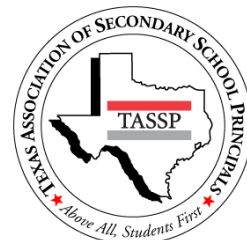


MAKING Middle School Matter!

March 1-3, 2020 | Hilton Austin Airport

Presented by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals



From the Executive Director:

Archie E. McAfee

As you know, the middle grade years have sometimes been called the “Bermuda Triangle” of K-12 education. It’s a time where students sink or swim, and sail into choppy waters with few pedagogical stars by which to navigate. Scholars in the field have described the history of middle grades reform as marked by “continual tinkering and persistent dissatisfaction.” Former U. S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan’s Remarks at the National Forum’s Annual Schools to Watch Conference, June 23, 2011.

As a former high school principal, I once worked with a school superintendent who said, “National Merit Scholars and prison inmates are both made in middle school.” From both statements we can understand the complexity and challenges of middle level education. Students enrolled in the middle school years are undergoing drastic hormonal differences and other changes brought on by physical growth. It is often said that middle grade years are a period of immense change and considerable turmoil. All of which can be overwhelming even to the most well-adjusted child.

Middle level education can be the most challenging of the years in K-12 education, yet it is a time in which educators can

make the greatest difference in the lives of their middle level students. Harnessing the power of change, both physically and mentally, in our students can lead to great accomplishments during the middle level years.

As you attend this Making Middle School Matter Symposium, we encourage you to seek out those teachers and principals who have been successful in developing the middle school model that ensures great success for all students. Your attendance at this conference indicates your desire to provide the best education possible for your students. We salute you for your efforts and encourage you to continue to strive for solutions to the challenges that you face in helping your students to find success in the middle level years.

Secretary Duncan concluded his remarks by stating, “The middle grades are clearly no longer the age of innocence—and the mission of middle grade school leaders and educators to create safe schools must take on new urgency. I hope that you will leave here today with a renewed sense of urgency—both to make the middle grades safe and to dramatically accelerate achievement for all young adolescents.”

The Motto of the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals illustrates our vision for student success, “Above All, Students First.”



TASSP President’s Welcome – Nika Davis, Principal, Boswell High School

Welcome to the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals’ Making Middle Schools Matter Symposium! As President of your association, I am honored to serve and learn alongside you. TASSP has a long tradition of providing high quality professional development and I applaud you for continuing your professional growth and attending this conference. In addition to your learning, please take this opportunity to network with others and discuss the great things you are doing at your own campus as well as learn different approaches to the challenges we all face

as administrators. I believe every professional development opportunity is impactful and ultimately the students and communities we serve benefit. Thank you for your commitment as an educator and enjoy the symposium!

Special Thanks to H-E-B

**for their support of the Schools to Watch Program
and the Making Middle School Matter Symposium**



Helping Here.

Making Middle School Matter Symposium

March 1-3, 2020 | Hilton Austin Airport

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About the Keynote Speakers:



Kim Campbell is a self-proclaimed “proud middle school teacher,” “daring Dean of Students,” “crazy/creative consultant,” and “lover of dogs and DQ ice cream”! Kim crosses the country energizing educational professionals. She’s a dynamic presenter—in national demand as a keynote speaker, workshop facilitator, and consultant for individual schools and districts, and for the Association of Middle Level Educators, Staff Development for Educators, and the Jack Berckemeyer Consulting Group. In this role, she energizes educators as she builds on lessons learned and techniques developed in her middle-level teaching experiences. Kim translates theory into best practices with a treasure trove of personal experience; teachers use her tips and strategies to look forward to each new teaching day.

Back home in her Minneapolis-area school district, Kim has been a middle level geography teacher for the past 20 years. She is the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Specialist) Coordinator and Dean of Students for her school. She is also the founder and coordinator of Students on Academic Rise (SOAR), an after-school program created to address the achievement gap. In another role, Kim is coauthor of *SOAR: A Handbook for Closing the Achievement Gap, and If You Can’t Manage Them, You Can’t Teach Them*.



JC Pohl is an award-winning producer, nationally recognized speaker, and certified counselor who has reached over 10 million people in 7,000+ schools. He has produced groundbreaking programs such as TEEN TRUTH and RISING UP, and award-winning content for companies such as Warner Brothers, ESPN, and Disney. He has also provided innovative educational content for The American Film Institute and Human Relations Media.

To complement TEEN TRUTH, he also developed RISING UP, an SEL curriculum designed to teach students to build resiliency in the face of adversity. Launched in 2013, Pohl’s RISING UP: Coaching Program has reached students across the country and consists of a peer-to-peer curriculum used by school counselors, the Texas Department of State Health Services, 21st Century ACE Centers, and Communities in Schools.

Pohl is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of Texas and is the author of *Building School Culture From the Inside Out* as well as *Building Resilient Students From the Inside Out*. Currently, he offers counseling services through his private practice and Austin Divorce Recovery. He holds a Masters Degree in Professional Counseling from Texas State University, San Marcos, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Business and Marketing from Santa Clara University. He is active in the Austin community and has sat on the board of the Austin AMFT.



Dr. Elizabeth Stevens is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Learning Sciences at Georgia State University. Stevens is currently co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) of a four-year Institute for Education Sciences Development and Innovation grant, which aims to develop and test a professional development model for middle school teachers on using evidence-based literacy practices during content area instruction. In addition, she directed an Institute for Education Sciences efficacy study examining the effects of an ongoing professional development model on general education teachers’ use of evidence-based reading practices within fourth grade social studies instruction. Stevens received her Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin, a master’s degree in special education from the College of William and Mary, and a reading specialist degree from the University of Virginia. Prior to pursuing her doctorate, she taught special education for nine years in Virginia.

Stevens has extensive experience in designing literacy interventions for diverse and at-risk populations, providing professional development to districts, and examining the effects of such interventions and professional development through high quality research studies. In addition to this work, Stevens has provided statewide literacy professional development in many states, on a range of topics, including evidence-based reading and writing practices for struggling learners, intensive interventions, and teaching reading comprehension to students with learning difficulties. Some of her research interests include diagnosis and remediation of learning disability, with particular emphasis on developing effective reading interventions for students with learning difficulties or disabilities.

1:00P – 2:15P | OPENING GENERAL SESSION.....BERGSTROM BALLROOM



Kim Campbell: We Will Survive!

We survive as middle school teachers because middle school teachers know and understand that having a sense of humor, building positive strong relationships, and being able to manage our middle ones are critical to our survival as middle level educators. Join me as we have fun laughing, playing, and celebrating all the great things about being a middle school teacher.

2:15P - 2:30P | BREAK

2:30P – 3:45P | BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SET 1SEE ROOMS/DESCRIPTIONS BELOW

4:00P – 5:15P | BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SET 2SET 1 REPEATS



• Kim Campbell: If You Can't Manage Them, You Can't Teach ThemBergstrom D

Having the ability to manage kids is a must in creating a classroom where all students have an opportunity to learn. Please join me as we discuss practical techniques to implement in your classroom to help create a positive learning climate.



• Michael Curl: Student Engagement Coaches: Mind the Gap.....Bergstrom A

After gathering data on achievement gaps in academic performance between student groups, we found that many were missing non-instructional resources needed to maximize their potential. This session sheds light on how we found human and financial resources to assist students in creating a future story and building relationships with caring and resourced adults. After just one year, we saw achievement gaps decrease and minds open. These continued the following years as well. As we continue to learn by doing, we have refined the process, lost and gained personnel and gathered data to move forward. Join the conversation to hear from the principal who started it, and to move the conversation forward for student success in your setting and beyond.



**• Katie Braden & Joey Belgard: Reflecting on Literacy in Science:
Refining Instructional PracticesDel Valle**

Process standards in science connect to all content areas and deepen students' ability to think critically about the world around them. High quality science instruction engages students to ensure they develop literacy and thinking skills for life. Explore how a teacher's reflective practice can promote integrated, rigorous science instruction at all levels and how developing teacher understanding improves instructional opportunities for all students.



**• Christy Murray & Sarah Fishstrom: Getting Vocabulary to "Stick:"
Using the Essential Words Routine to Build Content Knowledge in Middle School..... Bergstrom B**

Typically, only 5% to 10% of instructional time is devoted to vocabulary instruction, yet students, especially struggling students and English learners (ELs), need between 12 and 14 exposures to words and their meanings to fully learn them. Teaching the meanings of important words before learning new content activates students' background knowledge and prepares them for learning and comprehending. In other words, teaching vocabulary provides the "Velcro" for new information to "stick to." In this session, researchers from the Middle School Matters Institute at the Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk (and in partnership with the George W. Bush Institute) will show participants how to use the Essential Words Routine to provide effective, evidence-based vocabulary instruction. Participants will receive materials to begin using the strategy right away.



• Brea Ratliff: Teaching Mathematics Through Problem Solving..... Bergstrom C

Every child can do mathematics – and be interested in learning it too! Classrooms where all learners are engaged in mathematics require instruction that encourages taking risks, discourse, and reasoning. Learn how to support the development of every learner's mathematical thinking by re-examining how problem solving looks and sounds in your classroom.



5:15P | DINNER ON YOUR OWN

Monday, March 2, 2020

Registration and Exhibit Hours: 8:00a – 4:00p

7:00A – 8:00A | BREAKFAST

8:00A – 9:00A | BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SET 3SEE ROOMS/DESCRIPTIONS BELOW

9:15A – 10:15A | BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SET 4 SET 3 REPEATS

• Midway MS – Midway ISD • Principal – Dr. Herb Cox & Admin Team Bergstrom D



Building a Collaborative Climate and Empowering Teachers: In this session, we will discuss how Midway Middle School has been transformed over the past 8 years into a climate where everyone has a voice. Teachers have input on Faculty Meetings and Duty Rosters, Students have voice and choice in choosing their “clubs” they want to attend, and Administrators are encouraged to learn and grow as far and as fast as they can. We will discuss the Four Pillars of our campus, with a focus on the PLC Culture that has been developed along the way in order to sustain this type of a dynamic and exciting learning atmosphere.

• Midway MS – Midway ISD • Rose Johnson..... Chennault Room



Rtl: How a Year Can Change Everything: Knowing that Rtl is a required program and can be highly successful for our struggling students, Midway Middle School embraced Rtl changes on our campus that transformed everything: scheduling, personnel, programs, and protocol! Experience how we did it, and view the data concerning our middle school Rtl program from a year that changed everything.

• Trautmann MS – United ISD • Principal – Leticia Menchaca..... Bergstrom C



Rising. From DC back to our community. From Vision to Action. We will share what we have learned as we welcomed SEL into the classroom. Our Vision to Action is a work in progress where we mind the whole child from incorporating Character Strong to implementing our Growing Academies.

• Melissa MS – Melissa ISD • Principal – Marcus Eckert Bergstrom A



What Were You Thinking? Problem Solving Skills Inside the Classroom and Out: Middle school students are famous for their impulsivity - both inside the classroom and out. The ability to think things through logically, ethically, and emotionally, and systematically must be explicitly taught to adolescents, and not left to chance. In this session, we will share 4 strategies that can be implemented to dramatically improve academic and behavioral outcomes. Be inspired by the simplicity of focusing on the small things that have huge impacts.

• Scott Johnson MS – McKinney ISD • Principal – Dr. Mitchell Curry

& Ford MS – Allen ISD • Principal – Matt Russell Del Valle Room



Practical celebrations and challenges of an activity period day. Two different approaches to meet the needs of your students. Ford Middle School in Allen ISD and Scott Johnson Middle School in McKinney ISD have tackled the challenge of putting accelerated instruction and tutoring in the day, while offering club and extension opportunities for their students. Come hear two possible solution based approaches to the ever growing need for clubs, tutoring, and choices for your students.

• Berry Miller JHS – Pearland ISD • Principal – Tony BarcelonaBergstrom B



How do you help middle school students' deal with all the daily challenges they face outside of academics? How do you ensure they are learning relationship skills that are face-to-face and not from behind a screen? Middle school students need to feel connected, seen, heard, and known. In this session, you will learn how Berry Miller Junior High set out to change a simple advisory time into moments that matter---Miller Moment. Walk away with ideas on how to daily connect students with their peers, build relationships, mindfulness, and opportunities to tackle important topics that address the social/emotional needs of students.

10:30A – 12:00P | GENERAL SESSION + SCHOOLS TO WATCH AWARDSBERGSTROM BALLROOMS



Elizabeth Stevens: But I'm not a Reading Teacher! Evidence-Based Tips for Supporting Struggling Readers in Content Area Classes

By middle school, students are expected to read and learn from grade-level texts, but many students are not proficient readers and require support that content area teachers may not typically provide since they are not English/language arts or reading teachers. Learn how to support students' content learning by integrating evidence-based reading comprehension practices within your existing content-area instruction.

Monday, March 2, 2020 - Continued

12:00P – 1:30P | VISIT EXHIBITS/LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30P – 2:45P | BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SET 5SEE ROOMS/DESCRIPTIONS BELOW

3:00P – 4:15P | BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SET 6SET 5 REPEATS - EXCEPT WHERE NOTED



• **Elizabeth Stevens & Sarah Fishstrom: Supporting Struggling Middle School Readers with Main Idea Generation during Content Area InstructionBergstrom D**

Main idea generation is an important reading comprehension skill to support students' content-area learning. In this session, we introduce middle school teachers to an explicit paraphrasing process (Get the Gist) for main idea generation, demonstrate ways to scaffold this process for struggling readers, and provide examples for integrating this practice into existing content-area instruction.



• **Bianca Coker: High Quality Math Instruction in 45 Minutes What it is and How to Tell it's Happening..... Bergstrom C**

When you only have 45 minutes for math class, teachers must be very intentional when designing and delivering math instruction in middle school. If teachers are successful in planning high quality first instruction they will reduce the need for reteach and intervention. In this session, you will learn which actions are the most important (according to research) for students to deeply understand and apply mathematics concepts. You will also learn how to support teacher planning and what these critical student actions look and sound like in the classroom.



• **JC Pohl: Building Campus Relationships From the Inside Out.....Bergstrom A**

Relationships are the key to any successful life experience, but they are often the hardest thing to cultivate. As a licensed marriage and family therapist JC Pohl understands the importance of meeting each other's needs, yet many of us don't know how to simply define those needs. This keynote program will clearly illustrate the relational needs that we all have, and teach attendees how to use this new vocabulary to build stronger connections on campus and in life.



• **Billy Pringle: (only session #5) How Does My School Become a School to Watch? ... Bergstrom B**

Come learn the process of gaining distinction and designation as a Texas School to Watch. The Schools to Watch State Director for Texas will share the story and process of the STW National Program. Tips on the application writing process will be shared with all participants.



Tuesday, March 3, 2020

7:00A – 8:00A | CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:00A – 9:00A | BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SET 7SEE ROOMS/DESCRIPTIONS BELOW

9:15A – 10:15A | BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SET 8 SET 7 REPEATS

• **Schimelpfenig MS – Plano ISD • Principal – Dr. Brant Perry..... Bergstrom D**



Nestled in an established neighborhood in the heart of Plano, Texas, Schimelpfenig Middle School is a community-trusted center of learning for 875 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. In this session, we will bring the four Schools to Watch Pillars to life with exemplars including ideas on creative staff development, robust student-led tutorials, and diverse clubs and organizations as well as a multi-faceted social-emotional learning program featuring Clifton Youth Strength Finder, Second Step, and an innovative alternative approach to traditional student discipline and suspension.

• **Seven Lakes JHS – Katy ISD • Principal – Kristin Harper.....Bergstrom B**



Creating a Culture of Kindness in Middle School: Middle School can be a tough time for kids. We believe addressing the social emotional needs of students is as important as academic success. Come and hear about how we have established systems that have created a culture of kindness amongst staff, students, and our community. We will share how our iCARE Creed has been implemented on our campus to build a culture of integrity, community, accountability, responsibility, and excellence. We will also share ideas you can implement immediately on your campus and teach you strategies to help share your story about all of the amazing things going on every day.

• **Decker MS – Manor ISD • Principal – Dayna Anthony-Swain Bergstrom C**



At Decker Middle School, every students' best interest comes first every single day. How do we make sure that our vision comes to life daily? The Raven Way is a movement at Decker Middle School that comes to life through student empowerment, teacher leadership, the fine arts, and AVID in order to build relationships with students and make sure they embody that to be a Raven is to be a scholar.

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 - Continued

• Keller MS – Pasadena ISD • Principal – Dan Eble..... Del Valle Room



Building Positive Relationships with Staff and Students: At Keller Middle School, we take pride in the school family that we create each year. Through various methods, we build positive relationships with our students and staff that empower them to contribute to our school community. From the first day of school to the last day of school, these positive relationships lead our students to academic success and growth.

• Danny Jones MS – Mansfield ISD • Principal – Travis Moore Bergstrom A



Collaboration is the Key to Success! Danny Jones Middle School in Mansfield, Texas wants to share with you how collaboration drives a School to Watch. Danny Jones is a unique school with a unique student population. 1150 students contribute every day to our success. Our staff collaborates with Teaming, Curriculum Calibrations, Master Schedule building, duty rosters, STAAR Camps, and the ONE THING are all the ways the staff collaborates for student success. Come here how an A-rated school makes things happen!

10:30A – 11:45A | CLOSING GENERAL SESSIONBERGSTROM BALLROOMS

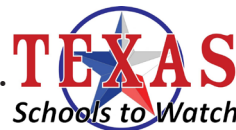
J.C. Pohl: Building Resilient Students From the Inside Out



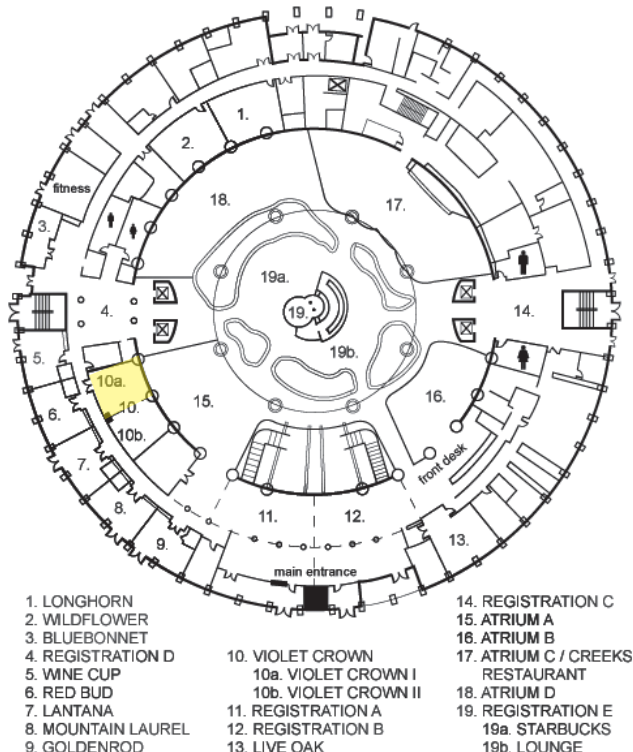
Multiple school shootings occur every year. Teen suicide is on the rise. Thousands of students are bullied every day. In the face of such overwhelming stress, how can we help our students work through the adversity they regularly face? Award-winning producer and nationally certified counselor, JC Pohl, offers a direct pathway to one singular solution: resiliency. In this interactive session, JC offers five proven and immediately applicable ways to help students build self-efficacy and resilience. These keys to building resilient students might stop the next potential school shooter, save a suicidal student, or remind every bullied child that brighter days lie ahead.

11:45A REFLECTION AND ADJOURNMENT

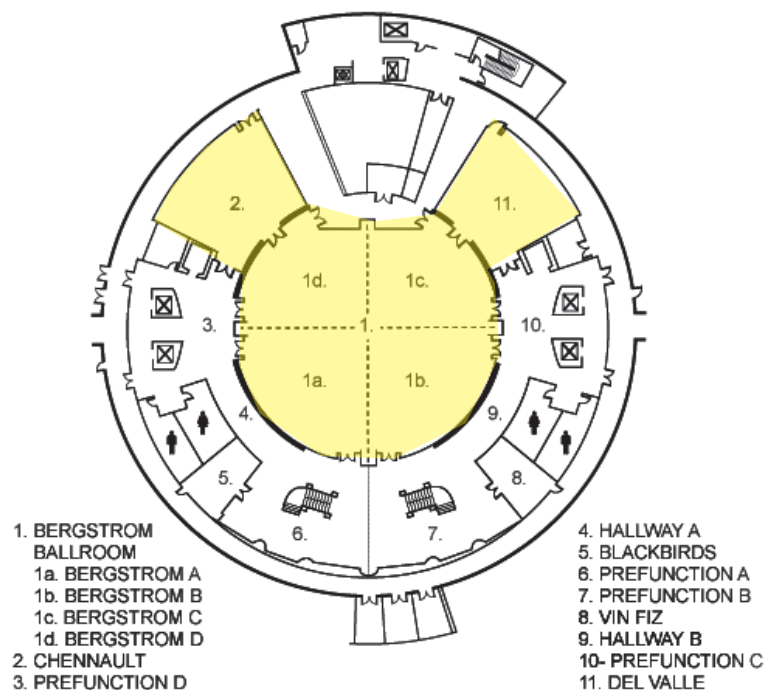
1:00P – 4:00P | SCHOOLS TO WATCH Violet Crown Room



HILTON AUSTIN AIRPORT - MAIN LEVEL



HILTON AUSTIN AIRPORT - LOWER LEVEL



Special Thanks to Our Exhibitors

Exhibit Hours: Monday, 8:00a – 4:00p

TASSP Corporate Partners

CAMBRIDGE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



www.cambridgeed.com

Middle School educators play pivotal roles making sure students are prepared for college & career. If students are not on track by the time they reach 8th grade, they may never catch up. Cambridge Educational Services provides supplemental curriculum, data, test preparation, training and workshops to raise TSI/WorkKeys/PSAT/SAT/ACT scores and facilitate long-term student success.

HORACE MANN



www.horacemann.com

Horace Mann is the largest multi line insurance & financial services company that solely markets to Educators.

NO KID HUNGRY | SHARE OUR STRENGTH



www.state.nokidhungry.org/texas

No Kid Hungry ensures every child has healthy food every day.

LEAD YOUR SCHOOL



www.LeadYourSchool.com

Lead Your School is a confederation of successful and innovative former principals, central office administrators and superintendents working with schools and districts to rapidly improve student performance. Home of The Fundamental 5, we are your sole source for Fundamental 5 Training and PowerWalks Instructional Observation & Coaching System.

STAAR MASTER



www.ecslearningsystems.com

ECS Learning Systems, under the brands STAAR MASTER®, (NEW) STAAR MASTER DIGITAL® & PREPWORKS®, provides supplemental and blended learning solutions to help ALL students achieve and surpass state standards. We do this by adhering to our proven Integrated Standards Prep™ methodology; leveraging our award-winning Learning Positioning System®, a digital adaptive learning platform; developing proprietary content; and maintaining affordable pricing.

AMPLIFY



www.amplify.com

Amplify is leading the way in next-generation curriculum and assessment. Our captivating core and supplemental programs in ELA, math, and science engage all students in rigorous learning and inspire them to think deeply, creatively, and for themselves.

COSENZA & ASSOCIATES



www.cosenzaassociates.com

Cosenza & Associates provides math resources for teachers. Our resources are designed specifically for the TEKS and are written by current and former educators. We take pride in our instructionally sound resources and strive to give educators resources they can use to enhance conceptual understanding.

EDGENUITY



www.edgenuity.com

Edgenuity provides online and blended learning solutions for grades K-12 that propel student success, empower teachers, and enable schools to meet their academic goals.

EDUCATION 2000



www.edu2000plus.com

Education 2000 represents an exclusive line of interactive technology products designed to enhance the classroom learning experience. These product lines include Newline Interactive Displays and other audio-visual classroom solutions.

EVERFI



www.everfi.com/k-12

EVERFI empowers educators to bring real-world learning into the classroom and equip students with the skills they need for success—now and in the future. Thanks to partners who share this mission, EVERFI's online resources for teachers are available at no cost.

GANDY INK



www.gandyink.com

Gandy Ink specializes in screen-printed and embroidered apparel for schools. We offer a wide variety of apparel, ranging from basic t-shirts to name brand garments, as well as an assortment of specialty items. Gandy Ink offers complementary online stores on all sales.

Special Thanks to Our Exhibitors

Exhibit Hours: Monday, 8:00a – 4:00p

GET MORE MATH!



www.getmoremath.com/for/texas
Get More Math, a TEKS-aligned education technology solution compatible with any curriculum, uses a concept-oriented approach to create daily personalized

assignments that support mastery of new skills. Mastery maintenance is achieved through adaptive and individualized daily spiral review.

GRAPHICS STORE



www.graphicsstore.org
We provide custom screen printing, embroidery and heat press - apparel and promotional items

HELLOFRESH



www.hellofresh.com
HelloFresh is a meal-kit delivery service aimed to promote home cooked meals.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE BOSTON



www.eie.org
Launched in 2003, EiE is an award-winning preK-8 engineering program from the Museum of Science, Boston, one of the world's largest science centers and New England's most attended cultural institution. EiE has reached over 18 million students in all 50 states and in over 20 countries. Its research-based, hands-on engineering curricula were designed to create a generation of problem solvers. EiE introduces learners to the engineering design process to build a strong foundation of critical thinking and inspire them to solve real-world challenges. With EiE, educators and students learn to apply an engineering mindset across disciplines in the classroom and in out-of-school settings.

PENPAL SCHOOLS



www.penpalschools.com
PenPal Schools connects students from around the world to learn together! Students collaborate through online projects ranging from human rights and the environment to fake news and robotics, all while practicing literacy, technology and social-emotional skills. PenPal Schools is so effective in increasing student engagement and learning outcomes that our program has won numerous high-profile awards, was recognized by President Obama, and has grown to half a million students in 150 countries.

SAMS CLUB



www.samsclub.com
We provide discounts on membership to educators.

SIRIUS EDUCATION SOLUTIONS



www.SiriusEducationSolutions.com
Sirius is a Texas-based publisher dedicated to helping all students succeed on the STAAR tests. We create innovative and effective test prep for Grades 3-12.

SKILLSUSA TEXAS



www.skillsusatx.org
SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student to excel. SkillsUSA is a national organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations and for further education. SkillsUSA was formerly known as VICA (the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America).

Notes:
