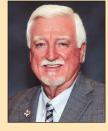


MARCH 5 - 7, 2023 | HILTON AUSTIN AIRPORT

Presented by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals





From the Executive Director: Archie E. McAfee

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 Making Middle School Matter Symposium

MARCH 5 - 7, 2023 | HILTON AUSTIN AIRPORT HOTEL

Sunday, March 5, 2023

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM | REGISTRATION



1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | OPENING GENERAL SESSION | BERGSTROM BALLROOM

• HAMISH BREWER: RELENTLESS

Sometimes you have to hear the things you don't want to hear in order to move forward, to be better and to get results. Hamish will take you on a hard-hitting journey that will challenge you to rethink our practices, to disrupt the norm and change the game. Find out if you have or are willing to go one more round, if you're willing to advocate for every single stakeholder. Find out if you're willing to take your campus to the next level.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Q&A DISCUSSION WITH HAMISH BREWER: LEADERSHIP

Bring your questions and join us for an extended Q&A session with Hamish Brewer! Hamish is ready to answer any and all questions generated from his keynote presentation, or from the work you do on a daily basis. He is an open book and ready to be helpful! This dynamic, free-form and interactive session will be facilitated by a member of the TASSP staff.

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM | BREAK

3:15 PM - 4:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSIONS - SET 1

• ALAN LOWMAN: How to Master STAAR(Set 1 & 2) Bergstrom A

Do your students and teachers need a plan to master the STAAR Test? In 45, minutes, we will give you a simple plan (and free tools) that will increase student performance while at the same time relieving teacher stress. You do not want to miss this workshop!

• SHERYL ROEHL: Computational Thinking and the New Technology Application TEKS(Set 1 & 2) Bergstrom B

In the digital age, Computational Thinking (CT) is an essential skill for students and educators alike. This systematic approach to solving problems is at the foundation of not just computer science, but many other subject areas – and careers – as well. Join us for an intro to Computational Thinking and its four key concepts of Decomposition, Patterns, Abstraction and Algorithms. Learning computational thinking can benefit students both economically and academically. Furthermore, studies have linked a host of academic benefits to learning CT, including improvement in student engagement, motivation, confidence, problem-solving, communication, and STEM learning and performance. Come learn how to integrate Computational Thinking into your subject areas so your students can learn to think creatively, reason systematically and work collaboratively - the essential skills we all need in today's society! Please bring an internet ready device to the session. Participants will receive access to Cyber.org's CT modules and Cybersecurity resources.

SEAN CAIN: Rock Star Teaching: Transform Every Classroom from Average to Awesome (Set 1 & 2) Bergstrom C

The dream of every teacher is to be exceptional. Turning that dream into reality requires expert guidance and a solid plan. Rock Star Teaching shares the 7 key practices that exceptional teachers use with high frequency and noteworthy quality. Transcending grade level, content, and ability, this presentation optimizes student outcomes and energizes peers. Audience members will learn the practices that separate the Rock Star Teachers from average teachers, how they implement those practices, and how to build an entire staff of Rock Star Teachers!

• SCHOOLS TO WATCH: Berry Miller JHS, Pearland - Tony Barcelona, Principal (Set 1 & 2) Bergstrom D

Beyond the Jeans Pass: Positive Culture Builders for Students and Staff - Join us as we present some of the incentives and morale boosters we use on our junior high campus to reward students and staff. Berry Miller Jr. High is a Texas School to Watch recipient in 2019 and 2022 by creating an atmosphere of love, fun, and passion for school. Leave with numerous fun ideas, free templates, and easy to implement ideas for your campus.

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM | BREAK

4:15 PM - 5:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSIONS - SET 2 (REPEAT OF SET 1 - SEE ABOVE)

Monday, March 6, 2023

7:00 AM - 4:30 PM | REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS OPEN

7:45 AM - 8:30 AM | CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | MORNING GENERAL SESSION | BERGSTROM BALLROOM



• JC POHL: Building Resilient Students (Book Included)

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.

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM | BREAK / VISIT EXHIBITS

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS - SET 3
• SEAN CAIN: Do Something Different: A Better Model For Classroom Data Use
• HOUSTON KRAFT: Supporting Mental Health and Engagement for Students and Staff(Set 3 & 4) Bergstrom With seemingly endless obstacles over the past 3 years, those in the field of education face increased stress and pressure. Our student are navigating increased mental health challenges. Closing Session Keynote speaker Houston Kraft will share simple, but impactful way to provide meaningful supports for student AND adult well-being to decrease anxiety and increase hope + engagement.
• JOHN FESSENDEN: Accountability for Admins: Where Are We Now/Where Are We Heading (Set 3 & 4) Bergstrom We started the 2022-23 school year knowing 2 things: 1) STAAR 2.0 would be implemented for the 1st time in Spring 2023; and 2) The A-F Accountability would be reset (or redesigned, or refreshed). We are now in the Spring of 2023 and while we may still not know everything about 2023 Accountability, we certainly know the big things that will impact districts and campuses. In this session we will focus on what middle school administrators need to know about the 2023 Accountability system - how each measure will be calculated and how it impacts instructional leadership and strategic planning for teachers and students.
• JC POHL: Building Campus Relationships
• SCHOOLS TO WATCH: Melissa Middle School - Marcus Eckert, Principal
Culture Crafting Building a dynamic, positive, and collaborative community takes intentionality. In this session, we will discuss how Melissa Middle School has enhanced it's campus culture through some of the most difficult times in public education. We we share inspiring strategies that can be easily implemented to dramatically improve staff and student morale, community support and academic success.
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM LUNCH ON YOUR OWN AND VISIT EXHIBITS
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS - SET 4 (REPEAT OF SET 3 - SEE ABOVE)
Monday Continues.

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | BREAKOUT SESSIONS - SET 5

• SEAN CAIN: Grade Better: Out With The Old, In With The Effective(Set 5) Bergstrom A

Want to motivate students, reduce failure rates, and make parents happy? Grade Better! Learn how to modify campus grading procedures to significantly increase student effort, dramatically improve overall student performance, make life easier for teachers, and make more parents happy, all while adhering to the typical district's grading policies. This is not too good to be true... It's better practice.

SCHOOLS TO WATCH: Morris Middle School, Houston - Allison Lewallen, Principal......(Set 5) Bergstrom B



Anchoring Achievement with Essential Standards - Effectively utilizing essential standards can transform learning on your campus. In this session, participants will learn to identify and apply essential standards as professional learning teams in TIER 1 instruction. We will also explore creative ways to use essential standards as an intervention tool to guide TIER 2 and TIER 3 instruction for our students with the highest needs.

• SCHOOLS TO WATCH: Beverly Hills Intermediate School, Houston - Stacy Barber, Principal(Set 5) Bergstrom C



Effective School Culture: Systems Designed for Student Success - A positive climate and culture that boosts a shared responsibility by all is bolstered by positive behavior supports. The organizational structure sets the tone for a school to function successfully as a system. Utilization of school incentives, a tardy sweep system, having structured procedures, and enforcing a management

plan that is both consistent and systemic will enhance opportunities for success for the middle school student.

SCHOOLS TO WATCH: Melillo Middle School, Houston - Diane Wheeler, Principal......(Set 5) Bergstrom D



School Culture and Climate - Learn how to create a safe, comfortable, and inviting environment where students, faculty, and parents work together to create an exemplary learning community which, through the characteristics of respect and responsibility, develops lifelong learners with hearts that care, hands that serve, and minds that think. Come and find out ways to create fun and positive experiences at school and how it directly impacts student success!

SCHOOLS TO WATCH: Haltom Middle School, Haltom City - Tim Drysdale, Principal.......(Set 5) Del Valle



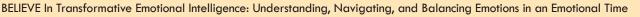
The 3 Rs of an Effective Behavioral RTI: Responsive, Relational, and Responsible - Discover how Haltom Middle School, an urban middle school in the DFW metroplex, built and sustained a school-wide behavioral RTI program that is responsive, relational and responsible.

2:30 PM - 2:45 PM | BREAK AND VISIT EXHIBITS

2:45 PM - 4:15 PM | GENERAL SESSION | BERGSTROM BALLROOM



- SCHOOLS TO WATCH RECOGNITION & AWARDS CEREMONY
- DORINA SACKMAN: B.E.L.I.E.V.E.





Tuesday, March 7, 2023

7:15 AM - 8:15 AM | CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

8:15 AM - 9:00 AM | BREAKOUT SESSIONS - SET 6 (SEE BELOW)

9:15 AM - 10:00 AM | BREAKOUT SESSIONS - SET 7 (REPEAT OF SET 6 - SEE BELOW)

This highly reflective and VERY FUNNY session gets participants ready to engage in the neuroscience of learning. Using research from Hernandez (2017) and Low (2019), participants learn how language and information are retained when the brain is free from stress! Participants will engage in eye opening activities that "open up" the brain as we discuss the impact of intrinsic vs extrinsic motivation, trauma, food insecurity, and other stressors that can block the brain from processing and hinder learning! Come learn how multilingual brain works and see its super powers!

DORINA SACKMAN: B.E.L.I.E.V.E. (Set 7) Bergstrom A

Continuation of her Keynote Session with resources available. BELIEVE Me! You Know Your Why: Now it is Time for the How!

SCHOOLS TO WATCH: Colleyville Middle School - David Arencebia, Principal (Set 6 & 7) Bergstrom B

Leverage Core Values to Reset and Finish Strong | It's time to turn the page on the barriers all around you and positively move forward. Let's discuss how to leverage your core values to reset your classroom and school culture, creating a positive, productive, and COLLEYVILLE engaging environment for everyone in the school building. The Colleyville MS team will share how they leverage their core values which include Team, Positivity, Growth Mindset, and Strengths, to positively impact their campus culture and make decisions that are aligned with each value. Colleyville MS is a Texas School to Watch, National PTA School of Excellence, and is home to the 2022 TASSP Texas Principal of the Year and National finalist.

• JOHN FESSENDEN: Accountability for Administrators: Where Are We Now/Where Are We Heading.. (Set 6) Bergstrom C

We started the 2022-23 school year knowing 2 things: 1) STAAR 2.0 would be implemented for the 1st time in Spring 2023; and 2) The A-F Accountability would be reset (or redesigned, or refreshed). We are now in the Spring of 2023 and while we may still not know everything about 2023 Accountability, we certainly know the big things that will impact districts and campuses. In this session we will focus on what middle school administrators need to know about the 2023 Accountability system - how each measure will be calculated and how it impacts instructional leadership and strategic planning for teachers and students.

• SCHOOLS TO WATCH: Fred Roberts Middle School, Houston - Citlali Guerrero, Principal (Set 7) Bergstrom C

More than a Grade: Serving the Whole Child | We believe a student's success in school comes from a variety of avenues beyond academics and instruction. Our goal is to cultivate an environment for students to want to be at school. How do we do this? Through systematic planning using a 3-pronged approach: student incentives, intentional instructional focus and creative scheduling, and community outreach. During this session, you will learn about a variety of programs that we have implemented to create a sense of belonging for all students on campus.

Educators are facing their greatest challenge in 387 years. At no time since the founding of Boston Latin School in 1635 have we witnessed historic declines in NAEP math and reading, NAEP, SAT, and ACT scores all at the same time. Returning to the "go to" curriculum and practices of three years ago has no chance of erasing unprecedented skill deficits. Given this historical shift in What Works in Schools, we must embrace emerging solutions to create new opportunities for students.

SCHOOLS TO WATCH: Morris Middle School, Houston - Allison Lewallen, Principal.......(Set 6 & 7) Del Valle

Anchoring Achievement with Essential Standards - Effectively utilizing essential standards can transform learning on your campus. In this session, participants will learn to identify and apply essential standards as professional learning teams in TIER 1 instruction. We will also explore creative ways to use essential standards as an intervention tool to guide TIER 2 and TIER 3 instruction for our students with the highest needs.

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM | BREAK

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM | CLOSING GENERAL SESSION | BERGSTROM BALLROOM

6

HOUSTON KRAFT: Character Strong - Deep Kindness (Book Included)

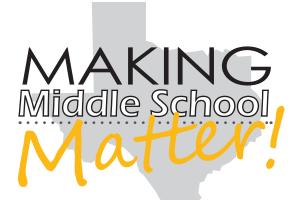
From his experience speaking in over 600 schools and working with over 7,000 schools as co-founder of CharacterStrong, Houston will share a powerful message of *Kindness*. With a focus on practical tools, he will provide low-burden, high-impact stories and strategies to help improve classroom culture, campus compassion, and our daily personal routines.

11:45 AM - 1:30 PM | STW TRAINING/LUNCH (For Newly Designated Campus Staff Only)... Del Valle Room

Thank You for attending!			
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TASSP Making Middle School Matter Symposium

MARCH 5 - 7, 2023 | HILTON AUSTIN AIRPORT HOTEL





HAMISH BREWER

Hamish Brewer is a powerful and positive disruptor who transcends the status quo and typical norms in leadership and education. Mr. Brewer is a globally recognized advocate who built his reputation on results and performance, becoming affectionately known as the Relentless, Tattooed Skateboarding Principal with his galvanizing message to "Be Relentless" and his high-octane delivery style.

Mr. Brewer served as an award-winning principal at both the secondary and elementary school levels. Recognized as the NAESP Nationally Distinguished Principal and Virginia Principal of the Year, he was also honored with the VAESP School Bell Award and ASCD Virginia Impact Award. Hamish was named a Northern Virginian of the year by Northern Virginia Magazine and Principal of the Year for the online national publication – Education Dive. Prince William County Public Schools named Hamish the school

division's Principal of the Year and Hamish was recently recognized by Omega U as the Principal of the Year.

Under his leadership, his elementary school was recognized as a Nationally Distinguished Title 1 School, and Hamish has since gone on to turn around one of the toughest middle schools in the state of Virginia. Mr. Brewer is a highly sought-after international keynote speaker – motivating and inspiring audiences around the world, including being recognized as a TEDx speaker.

Originally from New Zealand, Hamish earned his first degree from the University of Auckland. Mr. Brewer is currently a doctoral student at Virginia Tech University. Hamish is the best-selling author of "Relentless – Disrupting The Educational Norm, published in 2019. Mr. Brewer currently consults with businesses and organizations around the world on leadership, culture, organizational performance change and improvement. As a Beachheads advisor to the New Zealand Trade Enterprise, he assists New Zealand businesses with their growth and advises them on strategic development in the North American marketplace.

Mr. Brewer previously served at the state level as the Federal Relations Coordinator on the Board of Directors with the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals and was a lead fellow of NAESP's Center for Innovative Leadership. He is a school turnaround and school improvement specialist, working with some of the most at-risk students in the United States. Mr. Brewer was highlighted as a Hometown Hero by Fox 5 in Washington, DC. With more than 32 million views, his story is a viral sensation through the Freethink docuseries "Relentless", and features in national news broadcasts across the United States and Australasia, including NBC and Lester Holt. Mr. Brewer is also featured in the skateboarding humanitarian documentary Humanity Stoked. www.hamishbrewer.com



DORINA SACKMAN-EBUWA

Dorina Sackman-Ebuwa is known as The Lab Coat Teacher and affectionately "Miss Dorito" by her students from around the globe. With her unique teaching style, Dorina has spent the past 25 years empowering students of diverse backgrounds at the K-12, college, and adult learner level. An expert in building solid relationships that result in successful learning experiences for students and teachers, Ms. Sackman-Ebuwa strongly believes culturally relevant teaching, connection to community and El over IQ make up the true learning experience. A Nationally Recognized Educator and Florida Teacher of the Year, Dorina takes her EL classroom experiences, collaborative teacher workshops, and doctoral research on emotional intelligence and travels the globe as a "teacher on loan" inspiring, motivating, and empowering teachers and the teaching profession. From innovative, personalized professional development filled with

successful and differentiated strategies to authentic "real talk" about teachers leading, Dorina Sackman-Ebuwa encourages all educators to B.E.L.I.E.V.E.I.® - Be the Educators who Lead to Inspire and Empower Via Excellence!

When not wearing the many hats of an educator, Dorina dons a Stetson and works on her ranch, tending to her beloved rescue and special needs cows, goats, horses, chickens, miniature ponies, and barn cat, "Cool Ranch." believeconsultinglic@gmail.com • www.dorinasackman.com • @Dorina_BELIEVE

About the Speakers



SEAN CAIN

Sean Cain spent the formative years of his career working in difficult instructional settings. Recognized for the success of both his students and the systems he designed and implemented, he quickly moved up through the instructional leadership ranks. This culminated in his last public education position as State Director of Innovative School Redesign (Texas). Currently, Cain serves as the Chief Idea Officer for Lead Your School (LYS), a confederation of successful school leaders dedicated to improving student, campus, and district performance.



JOHN FESSENDEN

John Fessenden supports school districts and educational leaders in the areas assessment, accountability, and data analysis. He has extensive experience at the state, regional and local level, having worked with TEA, ESC 13, Del Valle ISD, and the East Williamson County Co-op (where he served as Director of Special Education). Prior to working at TEA, John taught in Waco ISD and Seguin ISD. Although no longer practicing law, John also has experience as both a corporate lawyer and a school law lawyer. He also taught School Law for Masters-level graduate students at Texas State University from 2003 through 2010.



HOUSTON KRAFT

Houston is a speaker, author, and kindness advocate who has spoken at over 600 schools or events internationally. In 2016, he co-founded CharacterStrong - curriculum and trainings that help teach social and emotional skills. To date, they have worked with over 2500 schools globally serving over 2 million students. In 2019, his face was featured on Lays BBQ chip bags as someone who helps "spread smiles." In 2020, his first book, Deep Kindness (Simon & Schuster, Tiller Press) was released. His mom is his hero and her best life lesson is to "hug like you mean it."



ALAN LOWMAN

Alan Lowman is the Founder of Lowman Education LLC. He has 11 years of teaching experience at a low-income campus in Texas. His campus earned a TEA Distinction every year he was in the classroom. His educational philosophy is to simplify and be strategic.



JC POHL

JC Pohl is a producer and speaker who has reached over 7 million people with his message of strength and personal power. He has produced ground breaking programs such as RISING UP and TEEN TRUTH, 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. His anti-bully work with TEEN TRUTH has sent him around the world, inspiring students, educators, and parents to tell hard truths and be the difference.



• SHERYL ROEHL

Sheryl joined the Texas Advanced Computing Center team in 2019 to work on the K-12 Computer Science Pathways grant funded by the KLE Foundation. Prior to that she worked with WeTeach_CS to provide training in Computational Thinking, Foundations of Computer Science for Teachers and Launch CS. Her previous work experience includes fifteen years as a math/science/STEM specialist for Region 3 Education Service Center, six years serving as the Assistant Director of the South Texas Rural Systemic Initiative funded by NSF and twelve years as a high school math, science and programming teacher.



DAVID WALDHERR

David Waldherr grew up in Stevens Point, WI, and as a first-generation, low-income student attended the University of Wisconsin on a full scholarship gaining an Honors Degree in economics and political science. He earned his JD at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. Gained a full-time position with Harcourt Legal and Professional Publications and became their National Director of Testing in 1985. In 1990, started Cambridge in his apartment kitchen. His prep materials are currently used by over 1200 partner schools and companies nationwide. Dave is the world's leading expert on the best way to prepare for College and Graduate School Exams. David and his wife Kathy, established the Cambridge Grant Award Program and have given away \$4,000,000 of programming to disadvantaged students across the country.

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Thank You for Attending!