

WHAT IS CS?



WHO IS NELMS?



SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT



BOOK OF THE MONTH  
“THE TRUST IMPERATIVE”

# NELMS MIDLINES

New England League of Middle Schools  
Monthly Newsletter



## From the Desk of the Executive Director

Welcome Back and We are Back!!! All of us at the New England League of Middle Schools are excited and eager to begin this next school year. We hope that you feel the same. We are also excited to roll out our “new” version of Midlines. Our traditional three times per year newspaper is being replaced by a bi-monthly newsletter. Please let us know if you have something special going on in your school that you would like to share. There are so many great “things” that are happening in our schools that deserve to be recognized and shared.

This Fall, NELMS starts its 48<sup>th</sup> year as New England’s pre-eminent middle level association. NELMS has been a leader in promoting middle level best practices by providing collaborative learning experiences that support students’ intellectual, academic, social, and emotional growth and success. Although the past two years have been a struggle for all, we are ready to move forward. This year NELMS will be providing several “in-person” as well as virtual events. Many of these will be **free to our members**. We are currently planning our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference which will be taking place at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel in Springfield, MA on March 27 & 28, 2023.

NELMS still offers a variety of professional programs designed to meet the needs of your school. In this issue, you can read about our Spotlight School Program which identifies and honors schools that promote outstanding middle level practices. We also offer Whole School and Program Specific Assessments. Coming in mid-November is NELMS’ Student Leadership Conference which will be held on the campus of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). You can read more about these opportunities, as well as all of our **upcoming events** by visiting our website at [nelms.org](http://nelms.org).

Again, welcome back and know that NELMS here to help support middle level educators across New England.

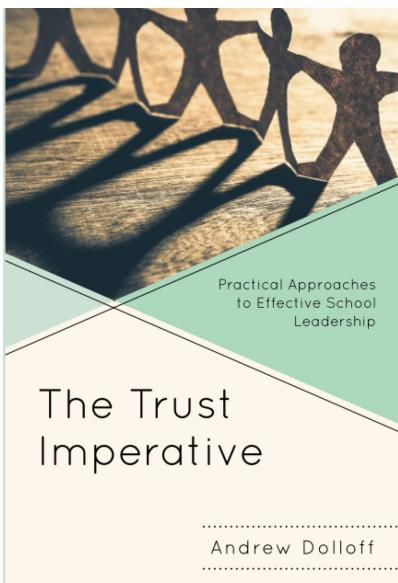
Sincerely,

Jeff Rodman

Executive Director

# Book of the Month

**"The Trust Imperative" by Andrew Dolloff**



Leadership is an extraordinary quality and has a variety ways of being administered which is why Andrew Dolloff's recently published *The Trust Imperative* is a definite read for all educators. Andrew's book provides a practical perspective of the effective and necessary skills needed in building a "trust filled" school. This is a book for the veteran administrator reflecting upon your practice, in the early days of your career seeking direction or affirmation, an aspiring school leader, or the classroom teacher seeking to maintain or create a positive trust filled environment. This book is about ethical educational leadership whose foundation is based on integrity, empathy, and trust.

All educators are actually in leadership roles, be it in our classrooms, as grade level or content team leaders, or your school's leader, we are positions where trust is paramount to success. *The Trust Imperative* is a perfect book for practical and quality professional development that will lead to improved school climate, culture, and achievement. If we are looking to create or maintain a school or classroom environment that encourages and embraces empathy, integrity, building relationships, and ethical leadership then Andrew Dolloff's, *The Trust Imperative* is that "one" definite read.

For more information regarding how to order *The Trust Imperative* go to [www.rowman.com](http://www.rowman.com).

Jeff Rodman  
Executive Director

## Upcoming Events

**Job Alike for New Administrators**  
**Monday, September 19, 2022**

*NELMS and the Middle Ages Discussion*  
*NELMS Spotlight School Program:*  
*How can our school become a*  
*Spotlight School?*

**Thursday, September 22, 2022**

*Middle Level Student Leadership*  
*Conference*

*Southern NH University, Manchester, NH*  
**Thursday, November 17, 2022**

*Cultivating Genius: Book Study*  
(Session 1 of 5)

**Wednesday, October 12, 2022**

*Job Alike for Student Services*  
**Thursday, October 13, 2022**

*Job Alike for Social Studies*  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2022**

*Inspire, Engage, Build Community,*  
*and Create Lasting Lessons:*  
*Experiential, Brain-Based Strategies to*  
*Integrate Social Emotional and Academic*  
*Learning*

**Thursday, October 27, 2022**

*Littleton Middle School, Littleton, MA*

*Build Your Schedule Around Your Program*  
**Friday, October 28, 2022**

*Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank,*  
*Tewksbury, MA*

*Job Alike for Math*  
**Monday, November 7, 2022**

*Job Alike for ELA*  
**Thursday, December 1, 2022**

*42nd Annual Middle Level Conference*  
**March 27 & 28, 2023**  
*Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place,*  
*Springfield, MA*

**Go to <https://www.nelms.org>**  
**for more information**



# Who is NELMS?

NELMS is the New England League of Middle Schools and since 1974, NELMS has been the leader in promoting middle level best practices by providing collaborative learning experiences that support students' intellectual, academic, social, and emotional growth and success. The League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit consisting of a voluntary Board of Directors representing regions from each of the six New England States. As stated in the NELMS Bylaws, the board of directors:

- Be limited in size to seventeen (17) members, based on a pro-rated basis proportional to institutional membership within a state, plus the Chair, Chair-Elect and Immediate Past Chair.
- In any case, all New England states shall be represented by at least one (1) member.
- One (1) of these members shall be a teacher elected by regions within each state on a rotation basis.
- One (1) of these members shall be a professor or instructor associated with a teacher preparatory program located within an accredited College or University within the New England states. These members shall be appointed by the Board Chair to a four-year term with said appointments not to fall consecutively from within one State.
- One (1) of these members shall be a representative from a business who is either a partner, sponsor or conducts business with the League.
- Must be a member of NELMS.

NELMS board members volunteer to work for you. You can find out who your region's board member by clicking on the following link <https://www.nelms.org/board-of-directors>

The New England League of Middle Schools offers an array of professional learning opportunities throughout the year. Please take a look at our website, weekly broadcast emails, and our Midlines Newsletter or for additional information email Karin Wilmarth at [nelms@nelms.org](mailto:nelms@nelms.org).

## Tech Tip

### What is Computer Science?

It is more than how computers work.

For me, computer science education began with typing courses. The thought was that in order to know computers, you must first learn how to input commands into the computer. It wasn't until college that I was able to take "computer science" courses. I learned how to code them, what they were made of, and networking them together. I thought computer science was anything to do with computers. Learning about networking, hardware and software is part of computer science but it is only one facet of computer literacy.

Computer science is more about using the power of computers to solve complex problems. Computer science in education involves the use of computational thinking. (Computational thinking is a problem-solving approach using four key elements, decomposition, pattern recognition, abstraction and algorithms.) It is not just using a calculator or using technology to present what was learned; It is using computational thinking to solve a complex problem and using the power of a computer to create or design a solution. With our world becoming increasingly computer intensive, most jobs for new graduates will require them to be skilled in computational thinking and the use of computer science. Even for jobs not in typical technology driven areas, being able to break challenges into manageable parts and utilize computer power to create solutions will be necessary.

Each month, I will be sharing different ways you can help your students on their journey to be ready for the world they are inheriting .

For more information, go to [tinyurl.com/CSNELMS](https://tinyurl.com/CSNELMS).

Feel free to reach out to me at [bbridges@rsu10.org](mailto:bbridges@rsu10.org)

# Sponsor Highlight

## Virtual Enterprises International



As an education non-profit, Virtual Enterprises (VE) has transformed the lives of over 200,000 young people through authentic business experiences since 1996. VE provides a solution for middle & high schools to offer all students meaningful, skills-based career experiences. Through our hands-on, task-based curricula, students manage a simulated company while test-driving potential careers. VE currently serves over 25,000 students a year in states all across the country. We are excited to partner with NELMS as we look to help support New England middle schools in achieving their Career and Technical Education (CTE) goals.

The [VE-JV Career Academy](#) helps engage middle-level students through real-world experiences and hands-on learning about technology, business, and careers through two course offerings:

- VE-JV Year 1- Technology Applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel), Career Exploration, Entrepreneurship, and Business Management: This project-based curriculum is the foundational piece for students new to the content area and can be delivered in a semester or full-year setting.
- [VE-JV Year 2: Junior Ventures](#): Students create and manage a business in the Virtual Enterprises Network. A year-long project-based course where students develop career skills and apply the foundational technology application skills learned in Year 1.

As an organization, VE also provides extracurricular activities to schools and students:

- VE-hosted Trade Shows, where students showcase their business booths and compete in a variety of business-oriented competitions
- Mentorship opportunities from your local business leaders
- National Online Competitions
- Teacher Training and Professional Learning

If you're interested in opening a VE-JV program at your middle school or learning more about the work we do at Virtual Enterprises, please contact Will Wilson at [wwilson@veinternational.org](mailto:wwilson@veinternational.org)

## New England League of Middle Schools

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Sponsor Image:  
<http://alphastockimages.com/>