

President's Message

The Collegiate Middle Level Association, a national affiliate of NMSA, serves college students in middle level education programs throughout the nation. When invited recently to contribute an article for their national newsletter, I was asked what I think is most important in middle level education. As I pondered my response, I came to realize my answer is as complex as the young adolescent who would be our future.

If only it would be so easy to identify that interdisciplinary instruction is the most important component when teaching the young adolescent. Teachers could focus their attention on crafting their curriculum so that it has connection to other subjects and the world around them. The lines between different academic disciplines would become blurred as students applied math, science, and language arts skills and concepts to real world applications.

Perhaps what is most important is the instructional delivery and assessment of that interdisciplinary curriculum. Brain research regarding prime learning episodes would be utilized to design instruction; research findings would be applied to homework assignments eliminating practices that do not enhance student achievement; and assessments would replace grading practices steeped in tradition but devoid of accuracy. Lessons would be designed with the developmental needs of the young adolescent in mind. Lecture would give way to hands-on, activity-based instruction. Students would not be confined to desks, worksheets would become a thing of the past, and group interaction would become the norm. The purpose of homework would first be determined before assigned maximizing the intended results. Test questions would be designed based on the developmental readiness of students, exposing them to abstract thought while assessing the degree of concrete learning (content). Results would not simply be used to sort students, but also be used to measure the effectiveness of instruction on learning. Multiple forms of assessment would become commonplace, measuring growth at times other than the end of a unit of instruction.



Maybe teaming and effective teaming practices is the most important component in middle level education today. Teachers would use common planning time in ways other than planning field trips, discussing student discipline issues, or planning parent conferences; all important in their own right. Effective teaming however, focuses on curricular and instructional practices beyond the housekeeping duties typically reserved for team meetings. Decisions with regard to use of flexible block scheduling and cross-curricular connections would dominate team discussions. Decisions regarding the instructional delivery would be based on student needs because teaching teams truly know their students.

Where does advisory fit into the scheme of middle level education? Isn't this one of the most important components? Perhaps educators would discover the importance of building relationships with the young adolescent by creating an adult advocate for every student. Teachers would realize that building relationships couldn't occur through canned curriculum delivered by staff that view advisory as an extra prep or a guidance period. Sincere, productive relationships develop when students and teachers informally engage in activities that model responsibility and foster character.

Perhaps the most important issue facing middle level education is the teacher preparation of those who would educate the young adolescent. Teachers, current and future, would seek certification and training designed to meet the needs of the young adolescent. Staff development would be ongoing and school districts would recognize the importance of placing appropriately trained teachers in middle schools. Teachers, while teaching students to become life-long learners, would model this goal as well.

So what is the most important issue facing middle level education? Perhaps it's remembering that no one component is more important than another. Whether a new, young teacher entering the classroom for the first time or a crafty classroom veteran, you have an opportunity to make an impact on every student who walks through your door. Are you ready to change the face of education, and in turn, the future?

Rick Herrig, President

UPDATE

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President,
Rick Herrig
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vacant
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Southeast Region,
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Southwest Region,
Bev Maronn
Northeast Region,
Sharon Hauser



IAMLE
Summer Camp
June 24th to 28th
Details Inside!

Next Issue of UPDATE...

Announcement of New Board Members
The Idea Corner - How to promote Reading
More Summer Camp Information!

Application for IAMLE Mini-Grant Funding

Name _____

School _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ FAX _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please respond to the following questions:

1. For what purpose will the mini-grant funds be used (100 words maximum)?

2. What amount are you requesting?

3. What are the educational benefits of this project (150 words maximum)?

4. How many students will be affected by this project?

5. How will this project advance middle level education in your school (100 word maximum)?

6. By what measures will you assess the success of the project (100 words maximum)?

Iowa Association for Middle Level Education

Mini-Grant Application

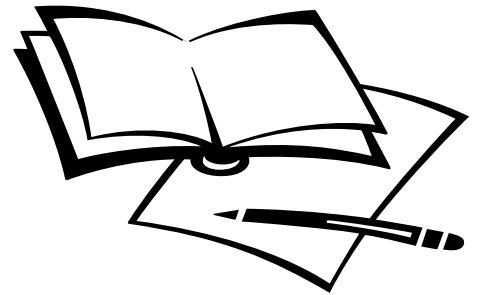
The objectives of the IAMLE Mini-Grant Program are:

To improve the school experience
of middle level children in Iowa

&

To promote and enhance
team teaching efforts in
middle level schools

Participants in the
IAMLE Mini-Grant Program
share the results of their projects
at Sectional Middle Level
Conferences and/or the Midwest
Regional Middle Level Conference



Please submit this request to:

Mr. Steven J. Kwikkel,
Executive Director
Iowa Association for
Middle Level Education
C/O Spencer Middle School
PO Box 200
Spencer, IA 51301



The Idea Corner

In each issue of the UPdate we will be choosing a middle school topic and asking IAMLE members to share effective strategies that they have used in their school to address that particular area. **For the April issue we are looking for ideas to promote Reading at the middle school level.** Please send your ideas to Wendy Parker at parker_wendy@mail1.newton.k12.ia.us.

Transition Activities for Elementary to Middle School:

Bring incoming middle schoolers come to the middle school and have each student pair up with a current middle schooler and shadow them for half of the day.

Show Judith Baenen's video "H.E.L.P. - How to Enjoy Living with a Pre-Adolescent" to parents of your incoming middle schoolers.

Have current middle schools go to the incoming students' elementary class and conduct a question and answer session with the students.

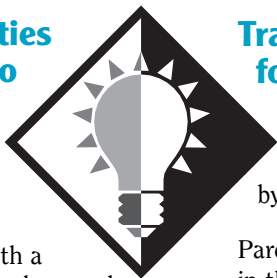
Survey the incoming students to see what their hopes and concerns are for middle school.

Invite the incoming students to the middle school the right before school starts and have them go through an abbreviated day that will allow them to walk through their schedule, meet the teachers, and to spend time working with their locker.

Tours in the spring.

Middle school counselor goes to the elementary and conducts an orientation session.

Individual transition meetings for special education students.



Transition Activities for Middle School to High School:

Involve parents in transition process by providing a parent orientation.

Parent/Student tours of the high school in the spring.

8th graders spend a day shadowing a 9th grader.

Individual transition meetings for special education students.

Small group orientation sessions with the high school counselors in the spring.

Continuing middle school concept into by having teachers teach only 9th grade subjects.

Training for 9th grade teachers on the development of young adolescents.

Planning activities for transition between the middle school and the high school.

Surveying 8th graders about their concerns and hopes for high school.

High school students meeting with 8th graders in the spring to explain the high school program and to answer questions and respond to concerns.

Sectional Conferences:

Northeast Region Sectional Conference

Cherokee Middle School
Cherokee, Iowa
March 22, 2001

Central Region Sectional Conference

Berg Middle School
Newton, Iowa
March 29, 2001
5 PM to 9 PM

Southwest Region Sectional Conference

Atlantic Middle School
Atlantic, Iowa
March 20, 2001
5:15 PM to 8:30 PM

Coe College Sectional Conference

Coe College
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
April 10, 2001
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Southeast Region Sectional Conference

Bettendorf Middle School
Bettendorf, Iowa
April 11, 2001
4 PM to 8:30 PM



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.

Moved?

If you have moved please contact Betty Smith at bsmith@cen-pt-urb.k12.ia.us.

Need a Membership Renewal Notice?

If you went to the 1999 Regional Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota as an IAMLE member and have not received a membership renewal notice, please contact Betty Smith at bsmith@cen-pt-urb.k12.ia.us.

"Better Teaching Through Teaming"



June 24 - June 28, 20001

Coe College Campus
Cedar Rapids, IA

Presented by



Coe College

The Iowa Association for Middle Level Education

What's the Summer Camp at Coe?

Remember those days at summer camp when you were young? The things you learned, the friendships you made, the FUN you had? At Summer Camp at Coe that atmosphere will be recreated as we devote four days to best practices in middle level education.

Set at the beautiful Alumni House on the Coe College Campus in Cedar Rapids, this year's camp theme will focus on the heart of the middle level concept - effective teaming practices.

'Campers' will learn how to:

- Build better teams
- Align curriculum/ curriculum mapping
- Resolve team conflicts
- Develop a structure for a team
- Refine a team
- Align team practices with standards & benchmarks and Comprehensive School Improvement Plans



To give camp a practical application, all "campers" will have the opportunity to work with their curriculum(s) as they practice effective teaming concepts. Campers are encouraged to bring whatever curriculum materials and standards and benchmarks they may need to work through this process.

Whether you register as a team or individually, you will leave this camp with the tools to be a more successful team and team member - whether it is on an interdisciplinary team, a content area team, or a school improvement team. Any group that functions or wants to function as a team will benefit from this camp.

What will the daily schedule look like?

Sunday, June 24

- 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration
- 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Campus Tour
- 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Opening celebration, banquet, welcome, introductions, and keynote

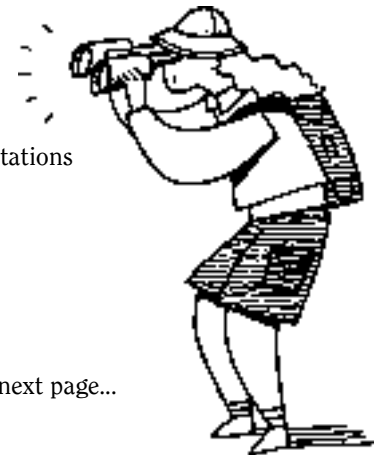
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

- Opening activity
- General Sessions - including a keynote and breakouts
- Small group/Team meeting time
- Optional evening activities

Thursday Morning

- Opening Activity
- Group/Team Presentations
- Wrap-Up
- Departure

See registration form on next page...





2001 Summer Camp at Coe registration form*

What about camp fees, registration deadlines and criteria?

The registration fee includes:

- Four outstanding days of teaming and learning led by experts in middle level education
- Dorm room for four nights in the remodeled and air-conditioned Voorhees Hall.
- Linens changed daily.
- Three meals per day on the Coe College campus
- *What Every Middle School Teacher Should Know* by Trudy Knowles and Dave F. Brown
- Camp T-shirt
- Evening activities
- The chance to win fabulous door prizes

Registration:

Must be received by 5/1/01

\$375.00 for full-time campers

\$315.00 for day campers

(These campers responsible for their own housing)

Late Registration: \$400.00

Must be received by 5/15/01



The Camp will be canceled if there is insufficient enrollment. Registrants will be notified by May 25th if camp is cancelled.

Please print clearly or Type

Name _____

School Name _____

School District _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School Phone _____ School e-mail _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Home e-mail _____

Position _____ Grade Level _____

Team Members (if attending as a team): _____

Preferred roommate _____

T-shirt size: ___ Small ___ Medium ___ Large ___ X-Large

Full Time Camper

___ Registration **Received by May 1, 2001** \$375

___ Late Registration Received by May 15, 2001 \$400

Day Camper

___ Registration **Received by May 1, 2001** \$315

___ Late Registration Received by May 15, 2001 \$340

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Method of Payment

___ Check enclosed (payable to IAMLE)

___ Official Purchase Order attached. P.O. # _____

Return Registration Form with Payment to:

Judy Chapman
Teacher Education
Coe College
1220 First Ave. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



** Cancellation Policy **

Cancellations must be in writing and received by **June 1, 2001.**



The Iowa Association for Middle Level Education, the only Iowa affiliate of the National Middle School Association, has, for 25 years, seen steady growth both in memberships and services. Membership dues have stayed constant for many years. In order to continue to provide high quality service for our 1800 members, **membership dues for IAMLE will increase to \$20.00 beginning January 1, 2001.**



Mission...

Dedicated to meeting the needs of young adolescents and committed to promoting educational improvement for middle level students.

IAMLE

Membership Application



Name _____

Date _____

E-Mail Address _____

P.O. Box/Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

School Mailing Address

School District _____

P.O. Box/Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please send IAMLE mailings to:

Home School

This membership application is:

Renewal New

IAMLE is interested in knowing more about you (Check all that apply)

Teacher - Grade(s) _____

Subject(s) _____

Counselor Parent

Administrator Other (specify) _____

Membership Fee \$15.00

The membership year extends one year from the month of application. Annually members receive a journal, four newsletters and reduced fees to the Midwest Regional Conference.

Make checks payable to IAMLE & mail to:

Betty Smith

Urbana-Center Point Middle School

Box 296

Center Point, IA 52213

Be a Building Contact

IAMLE invites you to volunteer to be a contact for your building to share with staff:

- Timely information
- News updates
- NMSA publications
- Conference Registrations and materials

Are you interested in getting involved with IAMLE but have only 10-15 minutes per month?

By volunteering your help, you will be the building contact to whom critical and timely information will be mailed for sharing with staff:

- On the bulletin board
- On the table in the faculty lounge
- In a mail box
- Etc

Please return the form below or drop a quick email or fax to:

Jeff Schumacher

909 NE 15th Street

Ankeny, IA 50021

Ph: 515-964-5685

Fax: 515-965-9648

Email: jshoe@ankeny.k12.ia.us



Building Contact Information

Name _____

School District _____

Building _____

County _____

Address _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Phone _____

You can download the application form from the website, www.iamle.org, e-mail, or call Jeff Schumacher at 515-965-9640 or 515-964-5685.



Corporate sponsors of IAMLE.



IAMLE Board Goals

The Board of Directors of the Iowa Association for Middle Level Education has organized work around three goals for the 2000-2001 school year. These goals are focused on serving the needs and expectations of the membership, designed to reinforce quality programming for middle level students. First, the Board is looking at collaborating with Regents institutions to create summer workshops on middle level educational opportunities. In addition, the Board is investigating opportunities to provide support and assistance to school districts wishing to transition to middle level education and districts taking their middle level programs to higher levels. The Board is preparing to increase membership benefits and communication. Third, the Board is actively supporting sectional conferences and statewide ICN presentations. Finally, the Board is developing building level representative networks as a function of promoting active participation in IAMLE.



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.

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MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION

IAMLE UPDATE

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Ankeny, IA 50021

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Newton, IA
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IAMLE homepage <http://iamle.org>