"Learn as if you were to live forever." - M. Gandhi
### Table of Contents

**INSPIRE!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helpful Information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMSA Opportunities</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMSA Bookstore</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Thanks</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards &amp; Special Recognition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMSA Art Contest Winner</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOYA Writing Contest Winner</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Level Educator of the Year: Jody Anderson</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinguished Service Award</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Entertainment</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keynote Speakers</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Schedule – Thursday</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Session – Thursday</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakout Sessions – Thursday</td>
<td>17-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMSA Summer Institute</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Schedule – Friday</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Session – Friday</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakout Sessions – Friday</td>
<td>30-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Schedule Planner</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMSA Leadership History</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMSA Distinguished Service Award History</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMSA Educator of the Year History</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMSA Constitution</td>
<td>43-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thank You!!</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Let us not be content to wait and see what will happen, but give us the determination to make the right things happen.*

~ Horace Mann
Helpful Information

REGISTRATION
The Registration Table is located in the Bloomington/Edina Foyer.

REMEMBER . . .

Official Conference Badges Required

Identification badges are included in your registration materials. MMSA conference badges should be worn at all times; not only as a courtesy to other attendees, but also as an indication that you are registered. Badges must be worn to gain admittance to breakout sessions, lunch, and the Exhibit Hall.

SILENT AUCTION

Thursday & Friday ~ 7:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
Grand Ballroom Foyer

Shop for great bargains just in time for the holidays on a large selection of quality items. 100% of your purchase price will go to work in classrooms around the state through the MMSA mini grant program!

CEUs

Continuing Education Units are available for the whole day, as well as, for the sessions that qualify for the required components. All CEUs will be available online at the MMSA website after you complete a brief survey about the conference. Administrator CEUs are also available online. If you have any questions after the conference, contact Jason Miller at jmille1@isd77.k12.mn.us

PUBLICATION TABLE

Located across from the Registration Table, the Publications Table is the place to be! The latest and best professional resources available for middle level educators will be available for review and purchase. Books authored by our Keynote Speakers will be featured!

Please take time to visit with the companies and organizations in the Exhibit Hall. Showcased are innovative and educationally supportive ideas and resources for people who touch the lives of young adolescents. MMSA urges conference attendees to schedule time to visit the Exhibit Hall and thank exhibitors for their support of middle level education.

Visit the Exhibit Hall! Visit the Exhibit Hall!
Welcome

The Minnesota Middle School Association
Board of Directors
Welcomes You to the 34th Annual
State Conference!

**Steve Norlin-Weaver, Executive Director, Minneapolis – Field School
Jason Miller, President, Mankato – Mankato Area Public Schools
**Tami Jo Cook, Treasurer, Edina – South View Middle School
Kristi Quade-Wiedrich, Secretary, Rochester - Kellogg Middle School
Melissa Benjamin, Board Director, Long Lake – Orono Middle School
Ron Browne, Board Director, Mankato – Minnesota State University
Chris Bussmann, Board Director, Farmington – Levi P. Dodge Middle School
**Dan Edwards, Board Director, Prior Lake - Twin Oaks Middle School
**Patrick Fox, President, Wayzata – St. Bartholomew Catholic School
Jan Heyerdahl, Board Director, Buffalo – Buffalo Community Middle School
Cindy Kucera, Board Director, Mounds View – Highview Middle School
Lori Lockhart, Board Director, Willmar – Roosevelt Elementary
Sandy Loney, Board Director, Brainerd/Baxter – Forestview Middle School
Jerry Meschke, Board Director, Lino Lakes – Retired Principal
Karen Moroz, Board Director, Saint Paul – Hamline University
Pam Newbauer, Board Director, North Branch – North Branch Middle School
Margaret Porter, Board Director, Lakeville – Retired Teacher
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Sarah Reif, Board Director, Alexandria – Discovery Middle School
Becki Simonson, Board Director, Litchfield – Litchfield Middle School
Annette Strom, Board Director, Duluth – Woodland Middle School

** Former MMSA President

Visit www.mmsa.info for more information about joining our board!
Check out our website for exciting MMSA programs and opportunities!!

- Educator of the Year
- MOYA Writing Contest
- Twins Attendance Program
- MMSA Mini Grants
  and much more!

http://www.horacemann.com/teacher-lounge

2015 Summer Institute
2015 State Conference
MMSA Constitution
MMSA Board of Directors
Be INSPIRED!
Come Shop the MMSA Bookstore!

GREAT MIDDLE SCHOOL TITLES!

Find us in the hall near the registration table!

Books by keynote speakers Anthony Muhammad and Willow Sweeney!

Super gift books for colleagues - Free gift wrapping with purchases over $25!

Subject specific books!

Need new ideas? Come shop with us!

Pay with cash, check or credit card
MMSA thanks the 2014 Exhibitors and Sponsors!!

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Healing Stones
Horace Mann
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Minnesota Ag in the Classroom
Minnesota Twins
MN DNR Firewise Project GIS4Schools
MN Field Trip Library
National Geographic CENGAGE
Ordway Center for Performing Arts
Origins Program
Park Nicollet Melrose Center
Perfection Learning
Renaissance Learning
Sadlier
Scranton Products Inc.
Taylors Falls Recreation/Wild Mountain
Team Quest
The 7 Mindset
Voyager Outward Bound School
World's Finest Chocolate
Youth Frontiers
Zaner-Bloser
Awards & Special Recognition

MMSA Art Contest Winner

Gabby Cohen

Congratulations to Gabby for winning the MMSA Art Contest! The logo she created is featured on the program cover. As the winner, Gabby received $100 from MMSA for her terrific work.

IN HER OWN WORDS . . .

I chose to draw the light bulb because it symbolizes learning. I decided to use this image because a big part of learning is when something confuses you, then all of a sudden it just "clicks" in your head. Creative ways to learn new things inspires me to learn.
MMSA Month of the Young Adolescent Essay Contest Winner

Kallie Sweere

Congratulations to Kallie for winning the MMSA Month of the Young Adolescent Essay Contest! As the winner, Kallie received $100 from MMSA for her great essay. She will also read her essay at lunch on Friday!

Tell the story of a challenge you accepted and describe how someone or something inspired you to face it.

Changes

My memory of a time I struggled is about when I had to change schools. I was very sad.

I had been going to Holy Rosary School for six years. The number of students in a class there is much smaller than the number of students in a class at the middle school. The largest number of students I ever had in my class was sixteen. We also didn’t have locks on our lockers, so when I got to middle school I struggled with the lockers. The middle school is much bigger than my old school too. I didn’t know very many kids and after a few days I missed my friends.

Even though I missed Holy Rosary, I am now glad I moved to Detroit Lakes Middle School. People at my new school can help me with what I need to work on. I have made a lot of new friends. I’m inspired by my teachers, my friends and my whole fifth grade experience at Detroit Lakes Middle School. I have learned a lot and I’m ready for sixth grade!
The 2014 Coleen Yatckoske Middle Level Educator of the Year is Jody Anderson. Jody is a Middle School Learning Disabilities Teacher at Deer River High School. Jody’s philosophy of education revolves around relationship building and making positive connections with middle school students. She knows that making some type of a positive connection with students on a daily basis is critical to the development of self-esteem/self-worth. She feels it is especially important that students know they have at least one staff member, whether it be a bus driver, paraprofessional, cook, or teacher, that will listen and who genuinely cares. She says, “First and foremost, students need to hear and feel that you believe in them and that you care about them and their lives outside of the classroom, this helps students to feel validated as individuals with unique abilities. I have observed that when you spend time developing connections with students and trust is built, the student becomes empowered to be their best. I strive to give my best every day, in hopes that I may give students hope and confidence, and to know that they are special and loved.”

To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world.

~ Anonymous
We are pleased to present the MMSA Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Tami Jo Cook. Tami Jo has been on the MMSA Board of Directors since 1998. She is a graduate of Bemidji State University, earned her Master’s Degree from Bemidji State University and completed her Doctorate Degree and Administrative Licensure from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. Tami Jo has served as a Mathematics Teacher and currently serves as Dean of Students at South View Middle School in Edina. She was President of the association from 2008–2009, works on the MMSA Conference Committee, and is currently serving as Treasurer. In addition to all of that, Tami Jo was Chair of the Local Committee for the Association for Middle Level Education’s (AMLE) national conference that was held in Minneapolis last year. MMSA appreciates Tami Jo’s perseverance, hard work, and dedication to middle level education. She is a true inspiration!
A special Thank You! to our student performers!

Thursday, December 4th – 7:40 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
Highview Middle School Jazz Band, Mounds View
Directed by Andy Schmidt

Thursday, December 4th – 12:00 p.m. to 12:20 p.m.
Field School Chamber Orchestra, Minneapolis
Directed by Kim Hotchkiss

Friday, December 5th – 7:40 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
The Prior Lakes Middle Schools 7-8 Honor Band
Directed by Brian M. Melody & Dagan O. Hanson

Friday, December 5th – 12:00 p.m. to 12:20 p.m.
Pioneer Ridge Middle School 8th Grade Band, Chaska
Directed by
Dr. Anthony Muhammad

Anthony Muhammad is one of the most sought after educational consultants in North America. He currently serves as the CEO of New Frontier 21 Consulting, a company dedicated to providing cutting-edge professional development to schools all over the world. He served as a practitioner for nearly twenty years. Dr. Muhammad served as a middle school teacher, assistant principal, middle school principal, and high school principal. His tenure as a practitioner has earned him several awards as both a teacher and a principal.

Dr. Muhammad is recognized as one of the field’s leading experts in the areas of school culture and organizational climate. His work has allowed him to work with schools in all 50 U.S. states, 10 Canadian provinces, the Caribbean, South America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

Dr. Muhammad is a best-selling author. He is the author of the books The Will to Lead and the Skill to Teach; Transforming Schools at Every Level (2011); Transforming School Culture: How to Overcome Staff Division (2009); and a contributing author to the book The Collaborative Administrator: Working Together as a Professional Learning Community (2008). He has published 26 articles in education journals and publications in seven different countries.

Willow Sweeney

Willow Sweeney is co-founder of Top 20 Training that provides training and materials to empower leaders, teachers, parents and students to develop their potential. She and her Top 20 team have trained over 250,000 leaders throughout the United States. Her work with businesses and companies focuses on developing more effective workplace teams and cultures.

Willow’s has co-authored Top 20 Teachers: The Revolution in American Education; Top 20 Parents: Raising Happy, Responsible and Emotionally Healthy Children; and Top 20 Teens: Discovering the Best-kept Thinking, Learning and Communicating Secrets of Successful Teenagers.

Willow career has included high school teaching, coaching and she has been a national speaker and trainer since 2002. She and her husband, Brian, have two sons and live in St. Cloud, Minnesota.
MOTIVATION

Conference Registration 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grand Ballroom Foyer

Continental Breakfast 7:30 a.m. – 7:55 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grand Ballroom Foyer

Student Entertainment 7:40 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grand Ballroom
   Highview Middle School Jazz Band, Mounds View ~ Directed by Andy Schmidt

General Session 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grand Ballroom

Exhibitor Hall Break 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Exhibitor Hall

Session One 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

Morning Break 10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Session Two 11:10 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

Student Entertainment 12:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grand Ballroom
   Field School Chamber Orchestra, Minneapolis ~ Directed by Kim Hotchkiss

Educator of the Year Luncheon 12:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . Grand Ballroom
   Special Guest of Honor: Jody Anderson, 2014 MMSA Middle Level Educator of the Year

Lunch 12:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Grand Ballroom
   Door prize drawing for a $50 gift certificate to the Mall of America and other items provided by Exhibitors. Turn your tickets in at the MMSA Publications Table across from the Registration Table.

Silent Auction Ends! 12:50 p.m.
   Items not paid for by 2:05 p.m. will go to the next highest bidder.

Session Three 1:15 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.

Afternoon Break 2:05 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.

Session Four 2:25 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

$50 MOA Gift Card Giveaway! 3:20
   Gather at the Registration Table for a chance to win $50 for the Mall of America! Be sure you have turned in your tickets at the Publications Table!
Opening Session – Thursday

Welcome
Dr. Jason Miller, President, MMSA

Greetings & Announcements
Steve Norlin-Weaver, Executive Director, MMSA

Keynote Address

Dr. Anthony Muhammad

The Will to Lead: Creating Healthy School Cultures

This keynote will explore the idea of Transformational Leadership. This idea is important in the classroom, principal's office, and superintendent’s office. In a high-performing school, that means learning for all students. Effective leadership is the catalyst to developing improving performance, and we will explore the strategies that inspire, enlighten, and push people to do great things for students as well as the strategies and behaviors that destroy momentum and productivity.
### Thursday: Session One  
10:00 – 10:50

* Denotes Corporate Presentation

**Bloomington:**  
*Transforming School Culture*

**Edina:**  
*Differentiated Reading: Higher Level Thinking through Purposeful Dialogue*

**Veranda 1:**  
*Check & Connect-Middle School Style*

**Veranda 2:**  
*Making MTSS Work at the Middle Level*

**Veranda 3:**  
"SAMR I AM"

**Veranda 4:**  
*How to Recognize and Support Students with OCD*

**Veranda 5:**  
*The Mindset Revolution: Unique Strategies for Middle School Success*

**Veranda 6:**  
*Humor In the Classroom*

*Veranda 7:*  
*One Great Question Leads to Another*

*Veranda 8:*  
*The Brain's Natural Learning Systems*

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### Thursday: Session Two  
11:10 – 12:00

* Denotes Corporate Presentation

**Bloomington:**  
*The Elephants in the Room: Eliminating Barriers to Effective Collaboration*

**Edina:**  
*School-Wide Assemblies to Increase Pride and Achievement*

**Veranda 1:**  
*Vocabulary of and for the CCSS/CCRS: A Middle School Perspective*

**Veranda 2:**  
*Engaging Learners Through Essential Questions*

**Veranda 3:**  
*Two Sides of the Technology Coin*

**Veranda 4:**  
*Fostering Collaboration in the Classroom--Working With Students Who Think Outside the Box*

**Veranda 5:**  
*Using Moodle in the Classroom*

**Veranda 6:**  
*Differentiation and Document Management with Cloud-Based Technology*

**Veranda 7:**  
*Transition Time!*

**Veranda 8:**  
*Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports: Implementing PBIS at the Middle Level*

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**Remember: CEUs available online at [www.mmsa.info](http://www.mmsa.info)!**
Thursday: Session Three
1:15 – 2:05

*Bloomington:
Using Improvisation in the Classroom

Edina:
Differentiated Reading: Higher Level Thinking through Purposeful Dialogue

*Veranda 1:
I'm a Literacy Teacher in Middle Years, and I'm lovin' it!

*Veranda 2:
What’s Growin’ On? Agriculture in Middle School Classrooms!

*Veranda 3:
ArcGIS Online Mapping Options for your Classroom

*Veranda 4:
Teens, Social Media & Body Image

*Veranda 5:
When is a Circle More Than a Circle? Shaping Advisories That Encompass Leadership and Learning

*Veranda 6:
Free Funding for Classrooms – DonorsChoose.org

Veranda 7:
Flexible Learning Days

*Veranda 8:
The Power of Play

Thursday: Session Four
2:25 – 3:15

*Bloomington:
The Magic Of Teaching

Edina:
Anxiety Disorders 101

Veranda 1:
Implementation of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program

Veranda 2:
YA Lit: Teaching with Books Students Choose

*Veranda 3:
21st Century Skills are Important

*Veranda 4:
Classroom Management and Engagement in the Middle Level

Veranda 5:
Grammar Can Save Lives: Or At Least Improve Student Writing

Veranda 6:
Grading Practices and Data Driven Decisions

*Veranda 7:
Engagement Changes Everything

*Veranda 8:
Learning Through Baseball
Bloomington: Transforming School Culture  
Dr. Anthony Muhammad, Keynote Speaker, CEO, New Frontier 21 Consulting  
This presentation will address the issue of conflicting agendas within schools. A high performing school has a very clear purpose; high levels of learning for all students. We will examine the barriers to aligning individual agendas with the organization’s agenda, and what ALL parties must do to develop the synergy necessary to guarantee learning. We will examine the theoretical framework developed by Anthony Muhammad in the book *Transforming School Culture: How to Overcome Staff Division* (2009) as the basis for developing a collaborative culture.

Edina: Differentiated Reading: Higher Level Thinking through Purposeful Dialogue  
Dr. Jennifer Carlson, Associate Professor, Hamline University  
Dr. Karen Moroz, MMSA Board Member, Associate Professor, Hamline University  
The presenters will share their current research on creating authentic conversations around relevant teen themes using fiction and nonfiction texts. These themes become the central focus of literature circles that utilize varied texts from a wide range of reading levels. Practical instructional strategies that create conditions for rich dialogue and enhance higher-level thinking around themed texts will be modeled.

CEU: Evidence of Reading Preparation

Veranda 1: Check & Connect-Middle School Style  
Kay Augustine, Manager of Youth & Adult Engagement, Eastern Carver County Schools  
Sheryl Hough, Principal, Chaska Middle School West  
Irv Andrews, Dean of Students and Check & Connect Coordinator, Chaska Middle School West  
Chaska Middle School West students served by Check & Connect are showing positive gains in attendance, behavior, and GPA. Recognized by the What Works Clearinghouse as an evidence-based program that keeps students in school, Check & Connect is a mentor-based model that builds a foundational relationship and purposefully uses a data-driven process to identify and address academic, behavioral, cognitive, and/or affective engagement issues that are getting in the way of students being successful. Join us to learn how Check & Connect is integrated with other interventions, including PBIS, to address the specifics of the blended model we are using, the positive outcomes we are seeing, as well as what we've learned from implementing.

CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

Veranda 2: Making MTSS Work at the Middle Level  
Laurie Putnam, Assistant Principal, South Junior High School  
Anna Willhite, Instructional Leader, South Junior High School  
Providing academic, behavior and enrichment interventions for students in the middle school can be challenging. We will provide a blueprint for reviewing data, placing students in classes, creating and monitoring interventions and celebrating successes.

CEU: Accommodation, Modification, and Adaptation of Curriculum Materials and Instruction

Veranda 3: "SAMR I AM"  
Amber Walsh, Instructional Coach, District #833  
Andrea Kleoppel, Instructional Coach and Social Studies Teacher, District #833  
This session will provide tools to help teachers move through the SAMR model in their classroom. Substitution, Augmentation, Modification and Redefinition apps and web-based solutions will be demonstrated. Components of the presentation will focus on using technology to differentiate instruction. The session will be best for those teaching or planning to teach in a 1:1 environment.

CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and student Achievement
Veranda 4: How to Recognize and Support Students with OCD

Brian Cashman, Gifted Coordinator, Red Wing Schools

The young people we work with come with various strengths and challenges, including various mental health concerns. This session will focus on how to support students with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). A great session to attend for school counselors, social workers, administrators and teaching staff alike, participants will leave with a more complete understanding of OCD and how their school can provide support to students and families that are dealing with OCD.

CEU: Understanding Key Warning Signs of Early-Onset Mental Illness in Children/Adolescents

Veranda 5: The Mindset Revolution: Unique Strategies for Middle School Success

Scott Shickler, CEO, The 7 Mindsets
Duane Moyer, Program Director, The 7 Mindsets

Scott Shickler and his team researched the world’s most successful people and discovered they had 7 Mindsets in common. Unfortunately most students have the opposite mindsets. Learn the 7 Mindsets and how schools use them to improve culture, reduce behavior issues and enhance performance so both students and teachers can thrive. Scott will empower you with free games, activities and strategies you can immediately use.

CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

Veranda 6: Humor In the Classroom

Terri Peterson, Teacher, All Saints School
Christian Woeltge, Teacher, All Saints School

This session will present research of the importance of creating a positive environment in the classroom. Explore the ripple effects of laughter to create a positive atmosphere in the classroom and how to differentiate between humor and sarcasm. This session will also give practical ideas and suggestions on appropriate humor in the classroom, explore the benefits of laughter and how it relates to the classroom, and reveal how to incorporate humor into the curriculum.

Veranda 7: One Great Question Leads to Another

Bill Siegel, Senior National Trainer, The Great Books Foundation

Discover the power of a great opening question to engage all students in higher-level reading, thinking and discussion. Learn how great literature stimulates curiosity so that students and adult discussion leaders ask questions about texts and each other’s ideas. Participate in a Shared Inquiry Discussion and find out how this research based approach improves reading, thinking and communication skills.

*The Brain’s Natural Learning Systems

Dr. Jenny Severson, Educational Consultant, Quantum Learning

The brain has 5 natural learning systems: social, emotional, physical, cognitive and reflective. As middle school students navigate "their world" and connect to each system, each day, their patterns, behaviors and habits are embedding neural networks that have a lasting imprint. By knowing the background of these systems, teacher and leaders can better assist students in reaching their highest potential. This presentation is lively, dynamic and full of essential strategies every teacher can use and implement.

CEU: Accommodation, Modification, and Adaptation of Curriculum Materials and Instruction

Find your voice and inspire others to find theirs.

- Stephen Covey
Thursday: Session Two ~ 11:10 – 12:00

* Denotes Corporate Presentation

**Bloomington: The Elephants in the Room: Eliminating Barriers to Effective Collaboration**

Dr. Anthony Muhammad, Keynote Speaker, CEO, New Frontier 21 Consulting

Many educators are placed into teams, but many never make progress because of personal and professional drama that prevents them from focusing on the needs of students. A house divided cannot stand! We will examine all of the psychological and sociological barriers that can arise and interfere with a school or a team’s ability to move forward. After leaving this session, participants will have a clear understand on what it takes to create a highly collaborative culture.

**Edina: School-Wide Assemblies to Increase Pride and Achievement**

Josh Eidem, Assistant Principal, Cottage Grove Middle School
Adam Quale, Language Arts Teacher, Cottage Grove Middle School
Reid Larsen, Choir Teacher, Cottage Grove Middle School
Jody Kelly, Language Arts Teacher, STMA Middle School West
Kari Brett, Language Arts Teacher, STMA Middle School West
Lindsey Hannon, Geography Teacher, STMA Middle School West
Alyssa Haugen, Reading Specialist, STMA Middle School West
Jesse Anderson, Computer Science Teacher, STMA Middle School West

“1200 middle students in a gym, every month? You're nuts!” This presentation is about how a school ignored that doubt, trusted its students, built on its strengths, and created a culture where academic success is celebrated every single month. Through its "Cougar Pride" assemblies, Cottage Grove Middle School transformed its community into a place where each single day students and staff ask, "What have I done today to make me feel proud?"

**CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies**

**Veranda 1: Vocabulary of and for the CCSS/CCRS: A Middle School Perspective**

Todd Brist, Principal, Watertown Middle School, South Dakota

The importance of direct vocabulary instruction cannot be overstated. Vocabulary provides essential background knowledge and is linked to academic achievement. This session will identify the words necessary to decode the vocabulary of and for the CCSS/CCRS. The presenter will address everything from the key words in the anchor standards to the nouns, verbs, and terms vital to success on the next generation assessments. Suggestions for implementation and a variety of vocabulary tools will be introduced.

**CEU: Evidence of Reading Preparation**

**Veranda 2: Engaging Learners Through Essential Questions**

Michael Rogers, 8th Grade Earth Science Teacher, Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School

What does it mean to learn? Do you matter to the universe? What makes us civilized? Can we know everything? Essential Questions provide mechanisms for making meaning and engaging students while supporting a rich, inquiry based system. Essential Questions are characterized by their open ended, thought-provoking nature, and ability to frame the topic being explored. Over the past school year, I have measured the impact of Essential Questions on my students with eye opening results. In this session, participants will explore what Essential Questions are, how they impact student engagement, and how they could be implemented in any classroom.
Veranda 3: Two Sides of the Technology Coin
John Bartucz, Director of Technology and Algebra Teacher, Rochester Montessori School, Willow Creek Middle School
Technology implementation is a hot-button issue. IT staff are overwhelmed with new hardware, new software, new apps, one-to-one implementations and multiple platforms. Teachers and administrators are bombarded with demands to learn and use the latest technology while staying within strict guidelines for curricula and standards. Has technology really made our lives easier, or is it just adding more work to our already overloaded lives? As someone who has been on both sides of the issue, I will give the perspective of both the technologist and the teacher and see if we can find a middle ground.

CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and Student Achievement

Veranda 4: Fostering Collaboration in the Classroom—Working With Students Who Think Outside the Box
Kathleen Terhaar, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher, Minnetonka Middle School East
Teaching students with special needs isn't easy. It requires knowledge, compassion, empathy, and creativity. This presentation will focus on highly capable learners, as well as students who approach learning in an unconventional fashion. You will get practical tools to make learning more accessible for all students, so that you can engage even the most reluctant learners while you can enjoy every child in your class. This fast-paced and engaging presentation has something for everyone!

CEU: Accommodation, Modification, and Adaptation of Curriculum Materials and Instruction

Veranda 5: Using Moodle in the Classroom
Michele Wollenzien, 6th Grade Teacher, Mankato Area Public Schools
Amber Baumann, 6th Grade Teacher, Mankato Area Public Schools
An introduction into setting up a Moodle course to be used in the classroom. The focus of this presentation is how we have used Moodle to enhance our math curriculum. This is a generic set up of Moodle and is applicable to many curriculum areas.

CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and Student Achievement

Veranda 6: Differentiation and Document Management with Cloud-Based Technology
Jenelle Hermann, Technology Integrationist, Chisago Lakes Middle School
Sharing online documents can help reduce the paper load but when those documents get lost in "The Cloud" it can become more burden than blessing for teachers and students. Explore how using Google tools like Classroom and Flubaroo can organize the paper flow. Explore Chrome apps and extensions to assist in the differentiation process for all abilities in the classroom.

CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and Student Achievement

Veranda 7: Transition Time!
Leah Shanks, School Counselor, Dakota Meadows Middle School
Carmen Strahan, Principal, Dakota Meadows Middle School
The transition from elementary to middle school can be a difficult one for students and families. Learn about one school’s transition efforts from spring through fall that includes a summer middle school transition camp. Participants will learn about recruitment, camp activities, and how to sustain transition efforts through the start of the school year.

CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

Veranda 8: Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports: Implementing PBIS at the Middle Level
Megan Gruis, PBIS Data & Evaluation Coordinator - Metro Regional Implementation Project, MDE/Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health
Mary Hunt, Education Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education
Emily Robb, District PBIS Coach, ISD 191
Do you have a staff that is on board with developing a framework for improved school climate, improved academic achievement, and decreased behavioral referrals? Have you thought about PBIS but not quite sure what it means for your school or even how to become a PBIS school? This session is designed to address what PBIS programming looks like at the middle level, review the application to enter the MDE sponsored training, and provide an overview of the two-year training cohort model.

CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies
Thursday: Session Three ~ 1:15 – 2:05

*Bloomington: Using Improvisation in the Classroom
Jane Leyden, Retreat Director, Youth Frontiers, Inc.
In this hands-on workshop, learn the four principles of improvisation and how you can use these principles in the classroom to harness your own spontaneity and engage your students' attention. The goal in improvisation is freedom – freedom to make mistakes, to play, to get out of your head and trust your gut. Have fun, laugh, and leave this interactive workshop more connected to your spontaneous self and primed for the creative projects you face in the classroom.

Edina: Differentiated Reading: Higher Level Thinking through Purposeful Dialogue
Dr. Jennifer Carlson, Associate Professor, Hamline University
Dr. Karen Moroz, MMSA Board Member, Associate Professor, Hamline University
The presenters will share their current research on creating authentic conversations around relevant teen themes using fiction and nonfiction texts. These themes become the central focus of literature circles that utilize varied texts from a wide range of reading levels. Practical instructional strategies that create conditions for rich dialogue and enhance higher level thinking around themed texts will be modeled.

CEU: Evidence of Reading Preparation

Veranda 1: I'm a Literacy Teacher in Middle Years, and I'm lovin' it!
Kim Peppler, Grade 5 Teacher and Team Leader, Ecole Viscount Alexander, Canada
Kevin Vautrin, Grade 5 Teacher, Chancellor School, Canada
So you've made it through college and you've landed your dream teaching job ... So now what? In this session, you will learn how to stay alive in grade 5 ... And beyond. Two experienced Middle Years teachers will share with you their passion for literacy and their love of teaching, with lessons and activities which will engage, enlighten and delight your MY learners. This is so much more than 'busy work'! Take home materials provided, so bring your memory sticks!

*Veranda 2: What's Growin' On? Agriculture in Middle School Classrooms!
Sue Knott, Education Specialist, Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
Al Withers, Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, Program Director
Discover the many connections that agricultural animals and plants and the food they produce have in teaching academic standards in Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Math, and Health and Nutrition. Participants will complete a variety of standards-based, hands-on activities applicable to a wide range of learners. These lessons will serve as a starting point for educators to brainstorm opportunities to use current topics in animal and plant production, and locally grown foods as a vehicle for contextualizing learning. Free resources and lessons focusing on agricultural, including school gardens and food production will be shared.

*Veranda 3: ArcGIS Online Mapping Options for your Classroom
Kenneth Pekarek, GIS Consultant to MN DNR, GIS 4 Schools, LLC
This presentation will acquaint you with the ArcGIS Online map interface. Attendees will see how to add layers of geographic data from ArcGIS Online, learn basic navigation functions like zooming, scrolling, searching for locations, and adding labels and identify features. Lesson handout will identify other Web Based GIS Mapping systems. Attendees will receive a DVD of containing lessons, videos and resources.

CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and student Achievement

Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others.

- Plato
*Veranda 4: Teens, Social Media & Body Image
Nicki Zeidner, Community Relations Specialist, Park Nicollet Melrose Center

The vast majority of adolescent girls and a growing number of boys, struggle with body image. They live in an increasingly weight obsessed society where social media plays a big role. This presentation will cover body image problems in adolescence, developmental milestones in the development of body image, the effects of social media, and strategies for promoting healthy body image in teens.

*Veranda 5: When is a Circle More Than a Circle? Shaping Advisories That Encompass Leadership and Learning
Terrance Kwame-Ross, Executive Director, The Origins Program

Make advisory work harder with two new practices that deepen and expand this middle-school mainstay. See how advisory can be the vehicle to teach content, school-wide initiatives, and higher-level thinking skills. Discover how advisory can create student leaders by preparing them to run their own advisory meetings. Understand why student-led advisories empower adolescents, teach planning and communication skills, build responsible independence, and emphasize accountability.

*Veranda 6: Free Funding for Classrooms – DonorsChoose.org
Keith Jorgensen, Market Relationship Manager, Horace Mann Companies

Horace Mann, one of the nation’s leading insurers focusing on the needs of educators, is a national sponsor of DonorsChoose.org, a website and nonprofit organization that connects public school teachers in need of classroom materials with individual donors who want to help. Since 2000, DonorsChoose.org has made it possible for more than 250,000 classroom projects to receive more than $100 million dollars in funding. This Workshop will include:

- What is DonorsChoose.org?
- How does it work?
- How can I submit a project?
- Tips on how to submit projects that get successfully funded.
- Tips on how to leverage the power of social media to fund projects.

Veranda 7: Flexible Learning Days
Chris Bussmann, MMSA Board Member, Principal, Levi P. Dodge Middle School
Robb Virgin, Graduate Assistant, University of Minnesota; Social Studies Teacher, Levi P. Dodge Middle School

As temperatures drop and snow begins to fly, Farmington Area Public Schools is ready for school closures with our Flexible Learning Day format. Even though the school doors may close, learning will still be in full swing. We’re excited to share how last year’s weather created opportunities to help us realize our strategic intent! Your experience can be enhanced by coming with a mobile device and creating a free student account at www.schoology.com. Use this access code to join our Schoology Course: R3X6V-4JQ67

*Veranda 8: The Power of Play
Erin Klug, Consulting Teacher and Professional Development Specialist, The Origins Program

Explore why playing games in the classroom benefits the classroom community and student learning. In this session, you will learn (and play!) games that encourage collaboration and creative thinking. Learn reflective language that you can use while you facilitate games with your students. Think through ways you can implement more games into your class periods.

Determination, energy, and courage appear spontaneously when we care deeply about something. We take risks that are unimaginable in any other context.

- Margaret J. Wheatley
Thursday: Session Four ~ 2:25 – 3:15

*B Denotes Corporate Presentation

**Bloomington: The Magic Of Teaching**
* Carl Olson, Retired Middle School Counselor, Energizer Olson
In this workshop, Carl will use magic and concepts of magic to give teachers ideas for use in their presentations and in their classrooms. Carl feels that teachers need a toolbox of ideas to make that impact. Magic and it’s concepts are ideal ways to create metaphors that enhance learning. All of the activities presented in this workshop will be simple and user-friendly. The goal of the workshop will be to use the activities to reinforce the educational concepts that are being presented. This is a hands-on, fast-paced workshop that will leave participants with ideas and resources to make their work setting truly magical!

**Edina: Anxiety Disorders 101**
* Leah Shanks, School Counselor, Dakota Meadows Middle School
Anxiety disorders are one of the most common mental health concerns that affect children and adolescents. In this session participants will learn about anxiety disorders commonly seen in the school setting, symptoms of anxiety, how it impacts school performance, and some tools and strategies to assist students in the school and classrooms.

**CEU: Understanding Key Warning Signs of Early-Onset Mental Illness in Children/Adolescents**

**Veranda 1: Implementation of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program**
* Todd Brist, Principal, Watertown Middle School, South Dakota
Bullying is a real and significant problem for our schools. While no program is the answer, the Olweus Bulling Prevention Program (OBPP), the leading bullying prevention program in the world, is a proven and promising practice schools can utilize to reduce and prevent bullying. This session will outline the process and steps necessary to implement the OBPP with fidelity. Resources, lesson ideas, and other bullying prevention, prosocial, and character education tips will be shared.

**CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies**

**Veranda 2: YA Lit: Teaching with Books Students Choose**
* Holly Bartholow, English Teacher, Twin Oaks Middle School
* Melissa Knettel, Q-Comp Coordinator, Twin Oaks Middle School
We love young adult literature, and so do our students. Get your students in their own books and keep them there, while still maintaining rigor and high standards. Help your students find great books and promote reading in your middle school classroom. Use the books your students are reading to address standards, without killing the love of reading.

**CEU: Evidence of Reading Preparation**

**Veranda 3: 21st Century Skills are Important**
* Chris Butler, Consultant, BG Innovations
Preparing our students for Next Generation Assessments and College and Career Readiness is a challenging yet important endeavor. Most teachers do not possess the breadth of technology skills needed to adequately integrate technology into core instruction and implement digital learning in the classroom. With the continuous push toward mobile learning and the placing of devices in every students hands, we need more than ever an easy and effective way to assess technology skills, provide digital literacy curriculum, and deliver instruction on online safety, the ethical use of digital resources, and cyberbullying. During this session we will discuss the issues above and also investigate Learning.com's 21st Century Skills Solutions.

**CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and student Achievement**
*Veranda 4: Classroom Management and Engagement in the Middle Level*
*Pamela Whyte, Former Principal and Current Consultant, Key Classrooms*
This presentation provides teachers with a realistic picture of the skills and strategies required to have a classroom management plan that engages students in learning. Too many classroom management plans describe ways to monitor behavior or track behavior but don’t provide the whole picture and realistic skills that are truly required to make a classroom work efficiently and effectively. The foundation of this plan is the growth mindset, planning and prevention as opposed to reaction and punishment/incentive.

**CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies**

*Veranda 5: Grammar Can Save Lives: Or At Least Improve Student Writing*
*Tamara Rhomberg, Instructional Specialist, Zaner-Bloser*
The English language represents one of the most difficult languages to learn so it is no wonder that students today still struggle with conventional grammar standards. However, grammar instruction encompasses more than worksheets; it evolves from student oral language, from the language of books, and from student writing. This session focuses on strategies classroom teachers can use to improve the quality of student writing. Participants will explore the role of grammar in improving the quality of student writing. Participants will engage in instructional strategies to improve student grammar: sentence combining, color/shape coding, ratiocination, and proofreading.

*Veranda 6: Grading Practices and Data Driven Decisions*
*Jared Shogren, American Studies Teacher, Orono Middle School*
*Paul Hamilton, Q-Comp Teacher Leader, Orono Middle School*
Grades are broken when they include scores for practice work, penalties for late or missing work, extra credit and other measures unrelated to student achievement. This session will introduce our protocols for identifying power standards and creating student-friendly learning targets. We will also walk you through the use of formative and summative assessments and the grading practices that provide quality data to drive decisions related to student learning. Incorporating these effective practices will better prepare teachers for success in the 2014 Teacher Development and Evaluation statute.

*Veranda 7: Engagement Changes Everything*
*Dr. Jenny Severson, Educational Consultant, Quantum Learning*
Why are middle school students bored, complaining and turning into behavior problems? What’s going on in their minds? How can I make my teaching work more enjoyable and effective? The answer lies in engagement. How the brain naturally learns, craves attention and focus are the essential element of teaching. If you want high results with immediate tools and strategies you can implement with your students and staff, this session is for you.

**CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies**

*Learning Through Baseball*
*Dave Wolpers, Learning Through Baseball Education Development, Minnesota Twins Baseball*
*Forrest Brandt, Tour Guide, Minnesota Twins Baseball*
Baseball has been described as a window on American life and as such can serve as an engaging platform for education. The Minnesota Twins have developed a “Learning Through Baseball” program that is available to students at all levels. In this seminar participants will see how all areas of learning are taught through the sport of baseball. Experiences are taught through classes like “Science of Baseball, Math of Baseball, Team Behind the Team, Women in Baseball, Language of Baseball, Environment and Sustainability,” and more. “Learning Through Baseball” connects students to real life skills that are used in sports.

*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*

- John Quincy Adams
Join MMSA on our Summer Institute Road Trip!

June 29, 2014 – Duluth, MN
June 30, 2014 – Lakeville, MN

Implementing Standards-Based Assessment & Grading

Take your understanding to the next level at this differentiated professional development experience!

Featuring Rick Wormeli

One of the first Nationally Board Certified teachers in America, Rick brings innovation, energy, validity, and high standards to both his presentations and his instructional practice. Over 30 years, Rick taught math, science, English, physical education, health, and history, and was a teachers' coach. His work has been reported on ABC's Good Morning America, on Hardball with Chris Matthews, in National Geographic and Good Housekeeping magazines, What Matters Most: Teaching for the 21st Century, and in the Washington Post. Rick is the author of the award-winning book Meet Me in the Middle, as well as the best-selling books Day One and Beyond, Fair Isn’t Always Equal: Assessment and Grading in the Differentiated Classroom, Differentiation: From Planning to Practice, Metaphors & Analogies: Power Tools for Teaching Any Subject, Summarization in Any Subject, and The Collected Writings (so far) of Rick Wormeli.
MOTIVATION

**Conference Registration**
7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ............ Grand Ballroom Foyer

**Student Entertainment**
7:40 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. ............ Grand Ballroom Foyer
The Prior Lake Middle Schools 7-8 Honor Band ~ Directed by Brian M. Melody and Dagan O. Hanson

**General Session**
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. ............ Grand Ballroom

**Exhibitor Hall Break**
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. ............ Exhibitor Hall

**Session One**
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

**Morning Break**
10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

**Session Two**
11:10 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

**Student Entertainment**
12:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. ............ Garden Court
Pioneer Ridge Middle School Honor Band, Chaska ~ Directed by Scott Prescott

**Lunch**
12:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. ............ Garden Court
Kallie Sweere ~ MMSA Month of the Young Adolescent Essay Winner
Door prize drawing for a $50 gift certificate to the Mall of America and other items provided by Exhibitors. Turn your tickets in at the MMSA Publications Table across from the Registration Table.

**Silent Auction Ends!**
12:50 p.m.
Items not paid for by 2:05 p.m. will go to the next highest bidder.

**Exhibitor Hall Closes**
1:15 p.m.

**Session Three**
1:15 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.

**Afternoon Break**
2:05 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.

**Session Four**
2:25 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Turn in your name badge at the Registration Table for a chance to win a $50 gift certificate to the Mall of America!!
**Welcome**
Dr. Jason Miller, President, MMSA

**Greetings & Announcements**
Steve Norlin-Weaver, Executive Director, MMSA

Special Presentation: MMSA Distinguished Service Award

**Keynote Address**

*Willow Sweeney*

**Living Above and Below the Line: Discovering the Power of Choice**

This training focuses on becoming aware of our thinking so we know when it is working and when it is not working. It explores (1) the conditions that come up in our life that invite us to go Below the Line, (2) Indicators telling us when we are Below, (3) how to handle Below the Line experiences with more grace and dignity and (4) how to "Trampoline" back Above the Line.

*We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.*

- Maya Angelou
Breakout Sessions – Friday

Friday: Session One
10:00 – 10:50

* Denotes Corporate Presentation

Bloomington:
Top 20 Teachers Resolve Conflict Heart-to-Heart

Edina:
Defeat the "Dreaded Early Finisher"

Veranda 1:
Using Learning Scales in a Standards-Based Framework to Facilitate Interdisciplinary Collaboration

*Veranda 2:
Character and Behavior: 8 Keys of Excellence

Veranda 3:
Grading Practices and Data Driven Decisions

*Veranda 4:
Classroom Management and Engagement in the Middle Level

*Veranda 5:
Reading for Meaning – Fluently

*Veranda 6:
Empowering Students to Change the World

*Veranda 7:
ArcGIS Online Mapping Options for your Classroom

Veranda 8:
Assessing Student Connectedness by Survey

Friday: Session Two
11:10 – 12:00

* Denotes Corporate Presentation

Bloomington:
Top 20 Teachers Reduce Negativity: Eliminating Thought Circles and Tornadoes

Edina:
School-Wide Assemblies to Increase Pride and Achievement

Veranda 1:
Check & Connect-Middle School Style

Veranda 2:
YA Lit: Teaching with Books Students Choose

Veranda 3:
Augmented Reality: Using Image Recognition Technology in Outdoor Education

*Veranda 4:
Teens, Social Media & Body Image

Veranda 5:
Strategies for Math Intervention

Veranda 6:
Differentiation and Document Management with Cloud-Based Technology

*Veranda 7:
Free Funding for Classrooms – DonorsChoose.org

*Veranda 8:
21st Century Skills are Important

Remember: CEUs available online at www.mmsa.info
Friday: Session Three  
1:15 – 2:05  

*B Denotes Corporate Presentation

Bloomington:  
Top 20 Teachers Create a Top 20 Culture

Edina:  
Impact Teaching

Veranda 1:  
Math/Science Integration for Earth's Sake

Veranda 2:  
Accommodations to Meet the Academic Needs of Tier 2 and 3 Learners

Veranda 3:  
How to Recognize and Support Students with OCD

Veranda 4:  
World Languages in the Middle School

Veranda 5:  
Teacher Observation and Feedback Using Google Forms

Veranda 6:  
Two Sides of the Technology Coin

Veranda 7:  
Making MTSS Work at the Middle Level

Veranda 8:  
Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports: Implementing PBIS at the Middle Level

Friday: Session Four  
2:25 – 3:15  

*B Denotes Corporate Presentation

Bloomington:  
Top 20 Teachers Help Students Learn from Mistakes and Move Outside Their Comfort Zone

Edina:  
Activities That Teach Character

Veranda 1:  
Interview Skills

*Veranda 2:  
The Brain's Natural Learning Systems

Veranda 3:  
"SAMR I AM"

*Veranda 4:  
The Key to the Middle School Inclusion Classroom

*Veranda 5:  
One Great Question Leads to Another

Veranda 6:  
Humor In the Classroom

Veranda 7:  
The Power of Mistakes to Engage Learners

*Veranda 8:  
When is a Circle More Than a Circle? Shaping Advisories That Encompass Leadership and Learning
**Breakout Sessions – Friday**

**Friday: Session One ~ 10:00 – 10:50**

* Denotes Corporate Presentation

**Bloomington: Top 20 Teachers Resolve Conflict Heart-to-heart**

*Willow Sweeney, Keynote Speaker, Co-Founder, Top 20 Training*

For most people, conflict seldom results in satisfactory resolution. After examining several habitual but ineffective responses to conflict, this session focuses on a new way to see conflict. It presents (1) a number of strategies for making conflict situations productive for all involved, (2) a process for preparing for effective conflict resolution, and (3) a simple but practical tool students can use when they have handled a situation in a problematic way.

CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

**Edina: Defeat the "Dreaded Early Finisher"**

*Dr. Steve Schroeder-Davis, Curriculum Specialist, ISD 728*

Within an RtI framework, "remediations" usually require re-teaching. "Enrichments" sometimes require an additional prep! I was asked to develop an enrichment that:

- was transdisciplinary;
- required no teacher preparation;
- was compelling enough that “extra credit” and other banal incentives would not be necessary;
- could be done alone or in dyads, triads, and small teams;
- was open to all grade levels;
- could be of short or long duration;
- had rubrics, timelines, and organizational support;
- culminated in a “real-world” presentation;
- could provide public relations for the district;
- could stimulate parental involvement.

Having done this, I am anxious to share!

CEU: Accommodation, Modification, and Adaptation of Curriculum Materials and Instruction

**Veranda 1: Using Learning Scales in a Standards-Based Framework to Facilitate Interdisciplinary Collaboration**

*Nicholas Schmitz, Science Teacher, Dakota Meadows Middle School*

*Tim Guldan, Science Teacher, Dakota Meadows Middle School*

Learning scales provide the framework around which teams can center collaborative efforts. Often the barriers to collaboration are philosophical or structural. By using constructive learning scales teams are able to focus their conversations and collect data for targeted decisions in their respective content areas. Examples of common learning scales and unidimensional assessments will be presented as well as techniques for managing and using teacher-compiled data within an RtI framework.

CEU: Accommodation, Modification, and Adaptation of Curriculum Materials and Instruction

*Veranda 2: Character and Behavior: 8 Keys of Excellence*

*Dr. Jenny Severson, Educational Consultant, Quantum Learning*

The gap and pathway from standards to college and career ready requires more than critical thinking, communication and collaboration. It requires GRIT and GRIT comes from a person's character. How do you handle perseverance? How do you model that for your students? What's it like to work on a staff that emulates high character? What does it take to stay in the game called school and WIN? This session will define agreements: doing what it takes, seeking to understand, remain open and HOW to shift thinking into the 8 Keys of Excellence over and over and over so that a student's character comes first and we see the tangible results of how high character equals high competence.

CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies
Veranda 3: Grading Practices and Data Driven Decisions
Jared Shogren, American Studies Teacher, Orono Middle School
Paul Hamilton, Q-Comp Teacher Leader, Orono Middle School
Grades are broken when they include scores for practice work, penalties for late or missing work, extra credit and other measures unrelated to student achievement. This session will introduce our protocols for identifying power standards and creating student-friendly learning targets. We will also walk you through the use of formative and summative assessments and the grading practices that provide quality data to drive decisions related to student learning. Incorporating these effective practices will better prepare teachers for success in the 2014 Teacher Development and Evaluation statute.

*Veranda 4: Classroom Management and Engagement in the Middle Level
Pamela Whyte, Former Principal and Current Consultant, Key Classrooms
This presentation provides teachers with a realistic picture of the skills and strategies required to have a classroom management plan that engages students in learning. Too many classroom management plans describe ways to monitor behavior or track behavior but don’t provide the whole picture and realistic skills that are truly required to make a classroom work efficiently and effectively. The foundation of this plan is the growth mindset, planning and prevention as opposed to reaction and punishment/incentive.

CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

*Veranda 5: Reading for Meaning — Fluently
Claire Hayes, Consultant, Read Naturally
Learn how to develop fluency, support vocabulary, and promote comprehension by combining three powerful, research-based strategies: teacher modeling, repeated reading, and progress monitoring. Meet standards and accelerate the achievement of developing and struggling readers using these effective strategies. Although Read Naturally materials are displayed, use the strategies with any curriculum.

CEU: Evidence of Reading Preparation

*Veranda 6: Empowering Students to Change the World
Ginny Kagol, Retired Middle Level Educator, H2O for Life Ambassador
H2O for Life engages, educates and inspires youth to study the global water crisis while taking local and global actions that have impact. Students will choose a global partner school that desperately needs access to clean water and toilets. H2O for Life provides all the tools needed to provide a robust, educational program in your classroom. Students take action to raise awareness of local water issues while raising funds to implement a WASH in Schools project that will change the lives for students at their partner school.

*Veranda 7: ArcGIS Online Mapping Options for your Classroom
Kenneth Pekarek, GIS Consultant to MN DNR, GIS 4 Schools, LLC
This presentation will acquaint you with the ArcGIS Online map interface. Attendees will see how to add layers of geographic data from ArcGIS Online, learn basic navigation functions like zooming, scrolling, searching for locations, adding labels and identify features. Lesson handout will identify other Web Based GIS Mapping systems. Attendees will receive a DVD of containing lessons, videos and resources.

CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and student Achievement

Veranda 8: Assessing Student Connectedness by Survey
Miranda Schornack, Administrative Intern, Faribault Middle School
Mike Meihak, Principal, Faribault Middle School
This year, Faribault Middle School staff identified ‘improving student connectedness’ as the non-academic building goal. We are measuring progress via a student connectedness survey that we will administer twice—at the beginning and end of the school year. This presentation explores our process of learning about the complexity of ‘student connectedness’ and transferring our knowledge into a student-friendly survey. We will also share: special considerations for administering a survey to emerging English learners, what we are learning about using Google Form, and how we will use baseline data gathered from the first survey to improve student connectedness!

CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies
Breakout Sessions – Friday

Friday: Session Two ~ 11:10 – 12:00
* Denotes Corporate Presentation

Bloomington: Top 20 Teachers Reduce Negativity: Eliminating Thought Circles and Tornadoes
Willow Sweeney, Keynote Speaker, Co-Founder, Top 20 Training
Student experiences and relationships are diminished by negativity. This session provides students with awareness and means for reducing negativity in their own thinking and in their social conversations.
CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

Edina: School-wide Assemblies to Increase Pride and Achievement
Josh Eidem, Assistant Principal, Cottage Grove Middle School
Adam Quale, Language Arts Teacher, Cottage Grove Middle School
Reid Larsen, Choir Teacher, Cottage Grove Middle School
Jody Kelly, Language Arts Teacher, STMA Middle School West
Kari Brett, Language Arts Teacher, STMA Middle School West
Lindsey Hannon, Geography Teacher, STMA Middle School West
Alyssa Hangen, Reading Specialist, STMA Middle School West
Jesse Anderson, Computer Science Teacher, STMA Middle School West
“1200 middle students in a gym, every month? You're nuts!” This presentation is about how a school ignored that doubt, trusted its students, built on its strengths, and created a culture where academic success is celebrated every single month. Through its “Cougar Pride” assemblies, Cottage Grove Middle School transformed its community into a place where each single day students and staff ask, "What have I done today to make me feel proud?"
CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

Veranda 1: Check & Connect-Middle School Style
Kay Augustine, Manager of Youth & Adult Engagement, Eastern Carver County Schools
Sheryl Hough, Principal, Chaska Middle School West
Irv Andrews, Dean of Students & Check & Connect Coordinator, Chaska Middle School West
Chaska Middle School West students served by Check & Connect are showing positive gains in attendance, behavior, and GPA. Recognized by the What Works Clearinghouse as an evidence-based program that keeps students in school, Check & Connect is a mentor-based model that builds a foundational relationship and purposefully uses a data-driven process to identify and address academic, behavioral, cognitive, and/or affective engagement issues that are getting in the way of students being successful. Join us to learn how Check & Connect is integrated with other interventions, including PBIS, to address the specifics of the blended model we are using, the positive outcomes we are seeing, as well as what we've learned from implementing.
CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

Veranda 2: YA Lit: Teaching with Books Students Choose
Holly Bartholow, English Teacher, Twin Oaks Middle School
Melissa Knettel, Q-Comp Coordinator, Twin Oaks Middle School
We love young adult literature, and so do our students. Get your students in their own books and keep them there, while still maintaining rigor and high standards. Help your students find great books and promote reading in your middle school classroom. Use the books your students are reading to address standards, without killing the love of reading.
CEU: Evidence of Reading Preparation

Our best teachers do more than impart facts and figures — they inspire and encourage students and instill a true desire to learn. That's a fine art in itself.

- Sonny Perdue
Veranda 3: Augmented Reality: Using Image Recognition Technology in Outdoor Education
Robin Knutson, 5th Grade Science, Forestivew Middle School
Chris Hanson, 7th grade Life Science, Forestivew Middle School
Outdoor Education and 21 Century come together to explore the powerful educational technology of Aurasma, an image recognition app. Middle school teachers will share their experiences using the "augmented reality" app in a collaborative, cross-curricular multi-age project in their school forest that anyone can use. Discuss the incredible and possibilities this simple app has to offer to outdoor education.
CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and student Achievement

*Veranda 4: Teens, Social Media & Body Image
Nicki Zeidner, Community Relations Specialist, Park Nicollet Melrose Center
The vast majority of adolescent girls and a growing number of boys, struggle with body image. They live in an increasingly weight obsessed society where social media plays a big role. This presentation will cover body image problems in adolescence, developmental milestones in the development of body image, the effects of social media, and strategies for promoting healthy body image in teens.
CEU: Understanding Key Warning Signs of Early-Onset Mental Illness in Children/Adolescents

Veranda 5: Strategies for Math Intervention
Jenna Byron, Math Teacher, Dakota Meadows Middle School
In this session, we will explore Math Intervention strategies that will help students enjoy Math. We will explore a twist on Bell Ringers that will motivate students to participate, encourage movement in the classroom, and master essential math skills. We will discuss the importance of early relationship building to assist students in achieving their highest potential.
CEU: Accommodation, Modification, and Adaptation of Curriculum Materials and Instruction

Veranda 6: Differentiation and Document Management with Cloud-Based Technology
Jenelle Hermann, Technology Integrationist, Chisago Lakes Middle School
Sharing online documents can help reduce the paper load but when those documents get lost in "The Cloud" it can become more burden than blessing for teachers and students. Explore how using Google tools like Classroom and Flubaroo can organize the paper flow. Explore Chrome apps and extensions to assist in the differentiation process for all abilities in the classroom.
CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and student Achievement

*Veranda 7: Free Funding for Classrooms – DonorsChoose.org
Keith Jorgensen, Market Relationship Manager, Horace Mann Companies
Horace Mann, one of the nation’s leading insurers focusing on the needs of educators, is a national sponsor of DonorsChoose.org, a website and nonprofit organization that connects public school teachers in need of classroom materials with individual donors who want to help. Since 2000, DonorsChoose.org has made it possible for more than 250,000 classroom projects to receive more than $100 million dollars in funding. This Workshop will include...
• What is DonorsChoose.org?
• How does it work?
• How can I submit a project?
• Tips on how to submit projects that get successfully funded.
• Tips on how to leverage the power of social media to fund projects.

*Veranda 8: 21st Century Skills are Important
Chris Butler, Consultant, BG Innovations
Preparing our students for Next Generation Assessments and College and Career Readiness is a challenging yet important endeavor. Most teachers do not possess the breadth of technology skills needed to adequately integrate technology into core instruction and implement digital learning in the classroom. With the continuous push toward mobile learning and the placing of devices in every students hands, we need more than ever an easy and effective way to assess technology skills, provide digital literacy curriculum, and deliver instruction on online safety, the ethical use of digital resources, and cyberbullying. During this session we will discuss the issues above and also investigate Learning.com's 21st Century Skills Solutions. CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and student Achievement
Breakout Sessions – Friday

Friday: Session Three ~ 1:15 – 2:05
* Denotes Corporate Presentation

**Bloomington: Top 20 Teachers Create a Top 20 Culture**
Tom Cody, Keynote Speaker, Co-Founder, Top 20 Training
Top 20 teachers create a culture that develops the potential of students and colleagues. This session presents four components of a Top 20 culture: (1) help others succeed, (2) communicate ‘you matter,’ (3) honor the absent, and (4) see the problem, own the problem. It also presents a tool for assessing the degree to which these components exist in a culture.

**CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies**

**Edina: Impact Teaching**
Carl Olson, Retired Middle School Counselor, Energizer Olson
Good teaching that produces effective outcomes requires the teacher to have knowledge of the subject matter and the ability to use tools and methods to engage all of the students. To be effective, that material must be presented using methods that acknowledge and respect all learning styles and levels of attention. “Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I will understand.” In this workshop I will use hands-on experiential techniques and examples to help the participants make better connections, build teams and improve their presentations. The presentation will be fast-paced, informative, inspirational and practical.

**Veranda 1: Math/Science Integration for Earth’s Sake**
Angie Lawrence, STEM Coach, Eastern Carver County School District
Effective STEM-based lessons can start with natural math/science integration to discover more about the world around us. In this hands-on workshop, participants will participate in innovative activities that illustrate the science and math behind real-world ecology concepts such as carrying capacity in nature, natural resource use, and how humans are forever changing Earth’s landscape, habitats and biodiversity. Presented strategies include creating representational models with manipulatives, cooperative group problem-solving challenges, graphing and analysis, and role-playing simulations.

**Veranda 2: Accommodations to Meet the Academic Needs of Tier 2 and 3 Learners**
Lexy Wenzel, Reading Intervention Teacher, Dakota Meadows Middle School
In this session you will learn tricks and tips for working with Tier 2 and Tier 3 learners with academic, reading needs. The session will consist of information on the various needs of the learners and how we can engage, and help them be more successful in the general education classroom. We will also discuss what intervention teachers do differently, which will easily transfer into everyday lessons and content areas. Strategies and tips will be shared to support reading needs for Tiers 1, 2, and 3.

**CEU: Evidence of Reading Preparation**

**Veranda 3: How to Recognize and Support Students with OCD**
Brian Cashman, Gifted Coordinator, Red Wing Schools
The young people we work with come with various strengths and challenges, including various mental health concerns. This session will focus on how to support students with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). A great session to attend for school counselors, social workers, administrators and teaching staff alike, participants will leave with a more complete understanding of OCD and how their school can provide support to students and families that are dealing with OCD.

**CEU: Understanding Key Warning Signs of Early-Onset Mental Illness in Children/Adolescents**
Veranda 4: World Languages in the Middle School
Elizabeth Lane, Spanish Teacher, Twin Oaks Middle School
We will begin to develop an understanding of why middle school implementation of World Languages is important and explore implementation models including: everyday, every other day, wheel, and designated instructional time.

Veranda 5: Teacher Observation and Feedback Using Google Forms
Todd Brist, Principal, Watertown Middle School, South Dakota
Teacher observation can be time consuming and tedious. It can be difficult to collect meaningful and objective data that can be used in the feedback loop to improve instruction or in the evaluation process. Commercial programs can be expensive and cumbersome. One quick, easy, and free option is Google Forms. This session will include a brief tutorial on how to create Google Forms and a look at one school’s walkthrough tool, including a discussion on what items to include on the walkthrough form and the resources to help guide those decisions.

CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and student Achievement

Veranda 6: Two Sides of the Technology Coin
John Bartucz, Director of Technology and Algebra Teacher, Rochester Montessori School, Willow Creek Middle School
Technology implementation is a hot-button issue. IT staff are overwhelmed with new hardware, new software, new apps, one-to-one implementations and multiple platforms. Teachers and administrators are bombarded with demands to learn and use the latest technology while staying within strict guidelines for curricula and standards. Has technology really made our lives easier, or is it just adding more work to our already overloaded lives? As someone who has been on both sides of the issue, I will give the perspective of both the technologist and the teacher and see if we can find a middle ground.

CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and student Achievement

Veranda 7: Humor In the Classroom
Terri Peterson, Teacher, All Saints School
Christian Woeltge, Teacher, All Saints School
This session will present research of the importance of creating a positive environment in the classroom. Explore the ripple effects of laughter to create a positive atmosphere in the classroom and how to differentiate between appropriate humor and sarcasm. This session will also give practical ideas and suggestions on appropriate humor in the classroom, explore the benefits of laughter and how it relates to the classroom, and reveal how to incorporate humor into the curriculum.

Veranda 8: Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports: Implementing PBIS at the Middle Level
Megan Gruis, PBIS Data & Evaluation Coordinator - Metro Regional Implementation Project, MDE/Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health
Mary Hunt, Education Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education
Emily Robb, District PBIS Coach, ISD 191
Do you have a staff that is on board with developing a framework for improved school climate, improved academic achievement, and decreased behavioral referrals? Have you thought about PBIS but not quite sure what it means for your school or even how to become a PBIS school? This session is designed to address what PBIS programming looks like at the middle level, review the application to enter the MDE sponsored training, and provide an overview of the two-year training cohort model.

CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson
Breakout Sessions – Friday

Friday: Session Four ~ 2:25 – 3:15
* Denotes Corporate Presentation

Bloomington: Top 20 Teachers Help Students Learn from Mistakes and Move Outside Their Comfort Zone
Tom Cody, Keynote Speaker, Co-Founder, Top 20 Training
This session focuses on (1) the beliefs students form about themselves from the messages they receive from others when they make a mistake, (2) what keeps students stuck in their comfort zone, and (3) more effective ways of responding to our own mistakes and the mistakes of others.
CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

Edina: Activities That Teach Character
Carl Olson, Retired Middle School Counselor, Energizer Olson
In order to have students truly understand the concepts related to character, we have to go beyond traditional methods or instruction. By providing information and activities that address all levels of development and understanding the teacher brings relevance to character-building instruction. Over more than 36 years as an educator, Carl has become a fierce advocate for the experiential method of learning. Using the experiential model, Carl has found an engaging and effective way of presenting on the topic of character building. This workshop will be hands-on, fast-paced, inspirational and informative. Olson wants the participants to leave with practical activities and techniques to add to their presentation toolbox.
CEU: Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies

Veranda 1: SPECIAL SESSION: Interview Skills
Patrick Fox, MMSA Board Member, Principal, St. Bart’s Catholic School
Cindy Kucera, MMSA Board Member, Dean of Students, Highview Middle School
Want to learn how to make the best of your interview? Are you curious about the most frequently asked interview questions? Want to begin your next interview with confidence? This session is for you! The presenters have interviewed hundreds of candidates for middle school positions. They will share practical tips and help you learn what to do and NOT to do before, during, and after your interview! Time allowed for practical Q & A!

*Veranda 2: The Brain’s Natural Learning Systems
Dr. Jenny Severson, Educational Consultant, Quantum Learning
The brain has 5 natural learning systems: social, emotional, physical, cognitive and reflective. As middle school students navigate "their world" and connect to each system, each day, their patterns, behaviors and habits are embedding neural networks that have a lasting imprint. By knowing the background of these systems, teacher and leaders can better assist students in reaching their highest potential. This presentation is lively, dynamic and full of essential strategies every teacher can use and implement.
CEU: Accommodation, Modification, and Adaptation of Curriculum Materials and Instruction

Veranda 3: "SAMR I AM"
Amber Walsh, Instructional Coach, District #833
Andrea Klippe1, Instructional Coach and Social Studies Teacher, District #833
This session will provide tools to help teachers move through the SAMR model in their classroom. Substitution, Augmentation, Modification and Redefinition apps and web based solutions will be demonstrated. Components of the presentation will focus on using technology to differentiate instruction. The session will be best for those teaching or planning to teach in a 1:1 environment.
CEU: Integrate Technology Effectively with Student Learning to Increase Engagement and student Achievement
Veranda 4: The Key to the Middle School Inclusion Classroom
Pamela Whyte, Former Principal and Current Consultant, Key Classrooms
It’s no secret your effort determines your success! How do we teach students to put effort into their learning? This session will teach you the four sources of effort and how to build efficacy in your students.
CEU: Accommodation, Modification, and Adaptation of Curriculum Materials and Instruction

Veranda 5: One Great Question Leads to Another
Bill Siegel, Senior National Trainer, The Great Books Foundation
Discover the power of a great opening question to engage all students in higher-level reading, thinking and discussion. Learn how great literature stimulates curiosity so that students and adult discussion leaders ask questions about texts and each other's ideas. Participate in a Shared Inquiry Discussion and find out how this research based approach improves reading, thinking and communication skills.

Veranda 6: Humor In the Classroom
Terri Peterson, Teacher, All Saints School
Christian Woeltge, Teacher, All Saints School
This session will present research of the importance of creating a positive environment in the classroom. Explore the ripple effects of laughter to create a positive atmosphere in the classroom and how to differentiate between appropriate humor and sarcasm. This session will also give practical ideas and suggestions on appropriate humor in the classroom, explore the benefits of laughter and how it relates to the classroom, and reveal how to incorporate humor into the curriculum.

Veranda 7: The Power of Mistakes to Engage Learners
Michael Rogers, 8th Grade Earth Science Teacher, Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School
Words such as grit, perseverance, growth mindset, and failing forward are becoming familiar terms in our schools, but what is the role of mistakes in learning? Participants in this session will explore the relationship between failure and success, and how these complex phenomena impact student engagement. We will investigate classroom practices that encourage students to embrace mistakes as a pathway to learning, while identifying others that teach our students to give up prematurely.

Veranda 8: When is a Circle More Than a Circle? Shaping Advisories That Encompass Leadership and Learning
Terrance Kwame-Ross, Executive Director, The Origins Program
Make advisory work harder with two new practices that deepen and expand this middle-school mainstay. See how advisory can be the vehicle to teach content, school-wide initiatives, and higher-level thinking skills. Discover how advisory can create student leaders by preparing them to run their own advisory meetings. Understand why student-led advisories empower adolescents, teach planning and communication skills, build responsible independence, and emphasize accountability.

Teachers who inspire know that teaching is like cultivating a garden, and those who would have nothing to do with thorns must never attempt to gather flowers.
## Conference Schedule Planner

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Executive Directors
Steve Norlin-Weaver 2009-Present
Kitty A. Krueger 2001-2009
Dr. Cheryl Hoversten 1993-2001
G. Edward Schramm 1990-1992
Larry Putbrese 1979-1990

Presidents
Dr. Jason Miller 2014-present
Dr. Dan Edwards 2012-2014
Patrick Fox 2010-2012
Dr. Tami Jo Cook 2008-2009
Steve Norlin-Weaver 2006-2007
Mark Fodness 2004-2005
Dr. Noel Schmidt 2002-2003
Kathleen Jorissen 2001
Susan Jessico 2000
Kitty A. Krueger 1999
Jodi Owens-Kristenson 1998
Dave Larkin 1997
Linda Huff 1996
Fred Sanford 1995
Richard Rominski 1994
Scott Wardell 1993
Richard Truman 1992
Moe Kinglee 1991
Pat Nelson 1990
Harold Gresseth 1989
Dr. Cheryl Hoversten 1988
Muriel Robinson-Nunn 1987
Ron Mitchell 1986
G. Edward Schramm 1985
Michael Wyatt 1984
Richard Wakefield 1983
Dennis Psick 1982
Mary Alexander 1981
Sandy Hayes 1980
Richard Menzel 1979
Larry Putbrese 1978
**MMSA Distinguished Service Award History**

Dr. Tami Jo Cook  2014  
Dr. Lynn Scearcy  2010  
Sue Thelen  2007  
Doug Deragisch  2005  
Susan Jessico  2002  
Marjie Blaisdell  2001  
Dr. Cheryl Hoversten  2001  
Ron Mitchell  2000  
Dr. Dave Larkin  1999  
Jennifer Berg  1998  
Dennis Psick  1998  
Muriel Robinson-Nunn  1997  
Dick Rominski  1996  
Scott Wardell  1995  
Moe Klingele  1995

**Colleen Yatckoske Educator of the Year**

1986  Dennis Psick - North Branch Middle School  
1987  Larry Putbrese - St. Cloud State University  
1988  Cheryl Hoversten - St. Francis Middle School  
1989  Ed Schramm - Milaca Middle School  
1990  Mike Ennis - Central Junior High School, Alexandria  
1991  Muriel Robinson-Nunn - Grand View Middle School, Mound  
1992 (tie)  Pat Jones - Orono Middle School  
1992 (tie)  Richard Truman - Fairmont Middle School  
1993  Cris Anderson, Fergus Falls  
1995  Chris Kragenbring - Discovery Middle School, Alexandria  
1996  Catherine Kurdziel - St. Francis  
1997  Linda Huff - Pequot Lakes Middle School  
1998  Mark Fodness - Bemidji Middle School  
1999  Dick Rominski - Delano Middle School  
2000  Patricia Hughes - Kelliher Secondary School  
2001  Gail Singsank - Watertown-Mayer Middle School  
2002  Roxie Erdalson-Vik - John Adams Middle School, Rochester  
2003  Debbie Trewartha - New Prague Middle School  
2004  (no recipient due to national conference)  
2005  Colleen Vollmers - Detroit Lakes Middle School  
2006  Dar Brandt – Mankato East Junior High  
2007  Maureen Haqq – Highview Middle School  
2008  Kathy Recor – Orono Middle School  
2009  Scott Prescott – Pioneer Ridge Middle School  
2010  John Larson – Highview Middle School  
2011  Michelle Terry – South View Middle School  
2012  Kim Campbell – Hopkins West Junior High  
2013  (no recipient due to national conference)  
2014  Jody Anderson – Deer River High School

*and we all shine on....*
CONSTITUTION
MINNESOTA MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I – NAME
The name of this association shall be Minnesota Middle School Association.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND GOALS
The purpose of this non-profit Association shall be to lead middle level educators, both professional and paraprofessional, students, parents and others who are committed to promoting a developmentally appropriate education for students in grades five through nine. It is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Goals of the Association shall include:
1. To represent middle level education in the state of Minnesota.
2. To sponsor workshops, conferences and educational activities for middle level educators, both professional and paraprofessional, and parents which focus on the social, emotional, intellectual, physical and moral needs of young adolescents.
3. To provide information to people outside the organization regarding the middle level philosophy, which recognizes the uniqueness of young adolescents and the need for developmentally appropriate learning experiences.
4. To provide a support network for those involved in middle level education.
5. To recognize outstanding middle level educators in Minnesota.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. The membership of this Association shall be open to anyone interested in the education of the young adolescent.
Section 2. The Board of Directors shall establish the annual membership fee.
Section 3. Memberships to Minnesota Middle School Association will be available to individuals.
Section 4. No part of the assets of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members or other private persons except to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS
Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a president, a president-elect, a treasurer and a secretary. These officers must have been members of the Board for two consecutive years prior to nomination.
Section 2. Nominations for officers will be made in February for the next fiscal year. Members of the Board shall put forth nominations for officers. An election will be held in April.
SECTION 3. The president shall serve for a term of two years. The president-elect shall be elected for a period of one year before the second year of the president’s term. The treasurer shall be elected for a period of three years. Terms of office shall be July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next year.
Section 4. The officers will be members of the Board of Directors.
Section 5. The executive committee shall consist of the elected officers of the Association, the executive director and the immediate past-president.
Section 6. Members of the executive committee who are unable to serve the elected term may be replaced by the board of directors.
Section 7. The official representative(S) to the Affiliate Leadership seminars sponsored by NMSA and the affiliate leadership sessions provided during the National Middle School Conference shall be the president, the president-elect and/or the executive director OR DESIGNEE(S).
Section 8. Each member shall have one vote.
ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 24 members, including the officers. Members shall serve three-year terms but may be re-elected to serve additional terms. Gender balance, representation from all regions of the state and teacher/administrator ratios will be considered when adding new members to the Board.

Section 2. Nominations for members of the Board of Directors will be made in February. Members of the Association may put forth nominations for members of the Board of Directors. Applications to join the Board will be included in MMSA newsletters annually. A committee appointed by the Board will screen nominees. Selection will be determined in April.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall develop a process to select an executive director for a term of three years. Based upon recommendation from the Board of Directors, the executive director may be re-appointed to serve additional terms.

Section 4. Each member shall have one vote.

Section 5. The executive director is a voting member of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. A simple majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7. A member of the Board of Directors may be removed for cause pursuant to procedures established by the executive director.

ARTICLE VI – ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
Section 1. Five meetings of the Board of Directors will be held annually, one to recognize service.

Section 2. There will be one general membership meeting held annually.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES
Section 1. All members of the Board of Directors shall serve on AT LEAST one of the standing committees [Communications, Long Range Planning, Power and Influence, Outreach and Conference.] THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND DESIGNATED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Each COMMITTEE chairperson will report progress/concerns to the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors will establish ad hoc committees as needed.

ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY
The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and any by-laws or special rules of order the Association may adopt.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION
This constitution can be amended at any regular meeting of the Association or by a mail vote with 30 days prior notice. Two-thirds of the returned vote must approve the amendment.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION
Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association to such organization or organizations operated exclusively for educational purposes and are exempt under the codes of Internal Revenue Service. Any assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas in the country in which the principle office of the Association is then located. The jurisdiction of the court shall prevail in the disposition of the assets of the Association, with the guidance of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI – BY-LAWS
Such by-laws as may be deemed appropriate for the functioning of the Association may be adopted by a simple majority vote.

Legislative or Political Activities: the Board of Directors will seek opportunities to provide input to the legislature and Department of Education to ensure that decision-makers understand that students in the middle grades must have developmentally appropriate education and must be taught by teachers who have specialized middle level licensure. The Association may choose to support political candidates who are strong advocates for middle level education and young adolescents.
Operations Limitations: The Association shall not become involved in any activity which would jeopardize its exempt status from Federal Income Tax or jeopardize contributions which are deductible under the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XII – INDEMNIFICATION
Section 1. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the Association shall indemnify each person who, by reason of being or having been a Board member, officer or employee of the Association, is named or otherwise becomes or is threatened to be made a party to any action, suit, investigation or other proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or otherwise in nature against any and all costs and expenses, including attorney fees, judgments, fines, penalties, amounts paid in settlement, and other disbursements, actually and reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such person in connection with any action, suit, investigation or proceeding, or any claim or other matter herein, including any settlements thereof or any appeals therein, with respect to which such person is named, otherwise becomes or is threatened to be made a party by reason of being or at any time having been a Board member, officer, or employee of the Association, or by being or at any time having been, at the direction or request of the Association, a Board member or officer of or fiduciary for any other corporation, partnership, trust, venture or other entity or enterprise including any employee benefit plan.

Section 2. By action of the Board of Directors, the Association may indemnify any other person subject to the same terms, conditions and limitations set forth in Section 1 of this Article.

ARTICLE XIII – CONDITIONS OF CONSTITUTION
This constitution supercedes any and all previous constitutions and takes effect immediately following a ratification vote.

September, 2006
Thank You for attending our conference!!

Please remember to fill out our conference evaluation form at www.mmsa.info

Save the Dates!

MMSA 35th Annual State Conference
December 3-4, 2015
featuring

Sharon Faber

Special Olympics
Minnesota
Conference Notes
This We Believe Word Search


Puzzle made at www.puzzle-maker.com