

President's Message

Greetings. I would encourage every team, or aspiring team of teachers to consider taking the opportunity to join our Summer Camp for Middle Level Educators this summer. For four days, your teams will be provided outstanding keynote speakers break out sessions, and significant time to plan for plan. In addition, your access to networking with like minded educators in formal and informal social settings would make this an experience for you and your team that will be unforgettable. You will find information about this experience inside this issue of the UPdate. Also, you may find more information on our website, www.iamle.org.

Inside this issue you will also find a sectional conference coming soon in your area. This is an excellent value for your money. Keynotes, breakouts, and connecting with educators in your area highlight the evening. Grab a college, go together, and share the spirit!

Now is the time to mark October 1-3, 2003 on your calendar. IAMLE will be hosting the Midwest Regional Middle Level Educator's Conference. Located in Ames, Iowa, this conference will be loaded with high impact keynoters including Neila Connors, Mary Biegler, and Rick Herrig. In addition, dozens of breakout sessions in every content area will provide "off the shelf" information for you to take directly back to your school, team, classroom. You cannot afford to miss this conference. We are also hosting a President's social at the Gateway Hotel and, as this is the BIG weekend of the ISU/Oklahoma football game (at ISU), we will be doing a large tailgate on the grounds of Jack Trice Stadium for attendees of this conference. Look inside this UPdate for more information or access an ever-increasing list of information from our website (www.iamle.org).

Finally, we are calling for nominations for our IAMLE Middle Level Educator of the Year. As well, we are soliciting applications for minigrant applications for the 2003-2004 school year. Nomination and application forms reside on our website (www.iamle.org). Go for it!

Sincerely, Jeff Schumacher

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New Era Ushers in Long Overdue Changes

Standards, benchmarks, Teacher Quality Act, No Child Left Behind (NCLB)...words, expectations, and legislation that have changed the face of education, now drive what teachers and administrators do, or should do, in classrooms and schools across Iowa. How will it affect me? What will I need to do differently? The answer to these questions lies in the

classroom practices you have, or have not, employed as an educator of young adolescents.

Standards? Benchmarks? What teachers or schools haven't established standards and benchmarks by which to judge student progress? How often have you heard peers espouse the rigor students need to demonstrate in their classes in order to get passing grades? Students today don't have the same work ethic they had when I was in school. If only students would do their homework; if only I could teach and not have to worry about attending team meetings; if only I could just

spend time teaching (you fill in the subject area of your choice) instead of developing this interdisciplinary unit; the list of "if only" goes on and on. Standards, benchmarks, Teacher Quality Act, NCLB...how will it affect you? What will you need to do differently? Standards and benchmarks are simply the expectations we hold for students. If you haven't been teaching to your standards and benchmarks, you need to begin. If you haven't been assessing your standards and benchmarks, you need to begin. If you haven't been using the results of ongoing assessments to change the way you teach to help EVERY student become proficient, you need to begin. Accountability is here to stay; lamenting its presence will not make it go away, nor will it allow you to meet the requirements you now face.

Iowa's Teacher Quality Act identifies eight standards and forty-two criteria by which to judge the qualities of a professional educator. Regardless of whether or not educators are expected to meet all eight standards and forty-two criteria, an examination

continued

Next Issue of UPDATE...

Idea Corner: Teacher Recognition
Ames for Success Conference Information

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Northwest Region,
Pauline Zabka
Southeast Region,
Tim Wernentin
Southwest Region,
Bev Maronn
Northeast Region,
Sharon Hauser

Long Overdue Changes *continued*

of those fifty expectations reveals professional educator traits and practices that have long been recommended for middle level educators. Many effective middle level teachers have implemented those recommendations in their schools and classrooms and only have to provide documentation of what they are already doing to meet the standards and criteria. Communication and collaboration with parents, students, and teachers with regard to student achievement are identified within the standards and criteria. Classroom management and creation of a classroom environment that fosters student engagement and variety of instructional practices are clearly stated. Lesson design that takes into consideration ongoing assessment, differentiation, and multiple disciplinary connections validates Turning Points recommendations that have been with us since 1989. Professional growth centered on the educator as a life-long learner, embracing building and district goals, takes on equal importance for educators. What will you need to do differently? For some of you, it may be very little; for others, alternative career choices begin to gain appeal.

But what of NCLB legislative requirements? Surely federal legislation will now save traditional practices from the evil of middle level philosophy. Surprisingly, teacher certification questions notwithstanding, NCLB requirements include implementation of recognized research-based programs in our nation's schools that include several middle level models. The Turning Points CSR model is one of several middle level models that meet the rigor of federal standards. How will this affect you? It depends. Do you use student assessments to focus instruction and remediation? Have you implemented recommendations of Turning Points in your school and classes? Once again, it is those schools and teachers who have embraced the research-based recommendations of Turning Points and current best middle level practice that have the best chance to minimize the impact NCLB will have on us all.

Words, expectations, and legislation that changed the face of education for the young adolescent are now upon us; it didn't have to come to this. We can lament the era that is upon us or implement changes long overdue. How will it affect you?

Rick Herrig, Executive Director

Partners for Healthy Kids

More than 25 organizations in Iowa are joining together in a new coalition, *Partners for Healthy Kids*, to support schools and communities in providing healthy nutrition and physical activity environments for children and youth. Several of the coalition members are already actively promoting healthy school environments. *Partners for Healthy Kids* is assisting member organizations to coordinate their efforts at the state and at local levels with activities and initiatives that either filter down or up from their local member organizations. Partners have agreed to work together for a minimum of two years, with a specific charge and support from the Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Food and Nutrition as part of a United States Department of Agriculture grant for Team Nutrition. A second source of support comes from the Midwest Dairy Council as part of their nation wide support for the Healthy Schools Initiative. The coalition is focusing on two initiatives:

1. The *Partners for Healthy Kids Coalition* is planning a statewide *Action for Healthy Kids – Eat Smart Play Hard Summit* for the summer of 2003. The agenda for the summit will focus on a state action plan based on Iowa goals selected from the national 2002 Healthy Schools Summit. The Midwest Dairy Council will support the coalition as it plans the summit. The work of the coalition will continue after the summit to integrate efforts in support of healthy school environments.
2. The Iowa Department of Education's Team Nutrition program has obtained grant funding to provide a variety of resources for schools, and the coalition is advising and supporting the development of the resources. These include:
 - a. *Team-up for KIDS- healthy eating and physical activity environments regional workshops* for teams composed of schools and their community supporters to demonstrate how to set up comprehensive nutrition and physical activity programs in schools and to extend the messages and environmental changes into the larger community.



The cities and dates are listed below. Specific location information will be available in January on the Iowa Department of Education's Team Nutrition web site. <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/fn/tn/resources.html>

3/ 8 Creston
3/15 Cherokee
3/29 Waterloo
4/ 5 Washington
4/12 Des Moines

- b. Mini-grants to schools to support nutrition or physical activity initiatives in their schools. The mini-grants are available only to schools that attend the workshops.
- c. Month-by-month event planning tools to assist schools and communities to plan and launch school wide, community and media events which will highlight the importance of healthy food and physical activity choices. The event planning tools are also available only to schools that attend the workshops.
- d. Certification for Team Nutrition schools and awards for outstanding programs.

For more information:

Action for Healthy Kids- Eat Smart, Play Hard Summit, contact Molly Pelzer at mpelzer@midwestdairy.com or call 800-406-6455.

Team Nutrition workshops, contact Laura Sands at laurasands@mchsi.com or call 515-279-3424.

Partners for Healthy Kids Coalition, contact either Molly Pelzer or Laura Sands.

SECTIONAL CONFERENCE

Sergeant Bluff-Luton Middle School – April 2

An opportunity to come together to learn, share, and visit will be available to you at the Middle School Sectional Conference at Sergeant Bluff-Luton Middle School on April 2. A meal catered by the Sergeant Bluff-Luton sixth grade will be provided with the conference sessions to follow. At the present time, we are still setting up the program and are looking for presenters. If you know someone who would like to present on a topic of interest to middle school educators, contact any of the following planning committee members:

Nancy Malsom, Sergeant Bluff-Luton Middle School, 712-943-4235
Jeff Thelander, Westwood Middle School, 712-428-3303
Larry Weede, Cherokee Middle School, 712-225-6750
Pauline Zabka NW Iowa Director, North Kossuth Middle School, 515-885-2464,
zabkap@n-kossuth.k12.ia.us

Registration forms with more specific information will be sent to the area schools.

SECTIONAL CONFERENCE

Webster City Middle School – April 9

Webster City Middle School will be hosting a Middle School Sectional Conference on April 9. Plans include beginning with a meal followed by a keynote speaker. Breakout sessions will follow. We have not finalized our list of presenters yet so if you know someone who would like to present on a topic that would be of interest to other middle school educators, contact any of the following people:

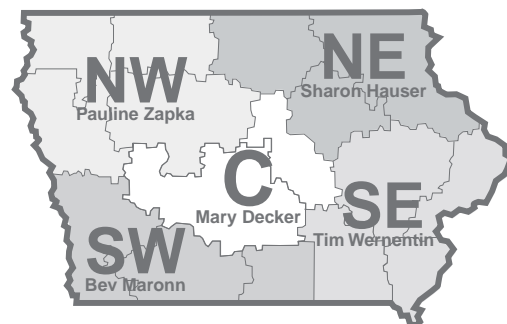
Steve Haberman, Clarion-Goldfield Middle School, 515-532-2412
Becky Hacker-Kluver, Webster City Middle School, 515-832-9220
Kandice Martin, Arrowhead AEA 5, 800-669-2325
Andrew Woiwood, Pocahontas Area Middle School, 712-848, 3350
Pauline Zabka NW Iowa Director, North Kossuth Middle School, 515-885-2464,
zabkap@n-kossuth.k12.ia.us

More information along with registration form will be sent to the schools in the area.

What's (Not) Happening in Southwest Iowa

Each spring, IAMLE seeks to hold Spring Sectional Mini-Conferences in each section (Iowa is divided into five sections). In recent years, Harlan, Griswold, and Atlantic have hosted these events for our (SW) district with great success. These meetings are wonderful opportunities for middle school teachers and administrators to get together and share best practices, research, and what works (and what doesn't)! These evenings are filled with fun, food, and camaraderie. These meetings are usually held in March or April. If, at the time of this publication, your middle school would consider hosting a SW Iowa Sectional, I would be proud to work collaboratively to make this event a success. Please contact me at www.iamle.org and select "Board of Directors". You can also email at bmarron@harlan.k12.ia.us.

By Bev Maronn, SW Director



“It Takes a Team to Leave No Child Behind.”

This summer IAMLE will be hosting its Third Annual Summer Camp at Simpson College. The primary purpose of this camp is to promote *effective teaching through teaming*. If you've been fortunate enough to teach in a school with grade-level teaming, you're already aware of its role in helping teachers plan for and monitor student progress. If you haven't taught in a team model or your school is looking into it, I would strongly encourage you to investigate your options. As *No Child Left Behind* continues to unfold here in Iowa schools will be challenged to increase student achievement and subsequently be held accountable for their progress or lack thereof. Despite some of the negative rhetoric you'll hear regarding this legislation, there is some very good news for those of us in the Middle. You see, NCLB's expectations help support the philosophy middle schools have embraced for almost four decades: success for all students. How

have middle schools worked to ensure student success? Without a doubt one essential ingredient in this formula has been grade-level teaming.

I wish I could take credit for the title of this article but I can't. Donna Heavner, assistant principal at Arndt Middle School in Hickory, North Carolina is to be credited for this important reminder. Why is it so important? Aside from the new federal and state mandates set before us there is little information on *how*, from a system perspective, these goals are to be accomplished. Here is where I believe middle schools are perhaps a step ahead of their elementary and secondary counterparts. As the song goes, "What's he got that I ain't got?" Well, what the Middle's got is teaming.

At this year's summer camp, Donna and her colleagues from AMS will be sharing their experiences with high-stakes testing of students and the role grade-level teaming has played in their success. Without a doubt, one of the most critical

elements helping to ensure the success of their students is the ability of AMS's teachers to have a scheduled time each day to team. I'm quite certain there wasn't one child at that school who knew what occurred during a teacher's team time, nor would they likely have cared. However, without that time to meet, share, discuss, plan, analyze test data and coordinate key curriculum skills and content, many students would not have met the necessary minimum requirements for proficiency in math and or reading.

I believe those of us in the Middle are sitting on one of the most important structural elements in order to effectively implement a process for ensuring success for all students and that structure is grade-level teaming. Whether we phrase our goal as "success for all students" or "leave no child behind," effective teaming will be an integral part of your and your students' success.

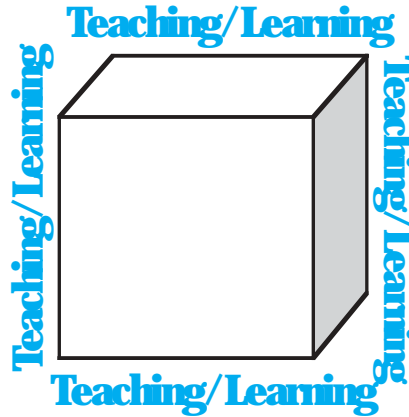
Steve Kwikkel
At-Large Director
Waverly-Shell Rock Jr. High



Central Region Middle Level Educators' Sectional Conference

"Teaching & Learning – Outside the Box"

April 17, 2003
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



May Goodrell
Traditional
Plus Middle School
Des Moines, Iowa

CALL FOR PRESENTORS

Primary Presenter Information: (please print or type)

Name _____
Position _____
School Name _____
School Address _____
Phone: (home) _____ (school) _____ (fax) _____
E-mail Address: _____

Co-Presenter(s) Information

Name of co-presenter(s) _____
School of co-presenter(s) _____

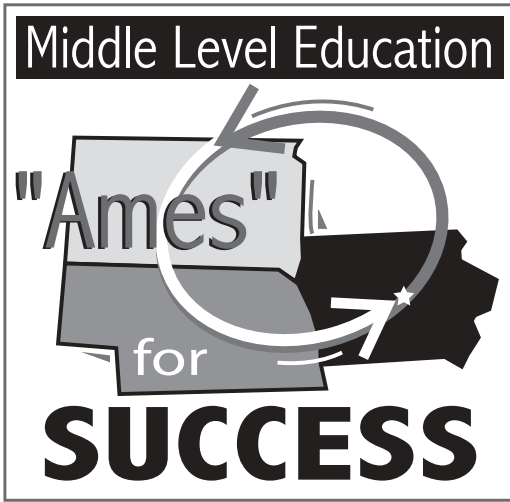
Title of Presentation _____

Abstract of Presentation for Conference (or attach separate sheet)

I/We are willing to present more than once? Yes No

Presentations will be 45 minutes in length. The only audio-visual equipment provided will be a screen and an overhead projector. Individual presenters are responsible for any additional equipment. You will be notified as to the time of your presentation. Send this form by March 10, 2003 to:

Mary Decker
May Goodrell Traditional Plus Middle School
3300 E. 29th Street, Des Moines, IA 50317
Phone: 515-265-6051 fax: 515-262-8967
E-mail: mary.decker@dmps.k12.ia.us



Call for Presenters
 19th Annual Midwest Regional Middle Level Conference
Middle Level Education
“Ames” for Success

October 1-3 , 2003

Iowa State Center and The Hotel at Gateway Center • Ames, Iowa

PRIMARY PRESENTER INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE):

Name _____ Position _____

Address _____
 Street City State Zip

School/Organization _____

Phone: Work _____ Home _____

e-mail address _____ fax number: _____

CO-PRESENTER INFORMATION

I am presenting alone This is a co-presentation
 Co-presenter name(s) _____

PRESENTATION

Title _____

Abstract: Please attach a description as you wish it to appear in the program. Limit it to 100 words or less.

STRAND

Please indicate the strand which best represents you presentation:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brain Research Theory/Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Parent/Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology/Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interdisciplinary Teaming | <input type="checkbox"/> Guidance/Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Exploratory Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adviser/Advisee Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Administration/Supervision | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School Implementation | <input type="checkbox"/> Subject Specific _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

AUDIENCE

My/Our presentation is geared towards . . .

- New teachers Experienced teachers Administrators All

I/We are willing to present more than once. Yes No

If YES, please indicate the day(s) 2nd 3rd

An overhead projector and screen will be provided. Presenters are responsible for any additional equipment and for conference registration.

Please return this form by January 12, 2003 to

Mr. Steve Kwikkel, Waverly Shellrock Junior High, 215 3rd St, Waverly, IA 50677
 Phone: 319-352-3632 • Fax: 319-352-5199 • e-mail: kwikkels@waverly-shellrock.k12.ia.us



Third Annual Summer Camp

Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa

“Better Teaching Through Teaming”

June 23 – June 26, 2003



Presented by Iowa Association for Middle Level Education & Simpson College–Indianola, Iowa

Keynote Speakers and Camp Consultants

Dale Henze: After more than 30 years in education, most at the middle school level, Dale Henze retired in 2001 as principal at Galena (Illinois) Middle School. During his tenure at GMS, he led the faculty and staff through the transition from a traditional junior high to a middle school philosophy helping them earn the distinction as a Blue Ribbon school. A frequent presenter at the Teaching the Transescent Seminar at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville, Dale now serves the university as an adjunct professor in the education department. We welcome his return visit to Simpson and look forward to his presentation, Educational Standards...of the Heart, a reflection of the multiple ways we touch the young adolescents we serve.

Rick Herrig: As the Executive Director of the Iowa Association for Middle Level Education (IAMLE), Rick Herrig brings a wealth of middle level knowledge and experience to the summer camp. He serves as a North Region Trustee for the National Middle School Association (NMSA) and is currently principal at Bettendorf (Iowa) Middle School. A former middle school teacher, Rick has presented at numerous regional and state conferences throughout the Midwest. Rick returns in his second year as director of summer camp.

Dr. Kristen Crabtree-Groff: A school improvement consultant for Heartland AEA 11, Kristen Crabtree-Groff is a member of the AEA 11 Middle School Satellite Team. A middle school language arts teacher for 13 years, she also taught exploratory courses including Spanish and Communications. A 1987 graduate of Coe College, Dr. Crabtree-Groff earned her Masters of Science in Teaching, Learning, and Leadership from Drake University in 1993 and has

completed her Curriculum Specialist coursework. She earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Drake University in 2003. Kristen returns to camp after a one year absence.

Jeff Schumacher: Currently president of the Iowa Association for Middle Level Education (IAMLE), Jeff Schumacher is principal at Parkview Middle School in Ankeny, Iowa, and serves as an adjunct instructor for Drake University. A former middle school teacher, Jeff has presented at sectional, state and regional conferences. His understanding of middle level best practice and expertise with curriculum and instructional design will be of great value to those attending this year's camp experience.

Maureen Taylor: A school improvement consultant for Heartland AEA 11, Maureen Taylor brings extensive knowledge of instructional strategies in the area of Language Arts. A co-facilitator of the Middle School Administrators' Network, she also oversees a Goals 2000 Middle School Mentoring Project. Her knowledge of Turning Points 2000 recommendations can assist districts in their implementation of NCLB mandates.

Steve Kwikkel: Former Executive Director of the Iowa Association for Middle Level Education (IAMLE), Steve Kwikkel will share his knowledge of middle level implementation as it relates to high stakes testing. Currently principal of Waverly-Shell Rock Junior High, he experienced the pressure of statewide testing while principal of H. M. Arndt Middle School located in Hickory, N. C. Steve and guests from North Carolina will examine the implications of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, Iowa's Teacher Quality Act, and middle level best practice.



What's Summer Camp About?

Remember those days at camp when you were young? The things you learned, the friends you made, and the FUN you had can be more than memories of the past. Join us as we re-create some of those by-gone days during three days of camp devoted to best practice in middle level education.

Set in the serene atmosphere of Simpson College, located in Indianola, Iowa, you get the best of both worlds – small-town friendliness and a good mix of city life. Located 12 miles south of Des Moines, Indianola is a town of 13,000 friendly people. Simpson College offers air-conditioned dorms, excellent meeting facilities, and use of computer facilities during camp.

Campers will attend keynote and breakout sessions addressing current best practice in the following topics:

- No Child Left Behind (NCLB), CSIP and Middle Level Implementation
- Advisory and Transition
- Curriculum and Assessment Practices
- Teaming Practices
- Instructional Strategies

When is Registration Due?

- Registration materials are due by **May 9, 2003**
- Camp is limited to first **75** individual attendees. A waiting list will be compiled on a first-come basis.

Is College Credit Available?

Simpson College is offering one- and two-hour graduate credit options. CEU's are also available through AEA 11.

Who Can Attend?

Individuals and teams are welcome to attend. Whether you attend camp as a team or individual, you will leave camp with an understanding of NCLB and the tools to implement current best practice in your classroom, team, or building. Consultants will be available to work with individuals or teams as they develop actions plans. Round table discussion opportunities will exist for individual attendees during team time.

What do Registration Fees Include?

- Lodging (double) at Simpson College's air-conditioned Picken Hall
- Meals (nine included)
- Linen service including pillow, bed and pillow linen, blanket, towel, washcloth, soap, and glass
- Camp T-shirt
- Two books: *No Child Left Behind-Implications for Middle Level Leaders* and, *If You Don't Feed the Teachers, They Eat the Students*
- Each school will also receive one copy of the book, *Taking Teaming to the Next Level - The Principal's Role*
- Materials and Handouts
- **Camp format meets Turning Points 2000 School Reform Model**

(Complete and detach registration form below)

Summer Camp at Simpson College Registration Form

Please print clearly or type:

(Return to Rick Herrig, 2030 Middle Road, Bettendorf, IA 52722)

Name: _____

School: _____ District: _____

Address: _____

School City/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Home City/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Team Members: _____

Roommate: _____

____ **Full Time Camper Single Registration** \$355 (\$380 if single room)

____ **Day Camper Single Registration** \$315

____ **Special School Registration** (up to 5 staff)..... \$2000 (includes one-day in-service)

Indicate T-shirt Size: S____ M____ L____ XL____ XXL____

____ Check enclosed (payable to IAMLE) P.O.# _____ (please attach)



What is the Daily Schedule?

Monday, June 23

12:00-1:00 PM Registration
 1:00-4:30 PM Welcome and Opening Session
 4:30 PM Supper/Leisure
 7:00 PM Keynote Address:
Herding Cats and Other Myths About Young Adolescents Rick Herrig
 8:30 PM Social and Bonfire

Tuesday, June 24

7:00-8:30 AM Breakfast
 8:45-9:30 AM Morning Address:
It Takes a Team to Leave No Child Behind
 9:45-12:00 Breakout Sessions
 12:00-1:00 PM Lunch
 1:00-2:00 PM Team Time
 2:15-3:30 PM Breakout Session
 3:45-5:00 PM Afternoon Address:
Who Moved My Cheese? Or Did Someone Eat It?
 5:00-6:00 PM Supper
 6:00-8:00 PM Team Time

Wednesday, June 25

7:00-8:30 AM Breakfast
 8:45-10:00 AM Morning Address:
You Know If You're A Middle School Teacher If...
 10:15-11:30 AM Breakout Session
 11:30-12:30 PM Lunch
 12:30-1:45 PM Breakout Session
 2:00-5:00 PM Team Time
 5:00-6:00 PM Supper
 7:00-? Social

Thursday, June 26

7:00-8:30 AM Breakfast
 8:45-10:15 AM Team Presentations
 10:30-11:30 AM Closing Address:
Educational Standards...of the Heart Dale Henze
 11:30 AM Complete Evaluation
 11:45 AM Lunch/Depart



IAMLE Members...

Have you seen the member services area on our Web site? Check it out soon. The log in information is case sensitive.

The User ID is: teach

The password is: MLevel

Surf the web at www.iamle.org

Check out our services: outstanding teacher links by content area, detailed information about our Regional 2000 conference in Des Moines, access to our publications. All of this AND MORE are just a mouse click away. Place us on your "list of favorites". Coming soon, you will be able to access the Journal, in real time, on the web.



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MDA MIDWEST DAIRY ASSOCIATION™

The Iowa Association for Middle Level Education - the only affiliate of the National Middle School Association in Iowa - is dedicated to meeting the needs of young adolescents and committed to promoting educational improvement for middle level students.

The IAMLE UPDATE is the official newsletter of the Iowa Association for Middle Level Education and is published four times each academic year. Subscription to the IAMLE UPDATE is included in IAMLE membership dues.

IAMLE UPDATE Volume 12, Number 3

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MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION

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