

Power Lines

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Florida League of Middle Schools

www.flms.org

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Believe in magic.

A spark of magic every day happens in middle level classrooms across the state. This year's conference will focus on how educators can maintain and regain the "magic" for learning, loving and leadership. A pre-conference session on Friday afternoon will feature Travis Brown, sharing his wisdom and tips on leadership for both teachers and administrators. You don't want to miss his dynamic presentation. Immediately following Travis, the magic will continue in the Tropics Hall with our welcoming social, which may hold some fun surprises.

And yes, they're back! Better than ever, and yes, together! The dynamic duo of Jack Berckemeyer and Kim Campbell will share our opening keynote. Hold on to your seats as they excite and captivate you with their humor and magical tales of working with young adolescents.

Breakout sessions will follow throughout the day presented by our keynote speakers and practitioners from around the state. A Leadership strand and a STEAM strand will be highlighted. If you have something magical to share about your classroom, content, or school, please complete a presenter form and send it in.

Regional meetings, Role Alike Groups for networking and baskets and door prizes will complete the day. We hope you will join us On June 9 and 10 in Sarasota at the Hyatt Regency on the Bay. Bring your family and engage in a fun learning experience. Take a little "magic" home with you!



Conference Speakers



Travis Brown

Travis Brown acquired the name “Mr. Mojo” for his high energy, relevant content and captivating speaking style. His passion includes helping schools across the country develop a positive climate and culture. He works with administrators and teachers on how to engage and inspire students to be leaders and make a positive difference in the lives of others.



Jack Berckemeyer

Jack Berckemeyer is currently the Director and Owner of the Nuts and Bolts – Ready To Teach and Learn Conference in Destin, Florida. Jack’s message is one of hope, laughter and insight into Middle Level Education. Jack lives in Denver and has no pets or plants.

Kim Campbell

A proud middle school teacher, Kim is a keynote speaker and workshop facilitator who has received numerous awards for her exemplary teaching experiences. She authored the book, *If You Can't Manage Them, You Can't Teach Them*. Kim’s presentations are filled with humor, practical techniques, can-do strategies, and insights about the young adolescent that you can take back and apply immediately in your classroom. You might even leave humming a tune!



amle.org



Capstone Projects and Math Competition Set Apart Aerospace & Astronautics

STEM Academy at Madison Middle School, Written By Carla Sparks

Who said sixth graders need time to acclimate to middle school?

While that may be true for many, the sixth grade math team of the STEM Academy at Madison Middle School walked away with the first place team award at Hillsborough County's Math League Competition.

Coached by STEM Academy math teacher Anthony Daniele, the students brought their A game to the Math League this spring. Daniele teaches all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students in the STEM Academy cohort of students.

Similar in structure to the STEM Academy at Greco Middle School, Madison Middle School's STEM Academy hosts 132 students in grades 6 - 8 who all share the same teachers for math, science, social studies, Language Arts, and Technology Education.

Following the National Standards of Practice for High School Career Academies, as set forth by the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC), Madison's STEM Academy employs the cohort model in which a cohort of students (132 maximum with 44 students in each grade) are taught by a cohort of five teachers for their academic experience at the school. NCAC considers the cohort to be a National Standard of Practice because of its strength in building a sense of community among the students, relationships between teachers and students, and camaraderie among the students.

Another of the National Standards of Practice is the implementation of Capstone Projects at the terminal grade. This year, Madison's STEM Academy eighth graders worked in teams to develop service learning projects which they presented before an audience of students and adult advisory board members, along with academic judges. Some of the projects included "Velcrodesk," "Hydro Hat," "Sports4Cancer," and "The Heart Walk," among others.

Madison's STEM Academy implements ten National Standards of Practice that include:

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1) A written definition of its mission, goals, and benchmarks; 2) a well defined design within the school that reflects its status as a small learning community; 3) a variety of community support including support from the School Board, the Superintendent and district staff, and the school principal; 4) teachers who are leaders and appropriately credentialed, as well as cooperation from the school counselors; 5) professional development and continuous learning among the Academy teachers; 6) a governing structure that incorporates the explicit roles of stakeholders and leaders of the advisory board; 7) teaching and learning within the Academy that is rigorous and prepares students for college and career - including Capstone Projects; 8) involvement of the community; 9) improvements in student performance based upon multiple academic measures; and 10) technical learning related to the Academy theme; a regular cycle of improvement of the Academy.

In addition to the STEM Academies at Greco and Madison Middle Schools, Buchanan Middle School implements a Bioengineering STEM Academy and McLane Middle School implements a Robotics STEM Academy. All four STEM Academies are structured using the cohort model and follow the National Standards of Practice set forth by the NCAC.



Academy students Melissa Fabregas, Alexandra Kirkner, and Jenna Krovich worked on “The Heart Walk” Capstone Project that involved organizing a community walk-a-thon. They raised more than \$900 for the American Heart Association.

Terri's Tech Tips

1. *Super Teacher Tools*. Check out this plethora of teacher tech helpers including games.
2. *Polleverywhere!* This clicker-free classroom response system improves learning outcomes and fills the diverse needs of educators and students around the world.
3. *Remind*. Communicate faster and schedule reminders ahead of time. This real-time messaging is for your school, group, or even one person.
4. *Kahoot.it*. Create, play and share fun learning games for any subject, for all ages, for free!
5. *ifaketext.com*. The first iPhone text message screenshot generator.
6. *Recap*. A Q&A site where thought leaders and educators ignite your curiosity to learn with journeys that connect you with what's worth knowing.
7. *GoNoodle: More Movement, More Mindfulness, Deeper Learning*. GoNoodle Plus adds hundreds of ways to make learning active. Any subject. Any topic. Any standard.
8. *QR Code*. Organize effective teamwork around QR Code campaigns with flexible account sharing options. Inviting other students to share your account only takes seconds.
9. *Snoop*. Over 100,000 courses, test prep resources, and learning guides, armed with gallons of academic WD-40 to make learning easy and fun.
10. *TED-Ed*. TED-Ed is TED's youth and education initiative. TED-Ed's mission is to spark and celebrate the ideas of teachers and students around the world. Everything they do supports learning — from producing a growing library of original animated videos, to providing an international platform for teachers to create their own interactive lessons, to helping curious students around the globe bring TED to their schools and gain presentation literacy skills, to celebrating innovative leadership within TED-Ed's global network of over 250,000 teachers.

Book Reviews

The New Gold Standard - Joseph A Michelli

When it comes to refined service and exquisite hospitality, one name stands high above the rest: The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company. With ceaseless attention to every luxurious detail, the company has set the bar for creating memorable customer experiences in world-class settings. Now, for the first time, the leadership secrets behind the company's extraordinary success are revealed. Treat your students like customers!

The Energy Bus - Jon Gordon

The Energy Bus, an international best seller by Jon Gordon, takes readers on an enlightening and inspiring ride that reveals 10 secrets for approaching life and work with the kind of positive, forward thinking that leads to true accomplishment - at work and at home. Jon infuses this engaging story with keen insights as he provides a powerful roadmap to overcome adversity and bring out the best in yourself and your team. When you get on *The Energy Bus* you'll enjoy the ride of your life!

Strength Finders - Tom Rath

Do you have the opportunity to do what you do best every day? Chances are, you don't. All too often, our natural talents go untapped. From the cradle to the cubicle, we devote more time to fixing our shortcomings than to developing our strengths.

To help people uncover their talents, Gallup introduced the first version of its online assessment, StrengthsFinder, in 2001, which ignited a global conversation and helped millions to discover their top five talents.

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

_____ Individual \$25.00

Institutional/School Membership

_____ Institutional/School \$150.00

Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

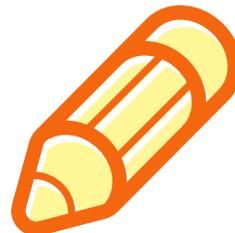
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

County: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

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

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