



New England  
League of  
Middle Schools

# 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle Level Conference & Exhibits

**March 10, 11, & 12, 2021**



**PROGRAM BOOK**



PO Box 887  
 Georgetown, MA 01833  
[www.nelms.org](http://www.nelms.org)  
 Phone: 877-402-7627

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



Use these hashtags when posting:

#NELMS21                      #NELMS

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

## NELMS Staff

**Jeff Rodman**  
Executive Director

**Mary Jean Fawcett**  
Assistant Executive Director

**Marita Lanzilotta**  
Business Practices Coordinator

**Karin Wilmarth**  
Office Manager/Events Coordinator

## Conference Schedule

### Wednesday, March 10 (9:00 am-8:00 pm)

9:00 AM – 8:00 PM	Visit with our Exhibitors
9:00 AM – 9:45 AM	Session I
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM	Coffee Break with our Exhibitors
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Session II
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Lunch break and visit with Exhibitors
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Session III
2:00 PM - 2:45 PM	Session IV – Job Alike Meeting Sessions
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Keynote Session – Jen Cort
7:00PM – 8:00 PM	State Receptions/Meet & Greet with Exhibitors

### Thursday, March 11 (3:00 pm-8:15 pm)

3:00 PM – 8:15 PM	Visit with our Exhibitors
3:15 PM – 4:00 PM	Session V
4:15 PM – 5:15 PM	Keynote Session – Houston Kraft
5:30 PM – 6:15 PM	Session VI
6:30 PM – 7:15 PM	Dinner break and visit with Exhibitors
7:30 PM – 8:15 PM	Session VII

### Friday, March 12 (3:00 pm-8:15 pm)

3:00 PM – 8:15 PM	Visit with our Exhibitors
3:30 PM – 4:15 PM	Session VIII
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM	Dinner break and visit with Exhibitors
5:30 PM – 6:15 PM	Session IX
6:30 PM – 7:15 PM	Session X
7:30 PM – 8:15 PM	Celebration

## Certificate of Attendance Information

Please see page 20 for the Certificate of Attendance for this conference.

The Certificate of Attendance and the Conference Planner pages for each day are proof of the number of hours earned during the conference. Conference Planner pages are at the start of each day of the conference and provide you will a place to keep track of the session you attend.

**KEEP Your Program Book!**

## Conference Strands

Conference Strands are designed to connect with current middle level best practices and AMLE's foundational position paper, *The Successful Middle School: This We Believe*.

### **A – Impactful Technology**

During this time of change and necessary innovation, Middle-level students must have even more of an opportunity to use technology to successfully develop their skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and analysis. It has become more apparent that technology must be included in all academic areas and be provided in an innovative, creative, and challenging manner while providing interactive and challenging experiences. **The sessions in this strand focus on addressing and demonstrating this use and impact of technology in the middle grades.**

### **B – SEL, Wellness, and the Adolescent Learner**

Social and emotional learning is a central component of Middle level education. Good middle schools meet the educational and developmental needs of young adolescents by implementing research-based best practices as presented in *The Successful Middle School: This We Believe*. Middle level educators have long been advocates for effective advisory programs and positive school environments. Combining advisory with the implementation of social emotional learning and wellness will provide support for all students as they meet the challenges of academic and social development for the future. **The sessions in this strand focus on middle level practices that address these topics.**

### **C – Middle Level Classroom Practices**

Developmentally responsive schools provide standards-based curriculum, instruction and assessments that are relevant to students in all subject areas including unified arts and technology. Integrating unified arts and technology into content areas combined with relevant learning experiences will help meet the broad range of interests, abilities, learning styles and skills of their students are keys to student success and school improvement. Middle level educators design instruction that meets the broad range of interests, abilities, learning styles and skills of their students. Effective assessment in today's classroom provides a continuous, purposeful, and appropriate way of reviewing evidence of student learning. **The sessions in this strand focus on curriculum as well as the instructional and assessment practices that influence today's middle level classrooms.**

### **D - Leadership**

Successful middle schools possess effective middle level leaders who are, first and foremost, knowledgeable, and skilled at creating and supporting model programming that meets the unique needs of young adolescents. Effective leaders set high standards, create shared leadership models and challenge and support professionals to be their most successful. **The sessions in this strand focus on addressing and demonstrating the unique role of leadership in the middle grades.**

### **E – Equity, Access, and Social Justice**

As middle level educators, we are charged at multiple levels to respond, not only by openly and clearly condemning acts of racism and hate. Additionally, we need to answer the call in our schools to care for and support our students as they grapple with these events and our nation's history and take their own place at our sides in the ongoing work to build a better world. **The sessions in this strand focus on addressing and demonstrating ways equity, access and social justice are implemented at the middle level.**

### **F – Middle Level Essentials**

Working with middle level students effectively requires that faculty have a unique set of skills and understandings. AMLE has outlined the 18 characteristics of an effective middle schools for young adolescents. **The sessions in this strand focus on addressing and demonstrating those skills, understandings, and characteristics.**

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

## March 10, 2021 – Conference Planner

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>	<b>Time Earned</b>
Session I 9:00 – 9:45 AM			0.75 hour
Special Session 9:00 – 10:45 AM	Inspire, Engage, Build Community, and Create Lasting Lessons!	Jen Stanchfield	1.50 hours
Session II 11:00 – 11:45 AM			0.75 hour
Session III 1:00 – 1:45 PM			0.75 hour
Session IV 2:00 – 2:45 PM			0.75 hour
Keynote Session 3:00 – 4:00 PM	What’s Different for Kids Today? Everything!!	Jen Cort	1.00 hours

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March 10, 2021

Session I - 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM

**Technology Tools for Formative Assessment: Google Forms & Escape Rooms**

Strand: A

Michael McLaughlin & Kristen Donnelly, Austin Preparatory School, Reading, MA

Gamification provides a vehicle for teachers to ignite students' interest and engagement with different subjects and skills. Digital platforms allow teachers to craft tailored activities to add to their repertoire of formative assessments. Learn how to create your own "escape room" style activity for class with Google Forms.

**Organization and Study Skills**

Strand: B

Lucie Langa, Austin Preparatory School, Reading, MA

This session shares strategies for helping students cultivate skills in organization, time management, homework management, and test preparation. We will explore each of the 5 components of executive functioning, how they can impact school performance, and how we can use a strengths-based approach to foster confident learners.

**Inspire, Engage, Build Community, and Create Lasting Lessons! Experiential**

**Brain-Based Approaches to Integrate SEL and Academics**

Strand: B

Jen Stanchfield, Experiential Tools, South Newfane, VT

Join this interactive session and fill your toolbox with dynamic brain-based techniques to inspire, engage, and create lasting meaningful lessons. Empower students to take ownership of learning and build a connected, inclusive, and supportive classroom community. Enliven academic and social-emotional learning with student-centered methods to enhance involvement, retention, collaboration, self and social awareness, and reflection.

**NOTE from Presenter:** *This double session will be a highly interactive mix of group dialogue, connection, networking, and reflection activities throughout. Come ready to actively engage and network with your peers as we explore dynamic community building, SEL, formative assessment, and review activities. **Here are two things I invite you to bring to the session if possible:** First is a playing card, any playing card. If you don't have a deck handy at home, draw one or come up with some other way to represent a heart, diamond, club or spades card. Jokers are invited too. Also, if you have happen to have some play doh or clay handy, bring it (but only if it is easy for you to obtain). I look forward to our session! Please reach out to me with any questions at [jen@experientialtools.com](mailto:jen@experientialtools.com). **(This workshop will be taking place from 9:00 AM – 10:45 AM and a ZOOM link to this session will be provided. This session will NOT be recorded.)***

**Interactive, Collaborative Writing Across Curriculum -- Virtual or In-Person**

Strand: C

Steven Krasner, Nudging the Imagination, East Greenwich, RI

Practical, classroom-proven, easy-to-implement strategies for nudging students along the path to becoming independent, enthusiastic writers across the curriculum while addressing various standards. Engaging the students is vital in the writing process. Hands-on, interactive, fun session ideas tie directly into all content areas, especially Social Studies.



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**Supporting Students with Language-Based Disabilities across the Content Areas**

Strand: C

Jessica Holicker & Rachel Whelan, Norton Middle School, Norton, MA

Geared towards both general educators and special educators, this session will focus on key strategies and resources for supporting students with language-based disabilities in all content areas. We will share ideas that you can implement directly in your classroom to increase student engagement, understanding, and progress!

**Teacher Mental Health Coaching**

Strand: D

Dr. Donald Perras, D.P. Enterprises, Stratford, CT

This session will provide an overview of factors impacting teachers' mental health. Preventative recommendations on school climate, teacher empowerment, and remedial interventions will be presented. Administrative practices that nurture teachers' professional competence and psychological composure will be illustrated by sample scenarios, especially for early - career personnel.

**The Dialogic Classroom: A New Pedagogy for Connection, Engagement and Learning**

Strand: F

Lynne Cote, Newburyport HS & Eric Schiledge, Rupert A. Nock MS, Newburyport, MA

Learn how dialogue and dialogic classroom pedagogy is integrated into a middle school--fostering honest and open discussion, improving student engagement, and promoting deeper connection and understanding to course content. Equip students with lifelong skills of appreciating others' perspectives that may be different from their own, while also meeting state standards.

**March 10, 2021**

Session II - 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM

**Navigating Mistakes when Talking about Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice**

Strand: E

Jen Cort

The fear of making mistakes is one of the most common reasons offered for not engaging in conversation around equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice. This session focuses on the strategies to support you before, during, and after the conversation and provides specific strategies for how to handle it when you do make a mistake.



**Retain the Gains! Long-Term Retention with Get More Math**

Strand: A

Josh Britton, Get More Math, Quarryville, PA

By the end of the school year, students have already forgotten many of their hard-won math concepts and skills. How can we make it stick? Josh Britton will share his 20-year journey, proven model, and custom-created Get More Math system for driving long-term math retention in the classroom.



**Building an Authentic Community**

Strand: B

Mary-Elizabeth McCafferty, Auburn Middle School, Auburn, ME

Looking to work more harmoniously with teachers, students, families, or the community at large? Get tips and tricks to support us mentality during the time of COVID-19, and to create an authentic partnership with those at school with whom it has been a struggle to be in partnership with. Learn how to build trust, to capitalize on individual strengths surrounding communication, and implement the art of listening.

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**Me in a Minute Celebration**

Strand: B

Heather Mailloux & Kevin Fisher, Hampstead Middle School, Hampstead, NH

We will share how we mentored and encouraged every 8th grader to reflect and celebrate themselves and one another. Honor each student’s accomplishments, achievements, and proudest moments with a one-minute multimedia challenge. Learn how to host a virtual, culminating gala (pandemic-friendly) of learning that will bring your community together.

**Socio-scientific Issues in the Middle School Science Classroom**

Strand: C

Dr. Maria Blewitt, Austin Preparatory School, Reading, MA

Socio-scientific issues are societal issues informed by science. Including these topics can contextualize science content and promote critical thinking for Middle School learners. This presentation will provide an overview of socio-scientific issues and present three classroom examples: funding the space program, climate change solutions, and nuclear power.

**Take a Menu! How To Up Student Engagement and Choice In an Independent Reading Project**

Strand: C

Hannah Kast, Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School, East Harwich, MA

Know that independent reading matters, but tired of students fibbing about how many pages or minutes spent reading each night? Come see examples of engaging, easy-to-assign independent reading projects. These activities allow for tremendous student choice, both in the book they read and the questions they answer. This menu of “hard to Google” questions makes students engage with and analyze a text of their choice, building their reading skills, background knowledge, and love of reading!

**Strategies for a Trust-filled Organization**

Strand: D

Dr. Andrew Dolloff, Yarmouth School District, Yarmouth, ME

Trust is the single most important element in high-performing organizations, and schools are no different. School leaders must recognize the importance of demonstrating trust and be intentional about building trust among staff, students, and the community. This session will provide specific strategies to help new and veteran administrators foster trust throughout all levels of the organization.

**March 10, 2021**

Session III - 1:00 PM to 1:45 PM

**STEM Enrichment Program for All Age**

Strand: A

Rita McCabe, Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream, Pelham, NH

This STEM Enrichment program can be brought into your school as an educational yet fun program to reinforce concepts being taught through very visual, memorable experiments. We reinforce science basics such as States of Matter, Density, Leidenfrost Effect, Light Wavelength, the atmosphere, Ideal Gas Law, Newton's Laws, Pressure and more!



**A Whirlwind Guide to Executive Functioning & the SEL Debt Crisis**

Strand: B

Dr. Ned Sahin, Brain Power, Cambridge, MA

A whirlwind guide to the brain science of executive functioning, incorporating high yield teaching strategies. We highlight the SEL Debt Crisis, a worrying tsunami rapidly approaching our virtual & real classrooms. Learn practical exercises that will help your students burst through their SEL & executive functioning plateaus.



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***SEL - Virtual Zen Den, Game Rooms, Field Trips and Careers***

Strand: B

Matt Walton, Lisa Castro, Susan Diaz, & Jennifer Taylor, Old Saybrook Middle School, CT

In the time of COVID, the proverb "Necessity is the Mother of Invention" has never truer. Many old practices had to be quickly and creatively replaced with new ways of educating and creating community, all while staying six feet apart. Join staff from Old Saybrook Middle School as we share practices and strategies for supporting students' and staff's social and emotional health.

***Using Interactive Notebooks to Increase Student Engagement***

Strand: C

Shelby Gauvin & Kate Leahy, Tyngsborough Middle School, Tyngsborough, MA

Participants will be introduced to the rationale and basics behind creating and implementing the use of digital interactive notebooks in the classroom. Participants will learn about the different methods for creating interactive notebooks and how to use interactive notebooks to increase student engagement by turning traditional notetaking and worksheets into an interactive format. We will be using Google Docs and Google Slides, but participants do not have to be experts.

***Never Enough Time***

Strand: D

Mary-Elizabeth McCafferty, Auburn Middle School, Auburn, ME

For goodness sake, this year has been stressful. For school leaders, it can feel like trying to tread water while passing out flotation devices to those with whom we lead, in addition to accomplishing normal administrative responsibilities. Join this session as one step towards caring for yourself, taking a breath, and being more intentional about your leadership strategies. Not enough time to get everything done? All we have is time, it is a matter of using specific strategies to center yourself during chaotic times to avoid burnout.

***Integrating an Equity Framework into the Democratic Classroom***

Strand: E

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

By using Dr. Gholdy Muhammad's "Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy," one can sharpen the focus of a democratic classroom and deepen students' sense of agency and effectiveness as change agents. Participants will leave knowing how one such classroom is working and with ideas for their own classrooms.

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## **Thank You Partners & Exhibitors!**

**Our partners & exhibitors are an important part of our Annual Conference and NELMS would like to thank them very much for their continued support of middle level education.**



CharacterStrong, LLC  
Amplified IT  
Brain Power, LLC  
Center for Responsive Schools  
Get More Math

Milton Hershey School  
High 5 Adventure  
Meteor Learning  
Nudging the Imagination  
Sawas Learning Company

Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream  
AMLE  
The Origins Program  
Virtual Enterprises International  
Young Mediation Assoc.

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## March 10, 2021

### Session IV - 2:00 PM – 2:45 PM – Job Alike Meeting Sessions

Our Job-Alike meeting sessions are designed as a confidential place of collegial sharing and insight in a safe and supportive setting. This is an opportunity to hear and share practical solutions, ideas, and/or concerns, possibly learning an innovative practice or two, sharing an innovative practice or two, and even come to the conclusion...I am doing a pretty darn good job in my role and for my school.

Come and join in the conversation. **These sessions will NOT be recorded.**

#### ***Principal***

Facilitators: Dr. Chris Toy and Dr. Monte Selby

#### ***ELL***

Facilitator:

#### ***Assistant Principal***

Facilitator: Jessica Kennedy

#### ***Social Studies***

Facilitator: Christopher Pollet

#### ***Math***

Facilitator: Dulcey Worth

#### ***World Languages***

Facilitator: Karyn Field

#### ***ELA/Language Arts***

Facilitator: Jacqueline Hanlon

#### ***Special Education***

Facilitator: Bob Griffin

#### ***Performing Arts***

Facilitator: Bill Ivey

#### ***Visual Arts***

Facilitator:

#### ***Media Specialist/Librarian***

Facilitator:

#### ***Guidance***

Facilitator: Jeff Rodman

#### ***Science***

Facilitator: Anita Stewart-McCafferty

#### ***Health/Wellness***

Facilitator: Ellen Rodman

#### ***Physical Education***

Facilitator: Julie Gardner

## March 10, 2021

### 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Keynote Session

## ***What is Different for Kids Today? Everything!!***

Jen Cort

Kids today have different experiences and understanding than most adults. In this session, we will examine changes in the earlier onset of puberty, the impact of athletics on identity, and how conversations around equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice are completely different for our middle schoolers than were for most of us.

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## March 11, 2021 – Conference Planner

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>	<b>Time Earned</b>
Session V 3:15 – 4:00 PM			0.75 hour
Keynote Session 4:15 – 5:15 PM	Deep Kindness	Houston Kraft	1.00 hours
Session VI 5:30 – 6:15 PM			0.75 hour
Session VII 7:30 – 8:15 PM			0.75 hour

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Session V - 3:15 PM – 4:00 PM

***Getting the Most from Google Slides***

Strand: A

Erin Scholes, Mabelle B. Avery Middle School, Stafford Springs, CT

Learn how to maximize Google Slides and leave with some amazing takeaways. We will focus on using Google slides and Add-ons to create engaging lessons. Participants will walk through the creation of one of the following: interactive workspaces, PearDeck Slides, or Bitmoji Classroom (participants will choose as a group).

***Getting Flippy With It***

Strand: B

Kimberly Zajac, Norton Middle School, Norton, MA

Join this fun social-emotionally centered session to use virtual meet ups, Flippity, Flipgrid, Pear Deck, Google Slides, Innovators' Compass and other dedicated tools to create a hub of connection, engagement, and higher order thinking. We'll cover how to leverage these flexible, user-intuitive digital tools along with everyday materials, GIFs, familiar games, Memes and music to keep kids tuned in and coming back.

***Lessons from Virtual Advisory***

Strand: B

Nancy Doda, Teacher-to-Teacher, Brookfield, VT

COVID challenged us to find creative solutions to ensuring students felt a strong sense of belonging through Advisory. We learned a great deal. Virtual or face- to- face, these lessons will carry us forward. Join us as we share what we learned about offering the best Advisory program possible during these challenging times.

***Co-Teaching in a Hybrid World***

Strand: C

Michelle Cirrone & Sara Petroski-Lewis, Tyngsborough Middle School, Tyngsborough, MA

As schools deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, professionals are innovating to ensure that students with disabilities receive the free appropriate public education (FAPE) to which they are entitled. Co-teaching has proven to be the most successful model to include all students in vibrant and engaging instruction.

***Engaging the Digital Classroom: Teaching the GenZ***

Strand: C

Jacqueline Hanlon, Somersworth Middle School, Somersworth, NH

Bueller? Bueller? Ever wonder if students are actually listening & learning? No better way to know than to engage them in participating in the lesson. This has never been more challenging or more necessary. Come learn interactive strategies to help connect with students in the digital or face to face classroom.

***The Discipline Gap: Roots and Remedies***

Strand: E

Dr. Jacob Giessman, Portland Public Schools Remote Academy, Portland, ME

Demographic disparities in disciplinary outcomes--most notably the overrepresentation of Black males in school disciplinary action--plague many schools and districts across the country. Learn about the complex set of factors that might contribute to this problem and about research-based approaches to shrinking your discipline gap.

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***The Successful Middle School: This We Believe - Making it Come Alive at Your School*** Strand: F  
Stephanie Simpson, Association of Middle Level Education, Columbus, OH; Dr. Lisa Harrison, Ohio University, Athens, OH; and Dr. Penny Bishop, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT  
The fifth edition of AMLE's landmark position paper, *The Successful Middle School: This We Believe*, has just been released! Recognized as the best articulation of the middle school concept and grounded in the latest research, this session will explore key updates to the text and the five essential attributes and 18 characteristics of successful middle grades schools.

March 11, 2021

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM – Keynote Session

## ***Deep Kindness***

Houston Kraft

We all know Kindness is a great thing — and something the world needs more than ever. In this paradigm-shifting talk, Houston will help us understand the gap between what we know is important and what we are currently practice with a series of stories and questions that help us ask, “What gets in the way of a more Kind world?” If you are looking for practical ways to infuse SEL, character, and compassion into your virtual (or in-person) school, this talk will leave you equipped and inspired.

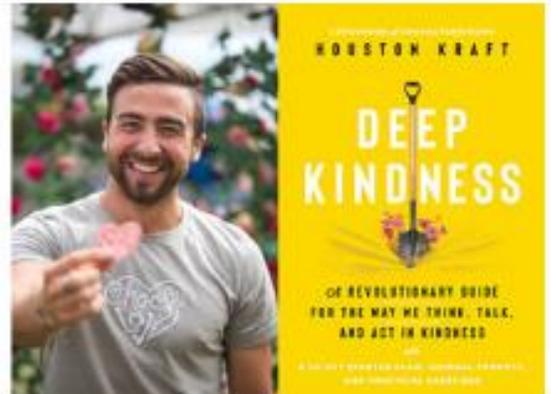
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## **2021-2022 NELMS MEMBERSHIP**

Pricing for NELMS membership will be staying the same!

As an added incentive to join EARLY, the FIRST 100 completed applications that are submitted to NELMS will receive a copy of Houston Kraft's book *Deep Kindness*!

<https://www.nelms.org/membership>



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Session VI - 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

**180 Days of Awesome- Celebrating Every Day of Education (Even During a Pandemic)** Strand: C

Monica Genta

You are AWESOME and awesome is all around us. Every day you walk into your school or log into your virtual classroom, something amazing is bound to happen. Some days that awesome is easy to see, it comes in the form of laughter, academic progress, achieving goals, and building relationships with kids. Some days that awesome is nearly impossible to see among all the meetings, curriculum changes, displeased parents, and...pandemics. Here is the cool part, focusing on the awesome has the power to turn each day of education into an exciting adventure in learning. Come along with me on this 180 day quest as we learn to focus on those little amazing moments that have the power to change everything. Because sometimes it's the small things that make the biggest difference. **(The presenter has prerecorded this session and the contents of this session will not be available after the session.)**



**Making Career and Technical Education (CTE) Thrive at YOUR Middle School**

Strand: A

Kathy Gielow & William Wilson, Virtual Enterprises International, Sunrise, FL

Do your students know how their studies connect with their future success? In this interactive session, participants will discuss instructional, organizational, and funding strategies to offer high-quality, student-centered, 6-12 career pathways starting in your school.



**Power of Play - Building Community Virtually**

Strand: B

Jitendrapal Kundan, The Origins Program, Minneapolis, MN

Learn ways to build and thrive in-Community as students build skills of cultivating empathy and respect for thoughts and feeling of others through self-determination and reflection.



**Making Learning Sticky: Brain-Based Teaching and Learning Strategies**

Strand: C

Anita Stewart McCafferty, University of Southern Maine, Lincoln, ME

Join us for an interactive session where you will actively participate in more than a dozen brain-friendly strategies designed to improve learning and memory retention/recall. You will be able to explain how a greater understanding of neuroscience and the science of learning can help improve student learning plus make learning fun!

**COVID-19: Leadership, and School Designs**

Strand: D

Dr. Emmanuel T. Vincent, Southbridge International School Cambodia, Pooler, GA

With the pandemic, K-12 institutions are scrambling for strategies, and best practices in responding to Covid-19 challenges, ensuring educational practices are in line with evolving health mandates. Instructional changes due to Covid-19 have impacted the structures of formal educational processes echoing voices from both sides of the aisle whether schools should open or remain closed as stakeholders pursue novel ways to remediate the rate of in-school transmission while furthering instructional continuity.

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### ***Streamline Your Google Classroom Organization***

Strand: F

Laura Hipp, Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, East Hampton, CT

Make tweaks to your Google Classroom so that your students no longer say things like, "I didn't see that assignment." Or, have parents question which assignments their child is supposed to complete. You will learn quick & easy tips to streamline your classroom without sacrificing the system you already have in place.

**March 11, 2021**

Session VII - 7:30 PM – 8:15 PM

### ***Creating a Trauma Informed Classroom...***

Strand: B



Kim Campbell

Whether you are completely back in school or in some type of hybrid, trauma is alive and well for your students and families. Matter of fact, 1 in 4 students have experienced at least 2 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and that was BEFORE the pandemic. Join me as we discuss the basics of trauma and learn how to create a trauma sensitive classroom.

### ***Intentionally Connect in a Digitally Distant World through Personalized Learning***

Strand: A

Joel T. Johnston, Compass Academy Charter School, Glassboro, NJ

Connect authentically with learners (even when only digitally distanced) by measuring learning behaviors & cataloguing their metacognition. This interactive session explores how self-awareness and personalized learning makes a measurable difference in instruction & student achievement!

### ***How to Enhance Language Acquisition in the Middle School Years***

Strand: B

Paolamantina Grullon Livingstone, Stoneleigh-Burnham, School, Shelburne Falls, MA

This workshop explores ways to help the middle school language learner let go of the fear of learning a new language. It helps students acquire the language in fun and engaging ways. It will give guidance to the teacher make this transition doable.

### ***Incorporating Future Problem Solving into Your Classroom***

Strand: C

Laura Hipp, Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, East Hampton, CT

Learn ways to incorporate a 6-step problem solving process into your already existing curriculum. This Future Problem Solving Program will help your students be more succinct with their thoughts and provide avenues of exploring perspectives. Also learn ways to differentiate this program to fit the needs of all your learners.

### ***Aspiring to be a Middle Level Administrator?***

Strand: D

Robert Griffin, Auburn Middle School, Auburn, ME & Jeff Rodman, New England League of Middle Schools

I can do that job!!! Are you considering moving from the classroom to administration? Thinking about a Masters in School Leadership? Wondering if administration is right for you? As stated in "The Successful Middle School: This We Believe" effective leadership is critical to a school's success. The question that needs to be addressed is, so what is effective leadership at the middle level? Come join veteran middle level administrators Bob Griffin and Jeff Rodman for an in depth, frank, and fun discussion on middle level leadership. Effective Leadership...it is a critical need at this critical time.

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**How Do We Talk About Race with Middle Level Students?**

Strand: E

Dave F. Brown, Ed. D., West Chester University, Essex Junction, VT

Middle school teachers must create the conditions for deep and consistent healthy conversations among young adolescents about race. Many educators may be reluctant to initiate these conversations, but that's a disservice to all students. Attend this session to learn the rationale for and strategies to facilitate racial conversations among students.

**Navigating the Perils of Political Polarization**

Strand: F

Kathleen Young, Young Mediation Associates, Salem, MA

In your Middle School, upheaval caused by today's political divide must be transformed into opportunity. Learn how political discussions are powerful, exciting tools that help students thrive in their Social and Emotional Learning. Through intentional approach, consistent ground rules, use of restorative circles, and transparency with parents, political discord can lead to stronger and healthier communities.

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**Thank You Partners & Exhibitors!**

**Our partners & exhibitors are an important part of our Annual Conference and NELMS would like to thank them very much for their continued support of middle level education.**



CharacterStrong, LLC

Milton Hershey School

Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream

Amplified IT

High 5 Adventure

AMLE

Brain Power, LLC

Meteor Learning

The Origins Program

Center for Responsive Schools

Nudging the Imagination

Virtual Enterprises International

Get More Math

Sawas Learning Company

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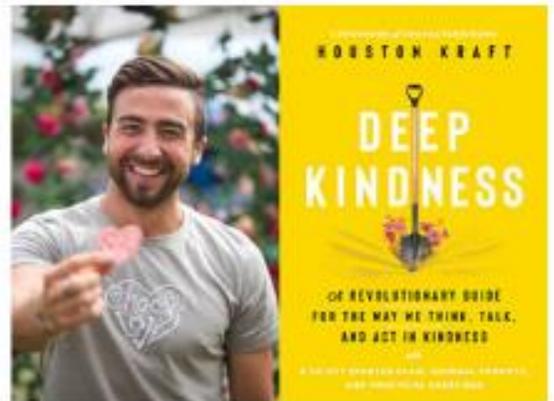
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**2021-2022 NELMS MEMBERSHIP**

Pricing for NELMS membership will be staying the same!

As an added incentive to join EARLY, the FIRST 100 completed applications that are submitted to NELMS will receive a copy of Houston Kraft's book *Deep Kindness!*

<https://www.nelms.org/membership>



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## March 12, 2021 – Conference Planner

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>	<b>Time Earned</b>
Session VIII 3:30 – 4:15 PM			0.75 hour
Session IX 5:30 – 6:15 PM			0.75 hour
Session X 6:30 – 7:15 PM			0.75 hour

March 12, 2021

Session VIII - 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

**Choosing Optimism in Challenging Times**

Strand: F

Debbie Silver

How do teachers remain optimistic while facing today's daunting challenges in education and in our world in general? Based on a book she co-wrote with Jack Berckemeyer and Judith Baenen, *Deliberate Optimism: Reclaiming the Joy in Education*, Dr. Debbie Silver discusses how educators can maintain a positive sense of self through proactive principles of working and living. Through her research and understanding of human behavior, Debbie provides insights into how to maintain one's sanity while providing every student the safe, encouraging environment they deserve. Using her well-known candor and sense of humor, Debbie offers participants an entertaining and thought-provoking look at how teachers can choose to be optimistic. **(This session is prerecorded.)**



**Clean Up That Digital Clutter for You and Your Students**

Strand: A

Laura Hipp, Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, East Hampton, CT

Keeping ourselves digitally organized takes time & strategies in order to keep from feeling overwhelmed. You have enough to worry about & trying to find that ONE file or email takes away from the other important things that need to get done. Learn tips for managing your files, emails, bookmarks & more!

**Deepen Classroom Connections through Emotional Literacy Activities**

Strand: B

Lisa Hunt & Anne Louise Wagner, High 5 Adventure Learning Center Brattleboro, VT

This workshop is for educators wanting activities that develop emotional literacy and strengthen relationships. We will share some easy-to-use check-ins, experiential activities, and reflection tools that are equally effective virtually or in-person. Try them out with us and walk away with resources to engage students and build deeper connections.



**SEL Support for Students and Staff**

Strand: B

Kristen Levesque, Maranacook Community School, Readfield, ME

This was a trying year for so many of us. Not knowing if we would be remote or in-person from day to day was the least of the worries for many of us. This session will provide some background on the role of SEL in a school community and provide you with a plan to better support students and staff with SEL needs in your school.

**Practical Classroom Management and Differentiation Strategies**

Strand: C

Sally Biggs, Biggs Educational Consultant, Virginia Beach, VA

Classroom Management and Differentiation Strategies that maximize instruction and improve school climate. Adjust student behaviors and boost student engagement by implementing these simple researched-based strategies that foster Student Encouragement, Empowerment, and Excellence in Every Classroom!

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***Game On! Building Student Engagement and Empowerment through Classroom Gamification***

Strand: C

Matthew Coleman, Middle School of the Kennebunks, Kennebunk, ME  
Global Studies teacher Matt Coleman created a boardgame to enable his students to experiment with and experience the concepts and themes from his class in a meaningful way. He will share the trials, successes, and what he learned about his students and gamification in the classroom.

**March 12, 2021**

Session IX - 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

***G Suite Admin Best Practices***

Strand: A

Tom Wood, Amplified IT, Norfolk, VA

The Admin Console has hundreds of policy settings and controls. Do you have them all set correctly? GSuite does not come configured out of the box for Education. In this session we will look at common pitfalls and best practices for getting your G Suite Domain setup appropriately for staff and students.



***Saving Lives by Connecting EVERY Student***

Strand: B

Angela Avery, Biddeford Middle School, Biddeford, ME

Suicide is the 2nd-leading cause of death among youth ages 10-24. As trusted adults, teachers notice signs, and can help students find connection, purpose and hope. Identify suicide prevention interventions, such as mindfulness and coping skills to decrease anxiety. Discuss ways to support students in the classroom so they may persevere academically and beyond.

***CharacterStrong: Social Emotional Learning and Character Development***

Strand: B

Chelsea Gallagher, Character Strong, Colbert, WS

How do we create a more loving world through education? We focus on strategies we can use to address the social emotional needs of staff and students. This interactive session is an introduction to CharacterStrong, which is aimed at building positive culture through low burden, high impact strategies.



***FUNctional Reading During a Pandemic***

Strand: C

Leeann Blais & Alexandra M. Dell'Anno, Austin Preparatory School. Reading, MA

Teachers know that students who love to read are more successful, but what can we do when we no longer have the carefully curated classroom library at our disposal? During this session we will share practical strategies that you can use immediately to build excitement and motivation around reading.

***Engaging the Disengaged: An Idea and an Invitation***

Strand: C

Matthew Coleman, Middle School of the Kennebunks, Kennebunk, ME

An invitation to collaborate: Global Studies teacher Matt Coleman will share a prototype game/planner he is developing to help the disengaged “gamer” student be more successful. Give feedback, engage in discussion, and potentially collaborate with Matt and others to turn the prototype into a reality for students.

**Middle Level Leadership for Challenging Times**

Strand: D

Dr. Thomas Kenworthy, University of Rhode Island, East Greenwich, RI

Dr. Thomas Kenworthy teaches the Middle Level Curriculum, Assessment, and Methods course at the University of RI. Each semester Dr. Kenworthy invites local middle level administrators to participate in a panel discussion with his class. This presentation will share some key insights from these discussions, particularly this past fall.

**Supporting LGBTQ+ Students in Your School**

Strand: E

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

Wondering about the spectrums of sex, gender, and sexuality? about students’ experiences? about how best to support LGBTQ+ people in school? This presentation will answer these questions and leave time for additional questions and discussion.

**Bingo! That's What my School Needs! 18 Characteristics for a Successful Middle School**

Strand: F

Stephanie Simpson, Association of Middle Level Education, Columbus, OH & Erin Scholes, Mabelle B. Avery Middle School, Stafford Springs, CT

Participants will learn the 18 characteristics of This We Believe and how they apply to their own school practices. Using a bingo game, participants will reflect on their own practices, and discuss with colleagues. Participants will leave with goals, an action plan, and resources to help their school grow. Bingo!

March 12, 2021

Session X - 6:30 PM – 7:15 PM

**How to Do Virtual Teaching - Even if You Have a Face for Radio**

Strand: C

Jack Berckemeyer

Based on his latest workbook, How to Do Virtual Teaching - Even if You Have a Face for Radio, Jack Berckemeyer will take you on a funny and practical journey into pre-recording lessons and virtually connecting with your students. We are all struggling with how to motivate our students and keep them engaged during the pandemic. Jack’s new workbook highlights the importance of feeling comfortable while recording yourself and your lessons. He provides guidelines on student etiquette during virtual teaching time and will share some great lessons that you can implement immediately. **(This session is prerecorded.)**



**What's in your G Suite Admin Toolbox?**

Strand: A

Tom Wood, Amplified IT, Norfolk, VA

Google’s free solution for Education provides opportunity for schools to improve student success. You may however want some additional help with reporting, visibility and compliance to make the environment truly work for you. In this session we will showcase some paid for and free tools that you can use to manage your G Suite Domain.



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***The Impact of Mindful Compassion Practices on the Mental Health and Stress of Middle School Students***

Strand: B

Paige Fournier, Freeport Middle School, Freeport, ME

The purpose of this presentation is to review a study conducted in Maine during the 2019-2020 school year, exploring the efficacy of the Radiant Beginnings Mindfulness program on mindfulness skills and self-compassion skills as well as middle school students' stress and general mental health.

***Creating an Award-Winning Culture***

Strand: B

Hans Appel, Enterprise Middle School, West Richland, WA

Learn how to intentionally teach the whole child by building an award-winning culture through a school-wide framework of Character, Excellence, and Community. Based on his hit book, Hans will be providing an introduction to infusing social-emotional learning throughout your entire educational ecosystem.

***How Has Leadership in the Middle School Changed, or Has It?***

Strand: D

Pamela Millikan, Association for Middle Level Education, Franklin, IN

The role of the middle school principal has become more challenging. During this session, we will explore characteristics of effective leadership; share successful strategies that have worked during these difficult times; laugh and explore how to stay sane; and leave the session with additional strategies to help you navigate your role as principal.

***Class Website? Yes! Is it ADA Compliant? Not Sure.***

Strand: E

John A. Huss, Northern University of Kentucky, Fort Wright, KY

This interactive, hands-on presentation will share free tools and important design tips for bringing teacher classroom websites into ADA compliance while addressing issues often perceived as barriers and the avoidance of common accessibility issues, thus preserving and enhancing the critical partnership between the student and the teacher.

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**Thank You for Attending!**

Looking forward to seeing you in 2022 for the 41st Annual Middle Level Conference.

Watch our website for some upcoming events that are being planned - Virtual Scholar Leader Awards Celebration and Summer Workshop Series.



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New England  
League of  
Middle Schools

PO Box 887  
Georgetown, MA 01833  
www.nelms.org  
Phone: 877-402-7627

## Certificate of Attendance

(This document in conjunction with Conference Planner pages is proof of hours of attendance.)

This will certify that

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
of

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State

has attended the  
New England League of Middle Schools'  
40<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle Level Conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Rodman".

*NELMS Authorized Signature:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Rodman, Executive Director

**PLEASE DO NOT TURN THIS FORM INTO NELMS! KEEP IT ALONG  
WITH YOUR CONFERENCE MATERIALS FOR YOUR FILES.**