - Supporting Executive Function in the Classroom: Tools and Strategies for Long-Term Projects, Studying, and Skill Awareness

Friday, March 20, 2026
Room: Monarch (2nd Floor)

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM
Strand: A

Christine Murray, Worcester Academy, Worcester, MA

This session builds educator capacity to integrate executive function skill-building into academic instruction. Participants will explore why long-term projects and test preparation challenge students, identify executive skill gaps, and learn tools to address these gaps. Attendees will leave with clear, practical, and immediately usable classroom strategies to support executive functioning.

81 - RTI Not Working in Middle School? Try an “Enrichment” Class

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Chandra Hazelton, Emily Kelley, and Judith Williams, Holderness Central School, Holderness, NH

How do we remediate students' skills for competency recovery, while simultaneously creating opportunities for excelling students to experience a new challenge? An Enrichment class provides remediation in reading and math, and exploration of academic interests. Incorporating Unified Arts and Academic teachers, we'll share creating, scheduling, and implementing such a class.

82 - Support Through Connectivity - Advisory Model and Connecting with Students

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Worthy (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Matthew LeVangie, Marblehead Veterans Middle School, Marblehead, MA

Through the Advisory model, helping teachers and administrators make unique and authentic relationships with the children in their building. The presentation will explore how to roll out an Advisory model in your building, including free resources.

83 - From Eye Rolls to Buy-In: Engagement and Classroom Management for Middle Schoolers

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Kristen Rosecrans, John Winthrop Middle School, Madison, CT

Adolescent brain research shows middle schoolers need engagement, structure, and belonging. This session shares practical ways to increase motivation through variety, choice, executive function, and growth mindset strategies. Learn how to connect with even the trickiest students while building classrooms where every learner feels invested, empowered, and ready to succeed.

84 - Planting Possibilities: Grow a Mindset for Success

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Longford (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Chuck Barnard, Success Institutes, Portland, ME

Coach Chuck Barnard's speech empowers educators to manage their own mindsets, demonstrating how this directly impacts student well-being. Attendees will gain practical tools to quickly interrupt and reframe negative thinking and behavior patterns, cultivating resilience and possibility in classrooms through science-backed strategies for proactive, preventative mental health support.

85 - Using Technology and AI with Students to Build Engaging Student Led Projects

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: King Edward East (3rd Floor)

Strand: F

Katrina Antonovich, Milton Town School District, Milton, VT

Discover practical ways to enhance project-based learning with technology and AI. This session highlights tools for digital storytelling, collaboration, data collection, media creation, and student project management. Learn how AI supports differentiation, accessibility, and personalized learning while empowering students to create meaningful, authentic projects.

86 - Increasing the Rigor: Using Targeted Feedback to Help Students Push the Limit

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: King Edward West (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Dr. Melissa Moultroup, SAU #34 Hillsboro-Deering School District, Weare, NH

Participants will learn about the brain science behind the connection between providing meaningful feedback and true learning. We'll brainstorm ideas for giving feedback while also increasing the rigor for students, and we'll start thinking about a feedback system that works best for us in our own school setting.

87 - Narrative-Based PBL: Sparking Curiosity and Exploration through Career-Connected Learning

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: King George North (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Moira Kelly and Lindsay Whitman, Exploration Learning, Norwood, MA

Want to tie academic content to real-world scenarios in a playful and engaging learning experience? Join us for an interactive session where participants will learn about the design principles of Narrative-Based PBL, see components of a narrative project in action, and begin crafting their own narrative-driven learning experience.

88 - Adventure Fosters SEL Growth

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: King George South (3rd Floor)

Strand: B

Jenni Clock and Jana Nadolski, Project Adventure, Beverly, MA

Join us for an interactive workshop that will help you identify the social emotional needs of your students, build their self and social awareness, resilience, problem solving, and positive risk taking. We will do activities that you can embed in the school day that support continual assessment and development of individual and group SEL skills.

89 - Empowering Young Adolescents on Environmental Issues: A Multidisciplinary Approach

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

Susan Bryant, Population Education, Cohasset, MA

In this experiential session, engage in multidisciplinary lessons that develop students' critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills, while building their environmental literacy. Activity formats include modeling and group simulations, data analysis, concept mapping, and collaborative games that support content in science, mathematics, and social studies.

90 - The Human School Project: Building Schools that Keep Humanity at the Center of Innovation

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Waterford (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

Andrew Zitoli, Tiverton Middle School, Tiverton, RI

A human-centered framework that strengthens relationships, resilience, student voice, and leadership while preparing middle schoolers to balance a digital, AI-shaped future. This session offers practical, school-wide strategies that build purpose, creativity, and emotional intelligence aligned to the developmental needs of grades 6–8 learners.

91 - Challenges, Joys, and Positive Change: Conversations on Supporting Equity Work

Friday, March 20, 2026

11:10 AM to 12:10 PM

Room: Middlesex (4th Floor)

Strand: C

Bill Ivey, Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Shelburne Falls, MA

As educators navigating the current uncertain educational landscape, we must come together as a community committed to equity. This session will provide space, time, and opportunity for mutual discussion of the realities in our respective institutions and communities in the hope we can work together to enact change where possible.

45th Annual Conference ~ Thursday, March 19, 2026

Location/Room Name		Session I 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM		Session II 11:10 AM - 12:10 PM		Session III 1:40 PM - 2:40 PM		Session IV 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM		4:45 - 6:00 PM ~ Awards Reception ~ Grand Ballroom 3rd Floor
Charles 2nd Floor (Banquet 60)		1	EcoOdyssey: An Interdisciplinary, Interstellar Adventure	17	Picture This: US History Through the Lens	32	It IS Possible for Middle Schoolers to Set Reasonable, Attainable, and Successful Goals	47	Building Brave Classrooms	
Highland 2nd Floor (Banquet 80)		2	Vibes Don't Lie: The Real Power of School Culture	18	Using Choice Boards to Increase Engagement and Comprehension	33	The Art of the Hook: Engaging Your Students from the First Day to the Last	48	The Highs and Lows of Starting an Advisory Program in Middle School	
Mahogany 2nd Floor (Banquet 150)		3	Building Relationships that WORK!	19	Metaphors and Analogies in the Middle School: Power Tools for Instructional Design	34	Igniting Student Motivation	49	Generative AI in the Middle School Classroom and How the Brain Learns	
Monarch 2nd Floor (Banquet 60)		4	Building a Successful Student-Led Conference Model	20	HomeBASE: Building an Effective School-Wide Advisory Model	35	Building Connection and Confidence: How Middle School Squads Strengthen Relationships...	50	Protect Your Peace: Leading With Healthy Boundaries At School & Home	
Stonehaven 2nd Floor (Banquet 40)		5	Pie the Principal, Pitch a Tent, Positive Peer Visit: How are You Adding Purposeful Positivity to Your School?	21	Lead Upstream, Inspire Wellness: Foundations and Practices of MHL...	36	Curiosity to Impact: Undergraduate Genius Hour Projects Advancing...	51	Emotionally Intelligent Practices: The Key to Educator and Student Well-Being	
Worthy 2nd Floor (Banquet 80)		6	Mindset Matters from Surviving to Thriving	22	Inspire, Engage, Connect, & Reflect: Experiential, Brain-Based Techniques ...	37	Inspired Educational Leader, Engaged and Connected Teams: Experiential, Brain-Based Approaches ...	52	Student and Staff Culture Builders	
Executive Boardroom 3rd Floor (Conference 22)		7	Adventures in Competency-Based Education	23	Leading the Way: What Maine's LD 291 Can Teach New England ...	38	Teacher Mentor Programs: One District's Story	53	Our NELMS Journey - Changes for All by All	
Longford 3rd Floor (Banquet 80)		8	Rediscovering Problems	24	How to Teach Trauma Students from a Former Trauma Student...That Made It!	39	Ditching Divide and Conquer!	54	The Spark Behind the Session: Crafting Engaging PD	
King Edward East 3rd Floor (Theater 40)		9	AI as an Educators' Thought Assistant	25	Voice, Collaboration, and Deep Thinking: Elevating Socratic Seminars with Google Docs and Mote	40	Beyond the Bot: How Robotics Transforms Learning for Every Student	55	AI and Our Sustainable Future - Teaching Internet Research with AI Scaffolds	
King Edward West 3rd Floor (Theater 40)		10	When Online Hate Hits the Classroom: Helping Students Break the Cycle of Harmful Media	26	Empowering Student Citizen Scientists: Miniboat Program for Global Ocean Stewardship	41	How Avoidance of Race Conversations Stunts Our Growth: Strategies ...	56	What You Should Know About Young Adolescents: How This Information Should Influence Middle Level Practices	
King George North 3rd Floor (Theater 40)		11	Building Success Through Tiered Instruction: A Framework for Literacy and Learning	27	Healthy Leadership: Prioritizing Administrator Well-being	42	Bringing Your Vision To Life: Merging District Mission, Instructional Frameworks, and Visible Learning	57	Purpose Over Pressure	
King George South 3rd Floor (Theater 40)		12	Understanding a Neurodivergent Brain	28	Highlighting the Blind Spots: Building Your Students' Ability To Ask Questions	43	25+ Things to Add to Your Teacher Toolbox	58	Create Community and Revolutionize Classroom Management	
Kilkenny 3rd Floor (Theater 40)		13	Optimize Your Advisory	29	Social Emotional Learning in Action	44	Game On: Enhancing Math and Language Through Hands-On Games	59	Empowering Readers: Using Self-Monitoring and Questioning to Build Comprehension	
Waterford 3rd Floor (Theater 40)		14	Ditch the Feedback: Coach Instead	30	Mindset, Teamwork, and Coaching: The New Playbook for Middle-Level Leaders	45	Geographical Fiction Travel Project	60	Listening Beneath the Behavior: Leading Systems that Strengthen Belonging and Psychological Flexibility	
Middlesex 4th Floor (Conference 22)		15	Be That Teacher - The One You Want Your Kid To Have!	31	LGBTQ+ 101 - and Beyond: Lessons for Middle Schoolers	46	Targeted Supports for Adolescent Striving Readers	61	Aspiring to be a Middle Level Administrator	
9:30 - 10:00 AM ~ Coffee with the Exhibitors - Ballroom Foyer & GRAD Credit Meeting - Executive Board Room		8:30 - 9:30 AM ~ General Session & Keynote ~ Rick Wormeli ~ Grand Ballroom 3rd Floor		11:10 AM - 12:10 PM - 16 - Lesson Plan Speed Learning Sessions - Grand Ballroom (see page * for more information)		12:10 - 1:30 PM ~ Box Lunch Keynote ~ James Simons and Maureen Chapman - Grand Ballroom 3rd Floor		2:50 - 3:20 PM ~ Meet & Greet with Exhibitors		

Registration: 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM **Bookstore & Exhibits: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

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