



**45th Annual Middle Level
Conference & Exhibits
*March 19 & 20, 2026***

**Sheraton Springfield
Monarch Place,
Springfield, MA**



**GROW LEAD
INSPIRE**

#NELMS26

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New England League of Middle Schools

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Our Mission

New England League of Middle Schools are leaders in promoting middle level best practices by providing collaborative learning experiences that support students' intellectual, academic, social, and emotional growth and success.

Officers & Board of Directors

2025 - 2026

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Board Chair – Dr. Peter Gillen, West Springfield Middle School, West Springfield, MA

Board Chair-Elect – Christopher Pollet, Stratham, NH

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CT-South Dulcey Worth, James H. Moran Middle School, Wallingford

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NH-South Brianna Taylor, Cooperative Middle School, Stratham

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Robin Wilson

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William Downey

Spotlight School Coordinator

Dr. Timothy Allen

Schedule & Special Events

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Pre-registration

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Welcome Get-Together

Thursday, March 19, 2026

7:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Registration

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Exhibitor Set-up

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

General Session and Keynote: “*Middle School: Now, More Than Ever, It’s Time to Disturb the Universe!*” with Rick Wormeli

9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Exhibit Hours

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Coffee Break with our Exhibitors

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

SNHU Graduate Credit Meeting

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Concurrent Sessions I

11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

Concurrent Sessions II

12:10 PM - 1:30 PM

Visit Exhibitors and Lunch Pick-Up

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Luncheon Keynote: *The Motivated, Motivating Leader: Inspiring Students, Colleagues, and Ourselves* with James Simons and Maureen Chapman

1:40 PM – 2:40 PM

Concurrent Sessions III

2:50 PM – 3:20 PM

Meet & Greet with Exhibitors

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Concurrent Sessions IV

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM

Awards Reception

Friday, March 20, 2026

7:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Registration

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Exhibit Hours

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

General Session and Keynote: *Doing What Matters -- For Us And For Young People* with Cornelius Minor

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM
You

The Principal and NELMS: What NELMS Can Do For

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Coffee Break with our Exhibitors

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Concurrent Sessions V

11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

Concurrent Sessions VI

12:10 PM - 1:30 PM

Visit Exhibits and Lunch Pick-Up

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Luncheon Keynote: *The Mentality* with Dr. Timothy Allen

1:35 PM – 2:00 PM

Ignitors and Raffle Winners Announcement

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

Acknowledgements

The New England League of Middle Schools wants to join with our friends and colleagues in thanking the following for their partnership.

Annual Conference Partners

Lifetouch – Official Conference Photographer
White Lion Brewing Company – T-Shirt Sponsor
No Brain is the Same – Lanyard Sponsor
The Browne Center for Innovative Learning
HILL For Literacy and Storyshares
Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream of Nashua, NH

Many thanks to our exhibitors

The New England League of Middle Schools would like to thank the educators, facilitators, college, and middle school students, and all who enriched and supported this year's conference.

- Academic Leadership Association
- AI Navigator, LLC
- American International College
- Better Choices Education LLC
- cor creative partners
- DBT for You
- eDynamic Learning
- Exploration Learning
- fastIEP
- Grand Classroom
- HILL For Literacy and Storyshares
- Lifetouch
- Lisa Howard & Associates
- Medal of Honor Foundation
- Nature's Classroom, Inc.
- NE Association for Teachers of English
- NH School Administrators Association
- No Brain is the Same
- Outdoor Classroom LLC
- Project Adventure, Inc.
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- Savvas Learning Company
- Southern New Hampshire University
- Stryker
- Success Institutes, LLC
- The Browne Center for Innovative Learning
- Toadstool Education
- True Robotics

We appreciate our business partners!

*Special Olympics New Hampshire
Imagine Learning*

To become a NELMS business partner please visit email us at nelms@nelms.org.

Certificate of Attendance Information

Please see page 55 for the Certificate of Attendance.

The Certificate of Attendance and the Daily Conference Planner pages are proof of the number of hours earned at the conference. Use the Conference Planner pages at the beginning of each day to track the sessions you attend.

KEEP your Program Book.

Graduate Credits

Graduate Credits are available to attendees, through Southern New Hampshire University, Hooksett, New Hampshire.

If you have questions, there is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 9:30 to 10:00 AM in the Executive Boardroom right after the General Session.



Special thanks to our national & state middle level organizations.

Association for Middle Level Education
Derek Neal, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Katie Powell, Director for Middle Level Programs

Connecticut Association of Schools
Dr. Glenn Lungarini, Executive Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Middle Level Educators

Maine Association for Middle Level Education
Dr. Ekaterina “Katie” Rybakova, Executive Director

The New Hampshire Association for Middle Level Education
Christopher Pollet, Board Chair

Rhode Island Middle Level Educators

Vermont Association for Middle Level Education
Kyle Chadburn, MA Ed, Executive Director



General Information

CHANGES TO PROGRAM/CONFERENCE APP

NELMS reserves the right to change the program as deemed necessary. Changes may have occurred since the publication of the Program Book. NELMS will be using the SCHED app to make any changes, additions, or deletions to the program. Please make sure to download the app to get the latest information.

NAME BADGES/LUNCH TICKETS

All registered attendees will receive a name badge at registration. This badge is not transferable. **NELMS conference badges must always be worn** as a courtesy to other delegates, for security purposes, and as an indication that you are registered. **Please wear the badge for all conference functions.** Tickets for your lunch options will be provided to you at registration as part of your name badge. Please keep these tickets safe as duplicates will not be available if lost.

BOOKSTORE

Please visit the tables for [Toadstool Education](#) who will be hosting a bookstore during the conference on the 3rd floor Foyer. Publications written by our Keynote Presenters are available for purchase. The bookstore will be open during the Exhibit Hours.

EXHIBITS

Enjoy a Coffee Break with the Exhibitors each day!

Commercial exhibits of books, instructional aids, and other products will be displayed during the conference. NELMS urges attendees to schedule time to visit exhibitors and thank them for their support of middle level education. The Exhibitor Guide is available as part of this program book. Exhibit hall hours are:

Thursday, March 19th from 9:30 AM–4:30 PM

Friday, March 20th from 8:00 AM–2:00 PM

Commercial solicitation is prohibited in all conference sessions. Solicitation of business within the Exhibit areas by any person other than exhibitors is strictly prohibited. Please report any violations to a representative of NELMS. The presence of exhibitors who have purchased exhibit space does not imply endorsement by NELMS for any product or service displayed.

***** Exhibitor Guide starts on Page 43 and Exhibitor Layout is on Page 49. *****

AWARDS RECEPTION

Join us to celebrate the 2026 NELMS Award Recipients on Thursday, March 19th from 4:45 pm to 6:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom. We will be announcing the winners of Exceptional Educator Awards.

BE SURE TO

- ✓ Visit the Exhibits
- ✓ Attend the General Sessions each day starting promptly at the designated times, in the Grand Ballroom.
- ✓ Visit the Bookstore

COURTESY REQUESTS

Session participants are asked to remain seated until the session concludes. Early departures disturb closing remarks and announcements considered important to other attendees.

CELL PHONES

We ask that all attendees be respectful to the presenters and fellow attendees by turning your cell phone silent during all sessions.

LOST AND FOUND

NELMS registration is the center for any lost or found articles.

SECURITY TIPS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Be observant. Don't venture into large parking lots or darkened areas alone. Report any suspicious activity to security. Don't display large amounts of cash or leave luggage unattended. Use dead bolts, or auxiliary locks provided on the hotel room door while you are in your room. Use the hotel vault/safe, if available. Do not leave valuables in your room.

Key for Symbols



Spotlight School



Exhibitor

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Conference Strands

A - Tools for Your Toolbox: Classroom Practices that Engage and Encourage Learning

Middle level educators are always searching for new ways to engage and encourage learning by their students. Sessions in this strand provide an opportunity to share proven effective classroom practices designed to meet the broad range of interests, abilities, learning styles and skills of their students. They understand the importance of designing lessons that accommodate these differences by incorporating effective instructional approaches in their classrooms.

Workshop Numbers: 1, 4, 8, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 28, 32, 33, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 54, 58, 59, 62, 64, 67, 74, 77, 79, 80, 81, 83, 86, 87, 89

B - SEL & Wellness: Meeting the Needs of the School Community

Successful teaching and learning can only occur when the SEL and Wellness needs of the school community are met. Sessions in this strand share examples of ways to meet those needs for everyone - students and staff - resulting in a positive school climate and a supportive, developmentally appropriate learning environment for young adolescents and the adults that work with them.

Workshop Numbers: 2, 3, 13, 20, 21, 29, 39, 44, 48, 50, 51, 52, 63, 66, 71, 72, 82, 84, 88

C - Equity and Diversity: Creating Access for All

If we are to create classrooms and schools where all children feel known, valued, and safe, we need to pay attention to the fullness of our students' identities and the realities of the world in which they live. Sessions in this strand may focus on how teachers and administrators recognize and honor students' diverse identities—gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, spirituality, socioeconomic class, and more—through identity work; curricula that include a full range of mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors; ways to understand and disrupt unjust systems; and creating joy.

Workshop Numbers: 7, 26, 36, 41, 65, 73, 76

D – Young Adolescents: What You Need to Know

Middle level educators understand the unique developmental needs of the young adolescents they teach. Sessions in this strand focus on “everything you need to know about young adolescents,” including implementing research-based best practices and researched developmental aspects of young adolescents.

Workshop Numbers: 10, 24, 56, 69

E – Leadership from the Middle

Effective middle level leaders are, first and foremost, knowledgeable, and skilled at meeting the unique needs of young adolescents and implementing the appropriate and effective programs and practices. However, middle level leadership is not evident in administration only. Sessions in this strand highlight all examples of leadership including administrators, teachers, and students.

Workshop Numbers: 11, 14, 27, 30, 37, 38, 39, 54, 57, 60, 61, 68, 75, 90

F – Optimizing Technology: Tools and Approaches

Purposeful integration of technology in middle schools boosts engagement, personalizes learning, and supports growth for educators and students. Sessions in this strand may include AI in education, virtual/hybrid strategies, assessment tools, digital literacy, and ensuring accessibility and equitable access — all aligned with curriculum goals and fostering collaboration, critical thinking, and real-world problem-solving.

Workshop Number: 9, 25, 40, 49, 55, 70

Thursday, March 19, 2026

General Session and Keynote

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Grand Ballroom



“Middle School: Now, More Than Ever, It’s Time to Disturb the Universe!”

Presenter: Rick Wormeli

This is a weird and uncertain time in our world, and who’s lining up to lead it with compassion, competence, and courage? Today’s middle schoolers! With all we know today about the direct impact of our lived experiences in early adolescence affecting how we handle things in our high school and adult lives, as well as how middle schoolers are uniquely their own when it comes to learning, middle school educators have compelling opportunity and professional duty to provide the most constructive practices possible – and to find renewed calling and oxygen in the effort. Join us for an address that reminds us why middle school is a powerful moment in every individual’s personal development, and to wax, “Hamiltonian,” how it requires well-prepared and committed educators to be in the room where it happens. Like no other, this is our time for innovation, courage, and middle level teaching excellence, and hoo-wee, this is our students’ time to forge the tools and foundations for disturbing the universe. Let’s get started!

Conference Planner

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Visit Exhibits between sessions or anytime from 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Time	Function	Number/Title	Location(s)
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	General Session and Keynote: Rick Wormeli	<i>Middle School: Now, More Than Ever, It's Time to Disturb the Universe!</i>	Grand Ballroom
9:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Bookstore & Exhibitors		Ballroom Foyer & 2nd Floor Foyer
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Coffee Break with Exhibitors		Ballroom Foyer & 2nd Floor Foyer
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Graduate Credit Meeting		Executive Boardroom
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Concurrent Session I		2nd, 3rd, & 4th Floor Meeting Rooms
11:10 AM – 12:10 PM	Lesson Plan Speed Learning Sessions		Grand Ballroom
11:10 AM – 12:10 PM	Concurrent Session II		2nd, 3rd, & 4th Floor Meeting Rooms
12:10 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch for All Attendees & Visit Exhibitors		Ballroom Foyer & 2nd Floor Foyer
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Luncheon Keynote: James Simons & Maureen Chapman	<i>The Motivated, Motivating Leader: Inspiring Students, Colleagues, and Ourselves</i>	Grand Ballroom
1:40 PM – 2:40 PM	Concurrent Session III		2nd, 3rd, & 4th Floor Meeting Rooms
2:50 PM – 3:20 PM	Meet & Greet with Exhibitors		Ballroom Foyer & 2nd Floor Foyer
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Concurrent Session IV		2nd, 3rd, & 4th Floor Meeting Rooms
4:45 PM – 6:00 PM	Awards Reception		Grand Ballroom

This page is to be used in conjunction with the Certificate of Attendance (page 55) to track attendees' hours.

Session I – Concurrent Workshop – 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

1 - EcoOdyssey: An Interdisciplinary, Interstellar Adventure

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

Charles (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

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

Highland (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

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!

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

Mahogany (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

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

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

Monarch (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

Building a Successful Student-Led Conference Model

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?

Tyler Steffey, Clinton Middle School, Clinton, MA

Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

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.

Workshop Cancelled

7 - Adventures in Competency-Based Education

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

Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: C

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.

8 - Rediscovering Problems

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

Longford (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

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 - AI as an Educator's Thought Assistant

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

King Edward East (3rd Floor)

Strand: F

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

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

King Edward West (3rd Floor)

Strand: D

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

Tracie Berry, HILL for Literacy, Beverly, MA

King George North (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

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.

Our presenters would love your feedback on their workshop session! Our Presenter Evaluation form can be found at <https://forms.gle/qd4PWPMZxF23Xf1k8> or by scanning this QR code:



13 - Optimize Your Advisory

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

Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

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.



Strand: B

14 - Ditch the Feedback: Coach Instead

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

Waterford (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: E

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

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

Middlesex (4th Floor)

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!

Strand: A



Be Proud and Recognize Your School

The purpose of the Spotlight School Award is to recognize schools that have a record of effective teaching and learning for young adolescents and consistently implement middle level best practices.

For more info go to nelms.org

Lesson Plan Speed Learning Sessions – 11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

Below is a list of our Lesson Plan Speed Learning Sessions. The goal of these sessions is to present a concise concept, strategy, tool, or practice in 20-minutes or less format. Below is a list of the sessions that will be taking place during this 60-minutes time block. Presenters will share their information with attendees who join them at their assigned table. A timekeeper will signal the end of each 20-minute session, at which point attendees will “move on” to a different table for the next session. This rotation will allow participants to attend three different 20-minute Lesson Plan Speed Learning Sessions during a 60-minute block.

16-1 - How Could a NELMS Whole School Assessment Benefit You and Your School?

Presenter: Bob Griffin, Haverhill Cooperative Middle School, North Haverhill, NH

Learn about the intensive three-day whole school assessment offered by NELMS, and how it can make you and your school better. This is a proven process that has benefited numerous schools throughout New England. Facilitated by a current middle school principal, who has experience in two schools with the process as well as being part of an assessment team.

16-2 - How Middle School Teachers are Combatting the Mental Health Crisis in their Classrooms

Presenter: Alison Trimper, Sanborn Regional Middle School, Kingston, NH

The mental health of our students is declining, which is impacting behaviors in the classroom and the students’ ability to learn. Join the conversation as we discuss what is affecting students’ mental health and some of the ways our most successful middle school teachers are addressing this crisis.

16-3 - Learning Blade, free STEM, CTE and Computer Science Resources for Educators

Presenter: Michelle Gallagher, Learning Blade, Fall River, MA

Learning Blade introduces middle school students to STEM, CS, and CTE careers through interactive, mission-based activities. This session highlights how educators can use Learning Blade to build career awareness, integrate real-world problem-solving, and support Massachusetts frameworks. Attendees will explore engaging resources that increase student motivation and prepare learners for future pathways.

16-4 - Maximizing Student Achievement in a Supportive Setting

Presenter: Jeff Rodman, New England League of Middle Schools, Georgetown, MA

John Hattie’s research links student achievement to several effective classroom practices. Five, in particular, stand out as essential to supporting student growth. When these five classroom practices are paired with five subjective practices, they enhance student engagement and achievement while also strengthening a teacher’s effectiveness in the classroom.

16-5 - Psychological First Aid for Adolescents

Presenter: Kristin Capezio, Athol-Royalston Middle School, Gardner, MA

This session supports staff across roles in administering Psychological First Aid and connecting students and families to resources. PFA is a person-first approach that prioritizes mental health and wellbeing over efficiency. Participants will learn tools to help students feel safe, process emotions, reframe challenges, and address pitfalls such as thinking, perseveration, distortion, and negativity bias.

16-6 - Responding to Data: Bucketing Student Work Protocol

Presenter: Amy Clark, Veritas Prep Charter School, Springfield, MA

Participants will learn a simple, ten-minute protocol for quickly analyzing and “bucketing” student work. This process helps educators identify patterns and misconceptions with accuracy and efficiency, enabling them to plan targeted, responsive instruction. By the end of the session, participants will be able to implement the protocol to make faster, more informed instructional decisions.

16-7 - Students Leading the Way Through Robotics

Presenter: Erin Scholes, Beman Middle School, Middletown, CT

Come hear how we have built a Worlds Qualifying robotics team that is even more successful at student leadership and mentoring. We will share words and suggestions from our students about how the program runs and their own personal achievements. We will help connect you with a vast community of resources and tips for starting your own STEM team.

16-8 - The Joys of Boys Writing

Presenter: Ed McCarthy, Catholic Memorial Middle School, Medway, MA

All boys will become writers in our culture's digital future. Learn from a teacher/writer easy-to/ manage methods that excite boys to generate stories, reflections, and responses to reading.

16-9 - The Power of 100 Words: Craft, Clarity, and Creative Showcase

Presenter: Michelle Seeley, Tripp Middle School, Turner, ME

Explore how 100-word memoirs build voice and precision, try interactive annotation and gallery-walk activities, and see how simple circuit tape can highlight student craft. Take home strategies, contest resources, and creative ways to celebrate concise writing.

16-10 - Creating a Welcoming Sense of Belonging at School

Presenter: Brianna Taylor, Cooperative Middle School, Stratham, NH

This presentation will share simple, practical, and high-impact strategies educators can use every day to help students feel seen, valued, and included. Small shifts in language, routines, and relationships can make a powerful difference in helping every student know they truly belong.

16-11 - The NELMS Experience: Learn what NELMS can offer you and your school!

Presenter: Peter J. Gillen, Ed.D., West Springfield Middle School, West Springfield, MA

NELMS is more than just this conference! Come learn about the programs, supports, and benefits that NELMS provides. From School Assessments to Student Leadership- we have tremendous support to offer schools and individual educators. Learn what we're all about!

16-12 - Community Nights for Middle Level Schools

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

In this quick session, learn how to bring community partners into your schools to help your school and, most importantly, the students and families. Community Night brings in all local resources from the state truck drivers to fuel assistance for families.

Session II – Concurrent Workshops – 11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

17 - Picture This: US History Through the Lens

Brandie Burrows and Meghan Haugevik, Frank H. Harrison Middle School, Yarmouth, ME

Charles (2nd Floor)

Strand: A



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

Andrea McKenzie, Sterling Community School, Sterling, CT

Highland (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

Rick Wormeli, Herndon, VT

Mahogany (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

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

Monarch (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

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.

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

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

Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

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

Jen Stanchfield, Experiential Tools, South Newfane, VT

Worthy (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

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

Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: C

As more states join Maine in bringing Native Studies into classrooms, this session guides educators through creating authentic and meaningful learning experiences 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.

Workshop Cancelled

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

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

Longford (3rd Floor)

Strand: D

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.

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

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

King Edward West (3rd Floor)

Strand: C

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.

Our presenters would love your feedback on their workshop session! Our Presenter Evaluation form can be found at <https://forms.gle/qd4PWPMZxF23Xf1k8> or by scanning this QR code:



27 - Healthy Leadership: Prioritizing Administrator Well-being

Eric Arabian, Athol Royalston Middle School, Athol, MA

King George North (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

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

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

King George South (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

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

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

Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

Strand: B

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

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

Waterford (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

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.

Whole School & Focus Assessments

Whole School Assessment helps you plan for the future by looking at your current practices. Focus Assessments are specific tools to confirm the quality of a specific program or content area. Schools receive recommendations for growth.

A great base for school improvement and action plans!

www.nelms.org

Luncheon Keynote Session

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Grand Ballroom



“The Motivated, Motivating Leader: Inspiring Students, Colleagues, and Ourselves”

Presenters: James Simons & Maureen Chapman

In their book, *Leaders of the Class*, longtime educators Maureen Chapman and James Simons argue that leaders are motivated and motivating. Thus, by building a schoolwide culture of leadership for all, we support students and educators alike to connect with the motivation they need to engage in challenging, important work, to achieve their potential, and to experience enduring wellbeing in the process. Join Maureen and James for an energizing, interactive keynote full of inspiring stories, research-backed insights, and practical strategies that will help you, your colleagues, and your kids to become motivated and motivating leaders of the class.

Session III – Concurrent Workshops – 1:40 PM – 2:40 PM

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

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

Charles (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

Dr. Dan Zukergood, Springfield College, Springfield, MA

Highland (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

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

Mahogany (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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.

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

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

Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: C

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.



46th Annual Middle Level Conference & Exhibits

Thursday, March 18, 2027

&

Friday, March 19, 2027

Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place

Springfield, MA



See you There!

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

Jen Stanchfield, Experiential Tools, South Newfane, VT

Worthy (2nd Floor)

Strand: E

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

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

Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

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 - How to Build Empathy and Connection in YOUR Classroom

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

Longford (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

Join Jeff Frigon from The Browne Center at UNH in an engaging 60 minutes of Empathy and connection. Learn experientially, the basics of Empathy, the brain science behind why it's vital to SEL and our communities, and leave with some tools for your back pocket you can use tomorrow!

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

Anthony Galgano, True Robotics, Worcester, MA

King Edward East (3rd Floor)

Strand: F

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.

Our presenters would love your feedback on their workshop session! Our Presenter Evaluation form can be found at

<https://forms.gle/qd4PWPMZxF23Xf1k8>

or by scanning this QR code:



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

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

King Edward West (3rd Floor)

Strand: C

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

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

King George North (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

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

Susanna Sharpe, Biddeford Middle School, Biddeford, ME

King George South (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

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

Todd Lindbloom, Savvas Learning, South Portland, ME

Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

Strand: B

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

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

Waterford (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

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

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

Middlesex (4th Floor)

Strand: A

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.

Session IV – Concurrent Workshops – 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

47 - Building Brave Classrooms

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

Charles (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

Timothy Carignan, Haverhill Cooperative Middle School, North Haverhill, NH

Highland (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

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

Rick Wormeli, Herndon, VT

Mahogany (2nd Floor)

Strand: F

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

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

Monarch (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

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

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

Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

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

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

Worthy (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

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

Al Spader, Rochester Middle School, Rochester, NH

Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: E

Workshop Cancelled

54 - The Structure of Engagement: Designing Lessons That Run Themselves

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

Longford (2nd Floor)

Step into our "kitchen" and transform curriculum into experiences. Move beyond lesson planning with a process-based design framework and learn to build scaffolded learning loops where students do the heavy lifting. Walk away with a tangible recipe framework to retrofit lessons for higher engagement and less teacher fatigue.

Strand: A



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

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

King Edward East (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: F

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

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

King Edward West (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: D

57 - Purpose Over Pressure

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

King George North (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: E



58 - Create Community and Revolutionize Classroom Management

Susanna Sharpe, Biddeford Middle School, Biddeford, ME

King George South (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: A

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

Tracie Berry, HILL for Literacy, Boston, MA
Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: A



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

Dr. Holly Blais, Projectlife Services, Epping, NH
Waterford (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: E



61 - Aspiring to be a Middle Level Administrator

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

Middlesex (4th Floor)

"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.

Strand: E

Don't forget to check us out on Social Media!

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Use these hashtags when posting:

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DISRUPT & LEAD: A SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR MIDDLE LEVEL LEADERS

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Join us in beautiful Kittery, Maine, July 14-15 for a two-day institute designed to help middle level educators **disrupt** the status quo and **lead** meaningful, lasting improvement. Collaborate with fellow middle level educators and your own teams as you learn, reflect, and plan for the year ahead. You will leave with ideas, plans, and strategies to lead **boldly!**

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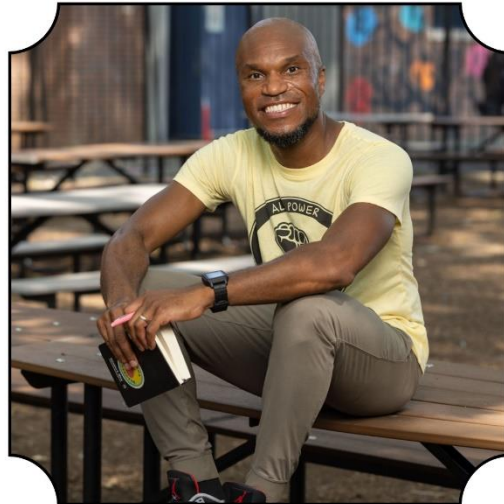


Friday, March 20, 2026

General Session and Keynote

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Grand Ballroom



“Doing What Matters – For Us And For Young People”
Presenter: Cornelius Minor

It has been well documented that the challenges that we face as educators are large ones. Almost every current study on wellness in the profession has revealed that the most impactful educators are not just concerned about learning. They are concerned about all of the things that amplify it -- well-being, belonging, safety.

As educators, we are the ones that see the complexities in all of these things. We understand the urgency of this moment and what it takes to meet it, but this clarity is complicated by the frustrating pressures and expectations to “do it all”.

We cannot. And we should not. It’s not healthy. We don’t exist in a “do all the things” ecosystem anymore. Truthfully, we never did. We can grow to be the ones who do the things that matter most.

This truth is a hard one to accept. Especially for people like us -- the knowers, the chronic overachievers, the people pleasers.

So how do we choose where to put our time, our talent, our energy? How do we say “no” to some things when school culture has groomed us to always say “yes” to all things? How do we build powerful practice out of the kinds of priorities that respect our lives and our calling as educators? How might we restore humanity in teaching and dignity in learning?

We know so much, and the way forward STILL seems so uncertain. And we are all so tired...

We know that we cannot raise a community of whole children if we do not engage in the professional practices that keep us whole as educators. What is good teaching in 2025? And how do we get there? Bigger still, how do we get there while remaining true to who we are AND true to the students that we teach?

Conference Planner

Friday, March 20, 2026

Visit Exhibits between sessions or anytime from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Time	Function	Number/Title	Location(s)
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	General Session and Keynote: Cornelius Minor	<i>Doing What Matters – For Us And For Young People</i>	Grand Ballroom
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Bookstore & Exhibit Hall		Ballroom Foyer & 2nd Floor Foyer
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Coffee Break with Exhibitors		Ballroom Foyer & 2nd Floor Foyer
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	The Principal and NELMS: What NELMS Can Do For You		Executive Boardroom
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Concurrent Session V		2nd, 3rd, & 4th Floor Meeting Rooms
11:10 AM – 12:10 PM	Concurrent Session VI		2nd, 3rd, & 4th Floor Meeting Rooms
12:10 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch for All Attendees & Visit Exhibitors		Ballroom Foyer & 2nd Floor Foyer
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Luncheon Keynote: Dr. Timothy Allen	<i>The Mentality</i>	Grand Ballroom
1:35 PM – 2:30 PM	Closing Session:	<i>Ignitors: Fast-Paced Strategies for Transforming Education</i>	Grand Ballroom

This page is to be used in conjunction with the Certificate of Attendance (page 55) to track attendees' hours.

Session V – Concurrent Workshops – 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

62 - Hands on Health

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

Charles (2nd Floor)

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.

Strand: A



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

Julie Horton, The Bromfield School, Harvard, MA

Highland (2nd Floor)

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.

Strand: B

64 - Teaching Perseverance

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

Mahogany (2nd Floor)

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.

Strand: A



65 - Increasing Student Voice: Chat and Chew Lunch Conversations

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

Monarch (2nd Floor)

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.

Strand: C



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

Anne Gilbert, Rye Junior High School, Rye, NH

Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

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.

Strand: B

67 - Maximize Your Minutes and Refine Your Teaching Strategies!

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

Worthy (2nd Floor)

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!

Strand: A

68 - Security Considerations for Middle School Field Trips

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

Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: E

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

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

Longford (3rd Floor)

Strand: D

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

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

King Edward East (3rd Floor)

Strand: F

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

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

King Edward West (3rd Floor)

Strand: B

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.



Our presenters would love your feedback on their workshop session! Our Presenter Evaluation form can be found at

<https://forms.gle/qd4PWPMZxF23Xf1k8>

or by scanning this QR code:



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

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

King George North (3rd Floor)

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.



Strand: B

73 - Engage to Excel

Vilenti Tulloch Sr, Academic Leadership Association, Springfield, MA

King George South (3rd Floor)

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.



Strand: C

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

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

Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

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.



Strand: A

75 - Stuck In The Middle With You!

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

Waterford (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: E


76 - Teaching About Identity

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


Middlesex (4th Floor)

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.

Strand: C



46th Annual Middle Level Conference & Exhibits
Thursday, March 18, 2027
&
Friday, March 19, 2027
Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place
Springfield, MA

 *See you There!*

Session VI – Concurrent Workshops – 11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

77 - Middle School Businesses--Personal Finance for Everyone

Scott Davenport, Brattleboro Area Middle School, Brattleboro, VT

Charles (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

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

Highland (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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 of learning tools, and collaboration strategies help teachers support diverse learners while maintaining rigor and access to grade-level content.

Workshop Cancelled

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

Cornelius Minor, The Minor Collective, Brooklyn, NY

Mahogany (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

Christine Murray, Worcester Academy, Worcester, MA

Monarch (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

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

Stonehaven (2nd Floor)

Strand: A

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

Matthew LeVangie, Marblehead Veterans Middle School, Marblehead, MA

Worthy (2nd Floor)

Strand: B

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

Kristen Rosecrans, John Winthrop Middle School, Deep River, CT

Executive Boardroom (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

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

Chuck Barnard, Success Institutes, Portland, ME

Longford (3rd Floor)

Strand: B

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

Katrina Antonovich, Milton Town School District, Milton, VT

King Edward East (3rd Floor)

Strand: F

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

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

King Edward West (3rd Floor)

Strand: A

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

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

King George North (3rd Floor)

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.



Strand: A

88 - Adventure Fosters SEL Growth

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

King George South (3rd Floor)

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.



Strand: B

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

Susan Bryant, Population Education, Cohasset, MA

Kilkenny (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: A

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

Andrew Zitoli, Tiverton Middle School, Tiverton, RI

Waterford (3rd Floor)

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.

Strand: E

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

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

Middlesex (4th Floor)

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.

Strand: C

Luncheon Keynote Session

12:30 PM – 1:30 M

Grand Ballroom



“The Mentality”

Presenter: Dr. Timothy Allen

As a basketball coach, I spend 80% of my time building and sustaining my players’ mentality. I can’t control the ups and downs of the game—the adversity, the stress, or the missed shots—but I can help my players develop the mentality needed to push through and perform at their best.

The same is true for educators. Programs, parents, behaviors, initiatives, and stress are part of the job. What matters most is building a mentality that allows educators to push through and perform at their best.

In this keynote, we’ll explore the mentality that educators can create, nourish, and sustain—one that fuels both professional success and personal well-being. When educators strengthen their mentality, their students thrive right alongside them.

Session VII – Closing Session – 1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

Grand Ballroom



IGNITORS



“Ignitors: Fast-Paced Strategies for Transforming Education”
Presenter: NELMS Board of Directors

We saved the best for last! Our conference closes with a fast-paced, high-energy presentation that will give you several quick, easy, tangible takeaways for your classroom, school, or district. Our Board proudly presents our **Ignitors!** You won't want to miss this!

Additional Information

Daily Grid – Thursday, March 19, 2026 (Sessions I & II)

Room Name and Floor	Session I 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM			Session II 11:10 AM - 12:10 PM	
Charles 2nd Floor	1	EcoOdyssey: An Interdisciplinary, Interstellar Adventure	11:10 AM - 12:10 PM - 16 - Lesson Plan Speed Learning Sessions - Grand Ballroom (see page * for more info)	17	Picture This: US History Through the Lens
Highland 2nd Floor	2	Vibes Don't Lie: The Real Power of School Culture		18	Using Choice Boards to Increase Engagement and Comprehension
Mahogany 2nd Floor	3	Building Relationships that WORK!		19	Metaphors and Analogies in the Middle School: Power ...
Monarch 2nd Floor	4	Building a Successful Student-Led Conference Model		20	HomeBASE: Building an Effective School-Wide Advisory Model
Stonehaven 2nd Floor	5			21	Lead Upstream, Inspire Wellness: Foundations and Practices of MHL...
Worthy 2nd Floor	6			22	Inspire, Engage, Connect, & Reflect: Experiential, Brain-Based Techniques ...
Executive Boardroom 3rd Floor	7	Adventures in Competency-Based Education		23	
Longford 3rd Floor	8	Rediscovering Problems		24	How to Teach Trauma Students from a Former Trauma ...
King Edward East 3rd Floor	9	AI as an Educators' Thought Assistant		25	
King Edward West 3rd Floor	10	When Online Hate Hits the Classroom: Helping Students Break ...		26	LGBTQ+ 101 - and Beyond: Lessons for Middle Schoolers
King George North 3rd Floor	11	Building Success Through Tiered Instruction: A Framework for Literacy and Learning		27	Healthy Leadership: Prioritizing Administrator Well-being
King George South 3rd Floor	12			28	Highlighting the Blind Spots: Building Your Students' Ability To Ask Questions
Kilkenny 3rd Floor	13	Optimize Your Advisory		29	Social Emotional Learning in Action
Waterford 3rd Floor	14	Ditch the Feedback: Coach Instead		30	Mindset, Teamwork, and Coaching: The New Playbook for Middle-Level Leaders
Middlesex 4th Floor	15	Be That Teacher - The One You Want Your Kid To Have!		31	

Daily Grid – Thursday, March 19, 2026 (Sessions III & IV)

Room Name and Floor	Session III 1:40 PM - 2:40 PM		Session IV 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	
Charles 2nd Floor	32	It IS Possible for Middle Schoolers to Set Reasonable, Attainable, ...	47	Building Brave Classrooms
Highland 2nd Floor	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	34	Igniting Student Motivation	49	Generative AI in the Middle School Classroom and ...
Monarch 2nd Floor	35		50	Protect Your Peace: Leading With Healthy Boundaries At School & Home
Stonehaven 2nd Floor	36	Curiosity to Impact: Undergraduate Genius Hour Projects Advancing...	51	Emotionally Intelligent Practices: The Key to Educator and Student Well-Being
Worthy 2nd Floor	37	Inspired Educational Leader, Engaged and Connected Teams: ...	52	Student and Staff Culture Builders
Executive Boardroom 3rd Floor	38	Teacher Mentor Programs: One District's Story	53	
Longford 3rd Floor	39	How to Build Empathy and Connection in YOUR Classroom	54	The Structure of Engagement: Designing Lessons That Run Themselves
King Edward East 3rd Floor	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	41	How Avoidance of Race Conversations Stunts Our Growth: ...	56	What You Should Know About Young Adolescents:...
King George North 3rd Floor	42	Bringing Your Vision To Life: Merging District Mission, Instructional Frameworks, and Visible Learning	57	Purpose Over Pressure
King George South 3rd Floor	43	25+ Things to Add to Your Teacher Toolbox	58	Create Community and Revolutionize Classroom Management
Kilkenny 3rd Floor	44	Game On: Enhancing Math and Language Through Hands-On Games	59	Empowering Readers: Using Self-Monitoring...
Waterford 3rd Floor	45	Geographical Fiction Travel Project	60	Listening Beneath the Behavior: Leading Systems ...
Middlesex 4th Floor	46	Targeted Supports for Adolescent Striving Readers	61	Aspiring to be a Middle Level Administrator

Daily Grid – Friday, March 20, 2026

Room Name and Floor	Session V 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM		Session VI 11:10 AM - 12:10 PM	
Charles 2nd Floor	62	Hands on Health	77	Middle School Businesses--Personal Finance for Everyone
Highland 2nd Floor	63	How They Learned on their Summer Vacation: The Common Goals of Schools & Camps	78	
Mahogany 2nd Floor	64	Teaching Perseverance	79	Being Child Centered in a World That Wants Us to Center Everything Else
Monarch 2nd Floor	65	Increasing Student Voice: Chat and Chew Lunch Conversations	80	Supporting Executive Function in the Classroom: Tools and Strategies for Long-Term Projects, ...
Stonehaven 2nd Floor	66	Small Joys, Big Impact: Simple Systems That Strengthen Wellbeing in Middle School	81	RTI Not Working in Middle School? Try an "Enrichment" Class
Worthy 2nd Floor	67	Maximize Your Minutes and Refine Your Teaching Strategies!	82	Support Through Connectivity - Advisory Model and Connecting with Students
Executive Boardroom 3rd Floor	68	Security Considerations for Middle School Field Trips	83	From Eye Rolls to Buy-In: Engagement and Classroom Management for Middle Schoolers
Longford 3rd Floor	69	Is Your School Designed to Meet the Needs of 10–15-Year-Olds? ...	84	Planting Possibilities: Grow a Mindset for Success
King Edward East 3rd Floor	70	Using AI to Help Your Teaching	85	Using Technology and AI with Students to Build Engaging Student Led Projects
King Edward West 3rd Floor	71	Spotting and Stopping Burnout: Practical Tools for Supporting Teachers...	86	Increasing the Rigor: Using Targeted Feedback to Help Students ...
King George North 3rd Floor	72	Culture Building by Design: Practices to Build and Maintain Positive School Climate	87	Narrative-Based PBL: Sparking Curiosity and Exploration through Career-connected Learning
King George South 3rd Floor	73	Engage to Excel	88	Adventure Fosters SEL Growth
Kilkenny 3rd Floor	74	Getting the Most Out of Experiential Learning in the Classroom	89	Empowering Young Adolescents on Environmental Issues: A Multidisciplinary Approach
Waterford 3rd Floor	75	Stuck In The Middle With You!	90	The Human School Project: Building Schools that Keep Humanity at the Center of Innovation
Middlesex 4th Floor	76	Teaching About Identity	91	Challenges, Joys, and Positive Change: Conversations on Supporting Equity Work

Exhibitor Guide

Academic Leadership Association

Space #: 1

Yeselie Tulloch, Business Manager
175 Chalmers St, Springfield, MA 01118

Phone: 413-885-0118

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Website: <https://www.academicleadershipassociation.com/>

ALA-on a mission to empower youth to make positive changes within themselves and their school communities while embracing equity through school-based mentoring, social and emotional learning, and student advocacy.

AI Navigator, LLC

Space #: 14

Rebecca Magary, Founder
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American International College

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Better Choices Education LLC

Space #: 16

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Website: <https://betterchoiceseducation.com/>

Better Choices Education turns discipline into restorative learning with engaging, student-focused content that builds accountability and positive behavior. Schools get immediate data to guide decisions and strengthen culture.

cor creative partners, LLC

Space #: 2

Maureen Chapman, Co-Director
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Website: www.corcreativepartners.com

We provide professional development services to educators to support the integration of academic, emotional, and social skill development in the classroom, curriculum design + implementation, and leadership development so that everyone loves school.

DBT for You

Space #: 24

Crystal Sexton, Director of Business Development & Client Success
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eDynamic Learning

Space #: 15

Sandra Romero, Event Marketing Manager
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Website: <https://www.edynamiclearning.com/>

eDynamic Learning empowers educators with equitable CTE and elective curriculum, STEM resources, and virtual simulations. With 270+ courses for grades 6–12, we help students explore careers, build skills, and prepare for life beyond graduation.

Exploration Learning

Space #: 21

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fastIEP

Space #: 5

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Grand Classroom

Space #: 10

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Email: greggw@grandclassroom.com
Website: www.grandclassroom.com

Grand Classroom is a U.S.-based, family-owned, full-service student travel company that creates intentional and authentic learning experiences through our custom-built and active itineraries in the National Parks, historic cities, and abroad.

HILL For Literacy and Storyshares

Space #: 18

MarcyKate Connolly, Marketing Director, HILL For Literacy
867 Boylston St, 5th Fl, #1866, Boston, MA 02116

Phone: 888-860-0190

Email: marcykate@hillforliteracy.org

Website: <https://hillforliteracy.org/>

HILL for Literacy uses a system-wide approach to create lasting change in literacy education. We now offer Elevate to secondary schools, pairing Storyshares's high-interest books with the HILL's evidence-based routines, training, and coaching.

Lifetouch

Space #: 17

Nathan Pierce, National Sales Executive
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Website: <http://www.lifetouch.com/>

We celebrate life's special moments through photography. School Photography and Yearbooks.

Lisa Howard & Associates

Space #: 23

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Medal of Honor Foundation

Space #: 12

Javier Martinez, Education Programs Coordinator
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Email: jmartinez@cmohs.org

Website: <https://www.cmohs.org/>

Visit the Medal of Honor Character Development Program booth to explore free, standards-aligned character education resources. Learn how educators use real-life stories of heroes to build leadership, civic values, and classroom culture.

Nature's Classroom, Inc.

Space #: 6

Lesleigh Drake, Associate Executive Director
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Phone: 508-248-2741

Email: lesleigh@naturesclassroom.org

Website: www.naturesclassroom.org

At Nature's Classroom, we immerse students in authentic, real-world, hands-on activities in spectacular natural settings. Our curricula are standards-aligned and can be customized to support what the students are learning at school.

New England Association of Teachers of English

Space #: 25

Melinda Butler, President of NEATE
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Email: mindydowbutler@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.neate.org/>

NEATE connects ELA educators from pre-K to college, promoting shared learning and equity. We amplify diverse and underrepresented voices and support literacy as a tool for agency, democracy, and collaboration.

New Hampshire School Administrators Association

Space #: 26

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EDjobsNH, administered by the NHSAA, is New Hampshire's premier online job board for education positions, serving as a central hub for finding openings for teachers, administrators, coaches, and support staff in NH schools as a key career resource.

No Brain is the Same

Space #: 4

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Outdoor Classroom LLC

Space #: 20

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Project Adventure, Inc.

Space #: 9

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Project Adventure provides adventure-based learning experiences and tools including a middle school Advisory curriculum, professional development for teachers, transformative facilitation of student groups and challenge course products and services.

Projectlife Services

Space #: 22

Holly Blais, Director and Lead Analyst
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Email: hblais@projectlifeservices.com

Website: <https://www.projectlifeservices.com/>

Partnering with schools to strengthen behavior, leadership, and belonging at the systems level. Grounded in behavioral science and design thinking, we help districts evolve from reactive management toward coherent, sustainable learning environments.

R. J. Goan & Associates

Space #: 8

Regan Goan, President
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Email: info@rjgoan.com

Website: <https://www.rjgoan.com/>

Proactive security consulting, facility assessments, and preparedness training designed to reduce risk and protect lives. We specialize in CPTED solutions and patent-pending handheld, removable evacuation maps for clear, rapid emergency guidance.

Savvas Learning Company

Space #: 19

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Website: www.savvas.com

At Savvas, we believe learning should inspire. Our next-generation K-12 learning solutions engage students and empower teachers, giving all students the best opportunity to succeed. Visit Savvas Learning Company.

Southern New Hampshire University

Space #: 28

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Phone: 603-717-1375

Email: r.pedro@snhu.edu

Website: <https://www.snhu.edu/>

SNHU offers graduate education programs (MEd, CAGS, EdD) for students interested in furthering their education in programs that are flexible, affordable, and rigorous.

Stryker

Space #: 7

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Email: louie.vigars@stryker.com

Website: <https://www.stryker.com/us/en/acute-care/vocera/workplace-communications/education.html>

Success Institutes, LLC

Space #: 13

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The Browne Center for Innovative Learning

Space #: 3

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Email: jeff.frigon@unh.edu
Website: https://brownecenter.com/

Bring transformative community-building to your school! At your site or ours, we use experiential tools to deliver custom programs that build resilience, empathy, and communication and help staff and/or students connect and grow together.

Toadstool Education

Space #: Bookstore

Emerson Sistare, Owner
12 Depot Square, Peterborough, NH 03458
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Website: https://toadbooks.com/

True Robotics

Space #: 11

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Website: https://www.truerobotics.org/



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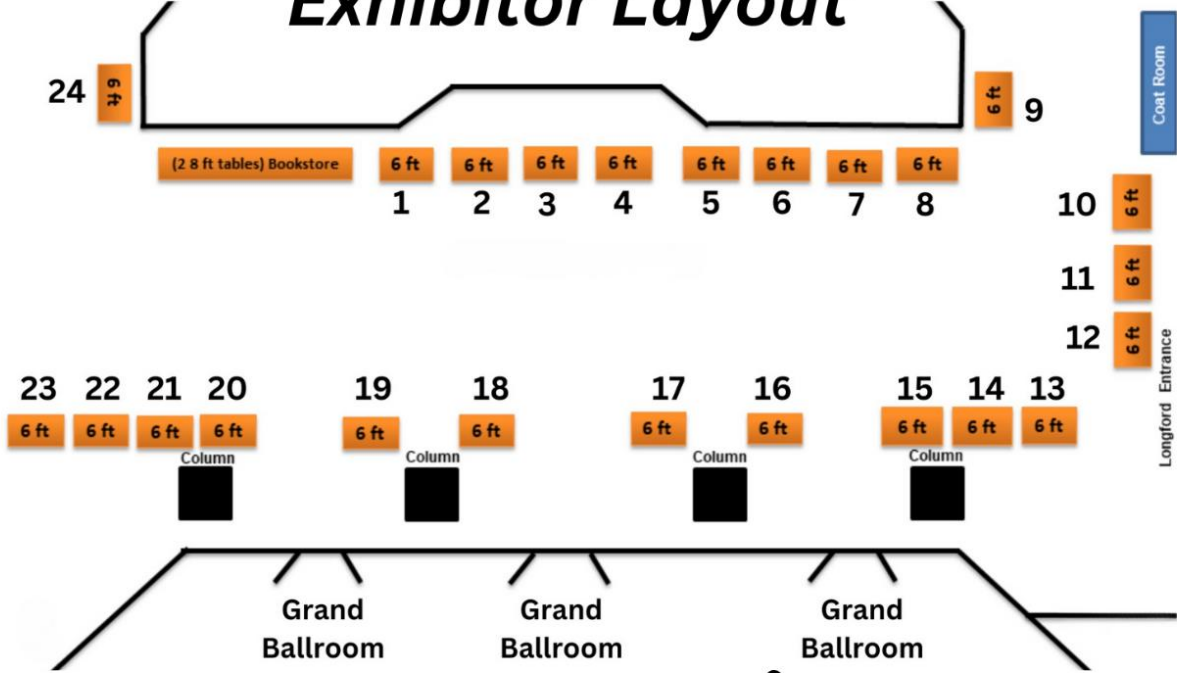
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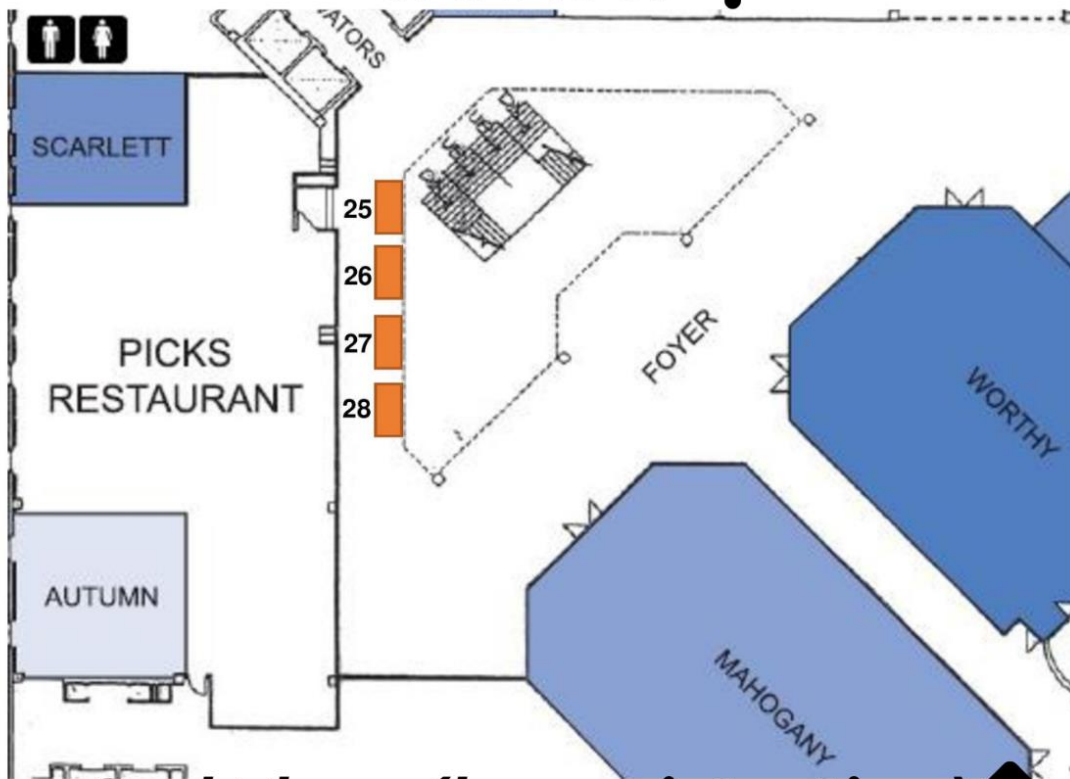
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Exhibitor Layout

Exhibitor Layout



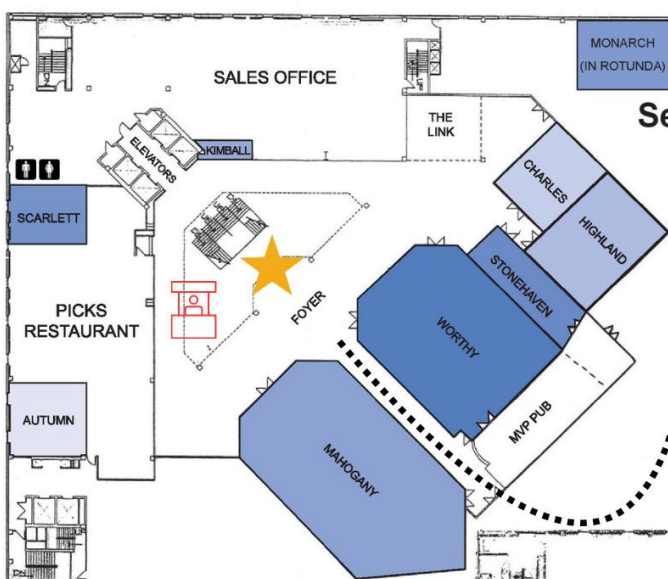
3rd Floor ↑



2nd Floor (by registration) ↑

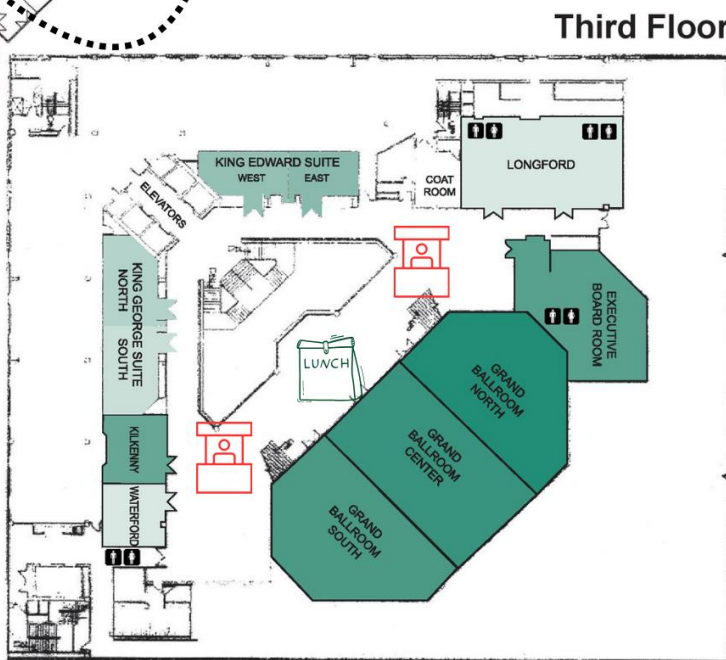
Hotel Map

Floor Plan



Second Floor

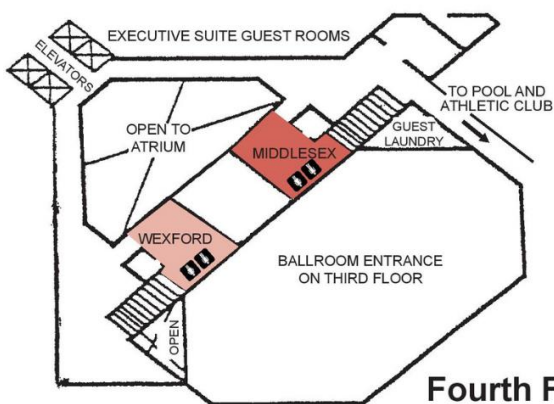
To go to the Monarch Room, go past MVP Pub and follow the signs.



Third Floor

Legend

-  Registration
-  Exhibitors
-  Lunch Pickup



Fourth Floor

NELMS 45th Annual Middle Level Conference & Exhibits
Sheraton Springfield Monarch
Place, Springfield, MA
March 19 & 20, 2026

NOTES



**GROW LEAD
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NOTES



**GROW LEAD
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NOTES



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Certificate of Attendance

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

This document in conjunction with the Conference Planner pages are proof of hours of attendance for

Name


School Name

City, State

at the New England League of Middle Schools'
45th Annual Middle Level Conference & Exhibits
Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place
Springfield, Massachusetts

Please check the appropriate date(s)

- Thursday, March 19, 2026
- Friday, March 20, 2026



NELMS Authorized Signature: Jeff Rodman, Executive Director

*Do not turn this form into NELMS!
Keep it along with your conference program for your files.*

New England League of Middle Schools
PO Box 887, Georgetown, MA 01833-0887 • (877) 402-7627 • email: nelms@nelms.org • www.nelms.org