

FLMS Newsletter-Edition 1

[Campaign Preview](#)

[HTML Source](#)

[Plain-Text Email](#)

[Details](#)



Florida League of Middle Schools Newsletter - Back to School August 2017

News From The FLMS State Conference

The 2017 Florida League of Middle Schools Magical Conference was full of loving, learning, laughter, leadership, and raving fans. The directors at FLMS thank you for a positive culture-building conference.



The Team

Most of the laughter occurred during Jack Berckemever and Kim Campbell's dynamic presentations. We learned how to



maintain magic in the classroom with their captivating tales of working with adolescents.

The Speakers

Our second fabulous team of speakers included Travis Brown and Mrs. Brown. They taught us how to develop a positive climate and culture in our schools. This dynamic duo focused on mindset strategies in the classroom.



The Participants

Thank you for all who attended, laughed, led, and learned with us on June 9 and 10 in the beautiful Sarasota Hyatt.

Upcoming Events



Motivational Words



Cause I Ain't Got a Pencil
by Joshua T. Dickerson

I woke myself up
Because we ain't got an alarm clock
Dug in the dirty clothes basket,
Cause ain't nobody washed my uniform
Brushed my hair and teeth in the dark,
Cause the lights ain't on
Even got my baby sister ready,
Cause my mama wasn't home.
Got us both to school on time,
To eat us a good breakfast.
Then when I got to class the teacher fussed
Cause I ain't got a pencil.

Ice Breakers Your Students Will Love

1. Have kids write "I wish my teacher knew..." and let them fill up the paper with things they wish you knew about them.

2. Ask students to take out an item from their backpack or pockets that represents them in some way. No prior preparation is needed, just something you can do on the fly. This activity puts you on the spot and can encourage organic conversation.

3. Two truths and a lie- play this game each time there is a new student or new teacher in your school house

4. Students could make or find a GIF that describes them, email it to you, and then play them on the big screen.

5. Students could make a meme that represents them and present it in a Kahoot game.

6. This or that: all the students stand in the middle of the room, and you give them choices that can be tailored to any subject area. Point to a certain side of the room as you give each choice, and they have to move to their choice. "Go to the side of the room if you like to write poetry, or go to that side of the room if you like to write music." Make a large list of statements and keep the kids active. The nice thing is that everyone is engaged, and students do not have to speak if they do not want to.

7. Pass around a bag of pennies and tell students to "take as many as they wanted" with no other instructions. Then after everyone has taken some, students should go around and share one thing about themselves for each penny they took.

8. A fun activity is to put a Post-It on everyone's back/forehead with a different name (anyone from pop culture, historical figures, or famous authors). They then have to go around asking each other yes or no questions about the person. But, once they ask someone three questions, they have to go to a new person until they guess who it is.

9. A fast-paced game of Kahoot.

10. Check out Pinterest to help you make an Escape Room!





Terri's Tech Tips

One great thing about social media is the ability to follow educational sites and to get new ideas, helpful tips, inspiration, and even a good belly laugh! Instead of tech tips, this month here are pages that will allow you to learn and laugh. Check out these fantastic Facebook sites:

1. Gerry Brooks

Mr. Brooks is a hilarious principal who really knows teachers. His hysterical videos will keep you laughing all day.

2. Joe Dombrowski

Joe was on Ellen because of his funny April Fool's prank to his students. Check out his Facebook for silly ideas to try in your classroom.

3. Mind Shift

This site is full of fascinating articles on many different topics. They offer mini-posters, too.

4. Getting Nerdy with Mel and Gerdy

These two former Science educators share ideas, experiments, and videos for STEM. This is a great site for fun and knowledge.

5. Edutopia

I probably use this site the most. They have interesting articles with tips and tricks for students and teachers. This site empowers you to improve education.

6. Ron Clark Academy

After meeting this ball of energy, I decided to follow him on Facebook. He has amazingly fun ideas, and my goal is to make my class the first virtual Ron Clark type of energetic classroom!

7. Ted-Ed

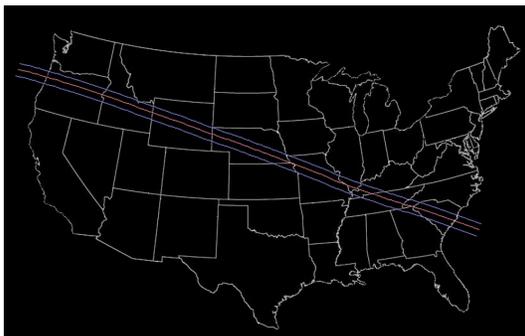
I watch these videos all the time. Then I share them with my family, friends, and students. If you have not been following these educational Ted Talks- you are missing out!

8. WeAreTeachers

When I am looking at Facebook, this is a site I stop at most often! This site features free printables, humor, ideas for any aged student, and even career advice.



Solar Eclipse



Look Up

Research and Plan

Look up what time the eclipse



will happen in your area. If it's not happening in your town, see where the nearest spot to view the eclipse is. Plan to find a spot with clear sky visibility.



Make a Solar Pinhole Projector

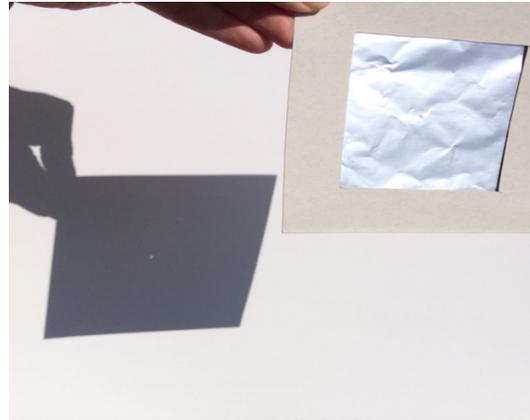
A free and easy experiment for the eclipse.

Materials:

- Rectangle of thin cardboard
- Rectangle of white foam core board
- Tape
- Foil
- Push pin

Directions:

Cut a frame from thin cardboard and tape a piece of foil in the window. Make a small, round hole with a pin. Use cardboard as a screen and prop it up at an angle. Hold the projector so that it's parallel to the screen and that the sun shines through it. You should see a small round image.



Order Viewing Glasses

Safely looking at the sun requires specialized filters and significant supervision. Be cautious about using them with younger children. Make sure they are marked ISO (International

Must-Reads for Teachers

1. Year of Yes: How to Dance It Out, Stand in the Sun, and Be Your Own Person

What a fun, hopeful, entertaining read from Shonda Rhimes. Her novel makes you question what you say yes to and what you say no to.

2. The Growth Mindset Coach: A Teacher's Month-by-Month Handbook for Empowering Students to Achieve

Created by teachers for teachers, this is the ultimate guide for unleashing students' potential through creative lessons, empowering messages and innovative teaching. The Growth Mindset Coach provides all you need to foster a growth mindset classroom, including:

- A Month-by-Month Program
- Research-Based Activities
- Hands-On Lesson Plans
- Real-Life Educator Stories
- Constructive Feedback
- Sample Parent Letters

3. Teaching With Your Mouth Shut

An inspiring must read book for teachers who are looking for ways to get out from behind the lectern in order to give students the opportunity to facilitate their own learning and become their own best teachers. Particularly thought-provoking for middle and high school teachers.

4. Teach Like a Pirate: Increase Student Engagement Boost Your Creativity and Transform Your Life as an Educator

Based on Dave Burgess's popular "Teach Like a PIRATE" seminars, this book offers inspiration, practical techniques, and innovative

.....
ideas that will help you to increase student engagement, boost your creativity, and transform your life as an educator. You'll learn how to:

- Tap into and dramatically increase your passion as a teacher
- Develop outrageously engaging lessons that draw students in like a magnet
- Establish rapport and a sense of camaraderie in your classroom
- Transform your class into a life-changing experience for your students

This groundbreaking inspirational manifesto contains over 30 hooks specially designed to captivate your class and 170 brainstorming questions that will skyrocket your creativity.

5. Teaching With The Brain in Mind

The basic message of this book is that we have much more potential to affect the learning of students than we realize. Translating neuroscience into practical classroom applications, topics include: how to prepare children for school, how to motivate students to participate, how to influence emotional states, how to design smarter schools, and how to enhance memory and critical thinking skills.

6. Smart But Scattered

Many intelligent children are struggling in schools—not because they don't understand, but because they need support with their executive function skills (the fundamental habits of mind required for getting organized, staying focused, and controlling impulses and emotions). This must read book for teachers offers practical, realistic advice in a respectful, hopeful tone.

7. Deliberate Optimism: Reclaiming the Joy in Education

Recharge the optimism that made you an educator in the first place! Choosing optimism—even in the face of tough challenges—helps restore the healthy interactions and positive relationships necessary for enacting real school change. Filled with research-based strategies, practical examples, and thought-provoking scenarios, this inspiring, humorous book gets you ready to

- Rediscover motivation
- Take a positive view of events beyond your control

- Build an optimistic classroom where students flourish
- Partner with other stakeholders to create an optimistic learning environment

8. *Move Your Bus*

Teamwork is crucial to the success of any business, and as acclaimed author and speaker Ron Clark illustrates, the members of any team are the key to unlocking success. Imagine a company as a bus filled with people who either help or hinder a team's ability to move it forward: drivers (who steer the organization), runners (who consistently go above and beyond for the good of the organization), joggers (who do their jobs without pushing themselves), walkers (who are just getting pulled along), and riders (who hinder success and drag the team down). It's the team leader's job to recognize how members fall into these categories, encourage them to keep the "bus" moving by working together, and know when it's time to kick the riders off.

9. *This We Believe*

If you are committed to helping young adolescents become successful, responsible, global citizens, the Association for Middle Level Education invites you to read and implement *This We Believe*.

10. *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry Into the Mystery and Art of Living*

This book is like a super-vitamin of hope, insight, brilliance, and humanity, with some science, history, poetry, and an exploration of faith. The author is Krista Tippett.

Get to Know You Questions

Use these questions to build relationships with your students.

1. At what age is a person an adult? Why do you think so?
2. If could change one rule that your family has, what would you change?
3. What is something that makes your family special?
4. Of all the things you are learning, what do you think will be the most useful when you are an adult?

5. Are you a good friend? Why do you think so?
6. How would the world be different if animals could talk?
7. Would you cheat on a test if you knew you would not get caught? Why or why not?
8. If you could grow up to be famous, what would you want to be famous for?
9. If you could be invisible for a day, what would you do?
10. What is the best gift you have ever given? Why was it so special?
11. What is the hardest thing about being a kid?
12. If you were a teacher and the kids in your class would not listen to you, what would you do?
13. Where is your favorite place in the world?
14. If you could give one gift to every single child in the world-what gift would you give?
15. If you could travel back in time three years and visit your younger self, what advice would you give yourself?
16. What five words do you think most describe you?
17. If you could invent something that would make life easier for people, what would you invent?
18. When was a time that you felt lucky?
19. What do you think would be the hardest thing about being blind?
20. If you could make one rule that everyone in the world had to follow-what rule would you make? Why?

Drop us a Line

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.

Join FLMS

Why Join?

- Support middle level education throughout the state of Florida
- Have access to great resources and professional development
- Attend state and regional conferences

[Click here to Register](#)

This email was sent to [<< Test Email Address >>](#)
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Florida League of Middle Schools · 18300 Sheridan St · Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33331 · USA

