

Power Lines

August 2015

Florida League of Middle Schools

www.flms.org

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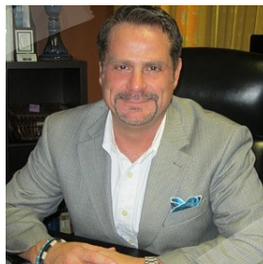
Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Florida League of Middle Schools members:

As I transition into my new role as Executive Director of FLMS, I am excited to work with such a dedicated and hard working Board of Directors. As most educators experienced, the 'Great Recession' took its toll on schools' and related organizations' budgets. FLMS was no exception, yet because of the Board's commitment, the Florida League of Middle Schools is back on track and stronger than ever! I want to recognize our outgoing Executive Director, Dr. Chet Sanders; it was under his leadership that FLMS climbed out from the challenges faced as part of the recession.

I am excited about the future of our organization. Our mission continues to support and advocate for schools and educators of middle grades (5-9) students. Our young students deserve the nurturing and attention that will best prepare them for high school and beyond. Indeed, all middle grades educators must 'lock arms' as we continue to make sense of all the changes including the FSA standards and assessment criteria. The Florida League of Middle Schools is your conduit to colleagues around your regions and the state. I applaud you for associating yourself with FLMS and challenge you to encourage one or two more fellow middle grades educators to join the League.

I look forward to the new school year and working on behalf of all our members. Stay connected with the League and your middle grades colleagues as our work becomes easier and more effective when we work collaboratively and share best practices.



Educationally yours,

Steve Frazier
Executive Director

FLMS Update

The Florida League of Middle Schools is growing and ready to assist you during the 2015-2016 year. Members include people of all levels of the profession -- teachers, administrators, supervisors, parents, college personnel, and students. Our goal is to provide you with newsletters, regional and state conferences, and a website full of information that will help you plan your daily educational and engaging activities with your students. Please look at our Facebook page and Twitter accounts for laughs, ideas, and ways to make you smile during the year! We are here for YOU!

Florida League of Middle School members offer regional conferences planned to keep you informed and motivated during the year while teaching your adolescent learners! Please watch for dates and locations throughout the state and to learn from the top-notch educators. We are committed to making this year an engaging and fun-filled one for your students.

Check out our brand new, innovative newsletter and webpage designed for you, our middle level educators. Our goal is to support you and provide you with easy access to ideas and opportunities to learn, entertain, and nurture.



Do you have a story to share? We would love to have your input! Contact Terri Golden at tgoldenhardt@yahoo.com to submit an article for publication.

First Day Ideas

Here are some fun games
to use for the first day:

Guessing Game

Ask kids to guess your favorite candy, color, drink, place to shop, or college football team. *How long you have been a teacher? Would you rather live at beach or mountains? What pets do you have? Favorite type of music? How many kids do you have?* Then tell the kids your correct answers and see who guessed the most questions about you.



Learn About Your Middle Schoolers with Sticky Notes

Label a chart paper with the following questions:
What will you need to be successful this year? School is important because ___? What kind of teacher do you want? Our class should be ___ every day? What do you hope to learn this year in 6th grade Language Arts? What should kids in our class be doing to make sure class runs smoothly? Then let the kids write the answers on sticky notes and place on the chart paper! You will learn so much about your students and it will give you great insight into their thinking!



M&M (or Skittles) Game

This would be great to do in rotating groups so all kids can talk! Have a chart in the front of the room with the key:

Eat a Red M&M = Tell something about yourself
Eat an Orange M&M = Tell something you do well
Eat a Yellow M&M = Tell something about your childhood
Eat a Blue M&M = Tell something you learned last week
Eat a Brown M&M = Tell something you can't live without
Eat a Green M&M = Tell something you watch/listen to

Top Ten Tech Ideas

by Terri Golden - Florida Virtual School

1. Great ice breaker! Have the kids make a Wordle to introduce themselves. They can create one with pet names, favorite colors and hobbies.
2. Kids can make a Voki as an ice breaker. The Voki can talk about the student. They will type in the text they want the avatar to say. This is a great activity for your shy kids!
3. Bubble.us can be used just like the sticky note activity above. Think of a topic and the students can brainstorm ideas about a fun classroom and what kind of a teacher they want.
4. SurveyMonkey and Polldaddy are great ways to make online surveys. We can get to know our students and their interests.
5. Readwritethink can be used to make trading cards with other classes. The cards will include a digital photo and will list hobbies, pets and interests. We can use digital photography to create a PowerPoint presentations for parent open house.
6. KidPix and digital photography can be used together to make an open house project. Students can take a picture and fill in adjectives that describe each other. Kids will feel good after seeing all the nice words other students wrote about them.
7. Penzu is a free online diary. Have kids start day one with their writing. They can create a personal journal including pictures.
8. Quizlet or Brainscape. These quiz and flashcard making tools can help students make quizzes about each other. Students can work with partners to make flashcards and quiz each other. Students can match classmate names and biographical facts.
9. Fotobabble can be used to tell stories using your picture and taped audio of your voice. Students can interview each other and then make a Fotobabble of the student that was interviewed. It can be shared on Twitter, Facebook, email or blog.
10. Lino is an actual sticky note site. Share photos, ideas or even sticky notes in a collaborative manner for any classroom or organizing activities.

Regional Conferences

*There are two conferences coming up.
We hope to see you there!*

Region 5 "All About that Kid" Conference
Saturday, September 26 // 9:00-2:00
Burnett Middle School in Tampa

The Florida League of Middle Schools with
The Broward County Schools' Office of Talent Development
- Proudly Present -



The Fall 2015 Florida League of Middle Schools-Region VII Conference

EMPOWERING ALL LEARNING STYLES: WHAT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER?

*The tools obtained will provide the opportunity to
effectively deliver 21st century instruction.*



JOIN US AT

Silver Trail Middle School
18300 Sheridan Street
Pembroke Pines, Florida

CONTACT: C. Manjarres
PHONE: (754) 323-4300

DETAILS/REGISTRATION:
Gabriele Villiotis
Gabriele.Villiotis@browardschools.com



SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 23, 2015
8:00AM-3:00PM

2015 Board Members

Executive Director Steve Frazier Email: stevefrazier@browardschools.com	Chairperson Maureen Shankman Email: shankman.maureen@gmail.com
Secretary & Collegiate Contact Cheryl Ellerbrock Email: ellerbro@usf.edu	Treasurer Shirley Fox Email: foxss@earthlink.net shireynellfox@gmail.com
State Conference Chair Kathy Shewey Email: kathy.shewey@gmail.com	State Conference-Exhibitor Information & Historian Cathy Egley Email: jetski49@bellsouth.net
Region 1 Director Jeff Garthwaite Email: garthwaitej@bellsouth.net Jagconsulting1@gmail.com	Region 2 Director TBA
Region 3 Director Laura Hinds Email: Hlaura.hinds@stjohns.k12.fl.us	Region 4 Director Cathy Egley Email: jetski49@bellsouthnet
Region 5 Director Shana Logan Email: Shana.Logan@sdhc.k12.fl.us	Region 5 Associate Director Peter Megara Email: peter.megara@sdhc.k12.fl.us
Region 6 Director TBA	Region 7 Director Claudia Manjarres Email: Claudia.manjarres@browardschools.com
Florida Virtual School Director & Newsletter Editor Terri Golden Email: tgoldenhart@yahoo.com	Board Advisor & Conference Book Store Sharen Lewis Email: slewis9@comcast.net
Technology Chair Sandy Wallace Email: Sandywallace720@gmail.com	Membership Chair Thomas Wallace Email: Thomas.wallace@st.johns.k12.fl.us
Board Advisor Paul George Email: pgeorge8@cox.net	Board Advisor Santo Pino Email: pinosa@comcast.net
Board Advisor Janet Spence Email: Janet.Spence@SDHC.k12.fl.us	Board Advisor Chet Sanders Email: chet.sanders@gmail.com

Registration

Why Join?

- ☉ Support middle level education throughout the state of Florida
- ☉ Have access to great resources and professional development
- ☉ Attend state and regional conferences
- ☉ Join now to have your membership extended through June

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Membership Registration Form, Yearly from July 1 - June 30

Membership Type

Institutional/School Membership

_____ Individual \$25.00

_____ Institutional/School \$150.00

Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please mail to: **Florida League of Middle Schools**

**C/O Sandy Wallace
981 Saltwater Circle
St. Augustine, FL 32080**

