



**OHIO MIDDLE LEVEL ASSOCIATION**

**Ohio Middle Level Association  
State Conference**

October 28-29, 2021

The Hilton at Easton

#OMLA2021

# 2021 Ohio Middle Level State Conference

## Columbus Hilton at Easton

### Wednesday, October 27, 2021

- 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm     **Early Registration** – Hilton Easton Foyer  
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm     **OMLA Welcome Social** - Easton Hilton Lobby

### Thursday, October 28, 2021

- 7:00 am     **Registration** – Easton Ballroom Foyer  
7:00 am – 8:15 am     **Continental Breakfast** – Hilton Easton Foyer/Easton Grand Ballroom  
8:15 am – 10:30 am     **GENERAL SESSION** – Easton Grand Ballroom  
OMLA President Welcome  
OMLA Educator of the Year & Student of the Year Awards  
Keynote Speaker – **AJ Juliani**  
10:45 am – 11:35 am     **Break-out Session I**  
11:45 am – 12:35 pm     **Lunch** – Easton Grand Ballroom  
12:45 pm – 1:35 pm     **Break-out Session II**  
1:45 pm – 2:35 pm     **Break-out Session III**  
2:45 pm – 3:35 pm     **Break-out Session IV**  
3:45 pm – 4:15 pm     **Regional Roundup Meetings**  
3:35 pm – 5:00 pm     **Visit exhibitors**  
8:00 pm – Midnight     **Social** – Easton Grand Ballroom  
“The Ultimate Halloween Party” (Costume Contest, Live Band, and Giveaways)

### Friday, October 29, 2021

- 7:00 am     **Registration** – Easton Ballroom Hallway  
7:30 am – 9:00 am     **Continental Breakfast** – Hilton Easton Foyer  
8:00 am – 8:50 am     **Break-out Session I**  
9:00 am – 9:50 am     **Break-out Session II**  
10:00 am – 11:55 am     **GENERAL SESSION** – Easton Grand Ballroom  
Welcome/Invitation to #OMLA2022, “OMLA’s 50th Anniversary!”  
Student of the Year  
Kathy Hunt Keynote Speaker - **Jennifer Gonzalez**  
11:55 am – 1:10 pm     **Lunch on Your Own/Exhibits**  
1:10 pm – 2:00 pm     **Break-out Session III**  
2:10 pm – 3:00 pm     **Break-out Session IV**

**From OMLA President, Michelle Koussa**

Welcome to #OMLA2021 - We are excited to offer an inspiring and **Innovative** conference for middle level educators, administrators, and college students. These past two years have certainly been challenging, and they have called educators to reflect on current practices and be innovative in order to meet the needs and demands of our current situation. Although many factors are beyond our control, if we can stick together to stay positive and build each other up, I know that innovative and creative ideas will emerge and we will all come out better on the other side. Whether you are a first-year teacher or a veteran, my wish for you during the next two days is that you are able to add new and innovative ideas to your educator's toolbox, while refreshing your soul by networking with educators who know and understand the important aspects of middle level education.

On Thursday, you will be inspired by a champion of innovation, AJ Juliani. AJ has written various books on student choice, PBL, Genius Hour, and the role of creativity, empathy, and intentional innovation in education. On Friday, Jennifer Gonzalez will take the stage to inspire educators to create a "cult of pedagogy," or community of positivity and support that is based around the research on how our students learn best. Jack Berckemeyer, a featured speaker, will re-energize those in the room by sharing his passion, humor, and expertise in middle level education. Jack will offer two break-out sessions for our pre-service teacher attendees as well as additional sessions open to all participants.

With over 70 breakout sessions led by educators, I am certain everyone will find many breakout sessions to attend and ideas to take back to your classrooms and buildings. A big thank you to all of our presenters for sharing their time and expertise! Don't forget to check out our new roundtable discussions for an opportunity to network and share ideas with other educators and administrators. Also, a special shout-out to our preservice teachers who are attending. We have a special strand in our program just for you in order to meet your needs and help you land your first job.

A special thank you to the Ohio Middle Level Association Executive Board members who inspire me every day! In addition to their primary school responsibilities, the OMLA board works hard to plan this annual state conference along with various regional and virtual events throughout the year. Without their selfless dedication and effort, this conference would not exist. From registration to awards to our new student art show, every feature of our conference is a unique contribution and team effort from our board. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Ohio Middle Level Association, please attend your Regional Roundup meeting, or complete the interest form in this program.

Lastly, I hope to see you all at "The Ultimate Halloween Party" on Thursday evening! We will have a live band, costume contest, and giveaways throughout the night.

Thank you, and enjoy #OMLA2021!

**Conference Committee**

Michelle Koussa, Paul Destino, and Kelli Cogan - *Conference Chairs*

Brittany Marino - *Exhibitors* Lisa Nemeth - *Presenter Coordinator*

Becky Reese - *Registration* Tiffany Shaw - *Awards Coordinator*

Ohio Middle Level Association State Conference | #OMLA2021

<b>Ohio Middle Level Association Executive Board 2021-2022</b>		
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OASSA	Tim Freeman	tfreeman@oassa.org
OAESA	Matt Bradley	matt_b@hlsd.us

## #OMLA2021 General Information

**Conference Updates:** Sign up to receive #OMLA2021 Conference updates on your phone. Get push notifications on your smartphone by typing in rmd.at/2021omla in your web browser. If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications on your phone -- Text the message @2021omla to the number 81010.

Don't have a mobile phone?

Go to rmd.at/2021omla on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

**Contact Hours:** In this program book is a form (page 14) upon which you are to write the title and code of each session you attend. The completed form should be turned in to your school district for local LPDC consideration.

### **Graduate Credit Option:**

**Earn 1 graduate credit through Ashland University for course attendance and work: EDU 6145 Y2**

- **Register for the course in person at the conference, online at: <https://bit.ly/OMLA21-22>, or after the conference by calling the AU Columbus Center (614) 794-4850 or (877) 557-9497.**
- Tuition for this workshop is **\$180 for 1 graduate credit** through Ashland University. Payment will be accepted via credit card (there is a 2.7% service charge for cards) or check. Make checks payable to Ashland University.

### **Requirements for Credit:**

- Attendance at 12.5 hours of sessions semester hour and completion of one of the field study options below for each semester hour; and
- Active participation in discussions and activities; and
- Submitted session attendance log (provided with registration information). Submit attendance log/certificates with your Field Study Option(s) within 30 days after attendance at sessions.

### **Any graduate credit questions, please contact:**

Cheryle Basinger, PhD, Director of Professional Development Services  
1900 East Dublin-Granville Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43229  
Fax: Phone: (614) 794.4850 x.1122 Cell: 740-637-0425  
Email: cbasinge@ashland.edu

**Evaluation Form:** Please complete the evaluation form for the general session and breakout sessions using the QR code or web address. Your feedback is important to us!  
<https://tinyurl.com/2021OMLAsessionFeedback>



**Exhibits:** Several exhibitors, including OMLA, will have giveaway drawings! Take time to visit their tables in order to become eligible for the giveaways. Fill out the signature form for a chance to win prizes!

**Hospitality Ticket:** Included in your registration packet is a ticket for a complimentary beverage at Thursday evening's social. We hope to see you from 8 pm-midnight at "The Ultimate Halloween Party!"

**Lunch Thursday:** You WILL NOT be given a lunch ticket when you register. You will just need your conference badge. *Lunch on Friday is "on your own."*

**Receipt:** A receipt for the conference is located at the bottom of this page.

**Regional Roundup:** Visit your OMLA regional meeting on Thursday afternoon from 3:45 - 4:15pm to hear more about OMLA! You can also learn about how to get more involved with OMLA! See page 12 for more info on regions and rooms. We also have a separate gathering for college professors.

**Roundtable Discussions:** NEW this year! Join a roundtable discussion with other administrators and educators to share ideas, discuss challenges, and build relationships across the state. These sessions will be run by our OMLA Executive Board members and will be a great chance to network and share.

**Session Cancellations:** While unfortunate, they are unavoidable. OMLA is not responsible for sessions that are canceled due to presenters who cancel at the last minute or fail to appear. Cancellation notices will be sent out via our Remind system or posted outside the appropriate meeting rooms (where the session was scheduled) when possible. Thank you for your understanding.

### Conference Registration Receipt

Ohio Middle Level Association Annual Professional Conference  
The Hilton at Easton – October 28-29, 2021

Received from \_\_\_\_\_ a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Registration fee includes program, materials, Thursday lunch, and continental breakfast both days.

*Michelle Koussa*  
OMLA President

# Sign up for #OMLA2021 Conference Updates

## Pick a way to receive messages for OMLA 2021 Conference


Pick a way to receive messages for OMLA 2021:

**A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

[rmd.at/omla2021](https://rmd.at/omla2021)

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



The image shows a smartphone screen with a registration form. At the top, the URL 'rmd.at/omla2021' is displayed. Below that, the text 'Join OMLA 2021' is centered. There are two input fields: 'Full Name' with a sub-label 'First and Last Name' and 'Phone Number or Email Address' with the placeholder '(555) 555-5555'.


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**B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @omla2021 to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @omla2021 to (216) 485-3713.

\* Standard text message rates apply.



The image shows a smartphone screen displaying a text message. The 'To' field contains the number '81010'. The 'Message' field contains '@omla2021'.

### Don't have a mobile phone?

Go to [rmd.at/omla2021](https://rmd.at/omla2021) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

## Ohio Middle Level Association Business Partners

# Thank you to our business partners...





## #OMLA2021 Exhibitors

<b>Achieve 3000</b>	<b>The Legend Group</b>
<b>American Dairy Association</b>	<b>Mackin</b>
<b>BrainPop</b>	<b>Mastery Education</b>
<b>e-hallpass</b>	<b>Mount St. Joseph University</b>
<b>Edgenuity</b>	<b>National Geographic Learning/ Cengage</b>
<b>Edulastic</b>	<b>Nowak Tours</b>
<b>Effective Leadership Academy</b>	<b>NPI Audio Visual Solutions</b>
<b>Empower Learning</b>	<b>Ohio Optometric Association</b>
<b>Equitable Advisors</b>	<b>The Ohio Tuition Trust Authority</b>
<b>EVERFI</b>	<b>Pear Deck + GoGuardian</b>
<b>Gaggle</b>	<b>Power of Purpose</b>
<b>Gallopade International</b>	<b>SAVVAS Learning Company</b>
<b>GREAT DAY! Tours &amp; Charter Bus Service</b>	<b>Sonburst Books, LLC</b>
<b>Howard Technology Solutions</b>	<b>ThinkCERCA</b>
<b>Inter-State Studio</b>	<b>United Fundraising</b>
<b>Kent State University</b>	<b>Vex Robotics</b>
<b>Koinonia Homes, Inc.</b>	<b>Youngstown State University</b>
<b>Leader in Me</b>	

**Thank you to our #OMLA2021 conference exhibitors!**

**Complete your signature sheet for a chance to win prizes during the Friday general session!**

## 2021 Exhibitor Signature Form

Collect 15 signatures from exhibitors to place your name into a raffle for prizes.

Turn in your form at the OMLA registration table no later than 9 am on Friday.

*Must be present during the Friday general session to win.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

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Exhibitor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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# #OMLA2021 Keynote Speakers

## Thursday Keynote



### AJ Juliani

AJ Juliani is a bestselling author of 8 books and a national speaker known for his work on innovation in teaching. He is the founder and owner of Adaptable Learning and has worked at every level of education as a teacher, coach, administrator, and now faculty at UPenn GSE Penn Literacy Network. He focuses on empowering students through choice and intentional innovation, PBL, Genius Hour, and design thinking. Weaved throughout all of his theories is empathy and the role it plays in the educational setting and life. AJ is also a husband and dad to 5.

**Facebook:** Learning with AJ

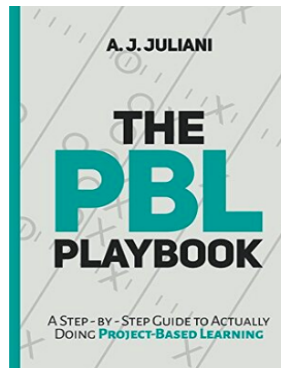
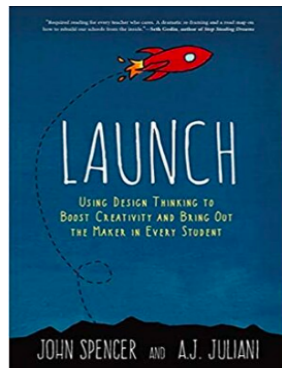
**Podcast:** The Backwards Podcast

**Twitter/Instagram:** @ajjuliani

**Website:** www.ajjuliani.com

### Keynote: Empower-What Happens When Students Own Their Learning

Kids begin their learning journey as curious problem solvers who ask questions and create solutions. As they go through school, something happens to many of our students, and they begin to play the game of school, eager to be compliant and follow a path instead of making their own. As teachers, leaders, and parents, we have the opportunity to be the guide in our kids' education and unleash the creative potential of each and every student. In a world that is ever-changing, our job is not to prepare students for something; instead, our role is to help students prepare themselves for anything.



## Friday Keynote



### **Jennifer Gonzalez**

Jennifer Gonzalez is a former middle school language arts teacher and now college faculty member whose main goal is to create a community of educators who support each other and challenge each other to excellence. Oftentimes feeling alone in her excitement about pedagogy and fearing the teacher’s lounge, she set out on a journey to connect and inspire educators. She is well known for creating the “cult of pedagogy” and she shares her expertise and ideas through

books, her blog, videos, weekly digital notes to teachers, and speaking engagements. Follow her on Pinterest and social media below.

**Facebook:** Cult of Pedagogy

**Podcast:** The Cult of Pedagogy

**Twitter/Instagram:** @cultofpedagogy

**Website:** [www.cultofpedagogy.com](http://www.cultofpedagogy.com)

### **Keynote: 4 Laws of Learning (and how to obey them in your lessons)**

What really makes a difference in teaching? When it comes to planning lessons—that 45-to 90-minute block of time we set aside for instruction—what activities actually move the needle on learning? This session explores four rock-solid truths backed by research on how people learn. These laws apply to every subject area and grade level, and if you follow them when planning lessons, you’ll be a lot more likely to make some real learning happen for students

## **#OMLA2021 Featured Speaker**

### **Jack Berckemeyer**



A nationally recognized presenter, author, and humorist, Jack Berckemeyer, began his career as a middle school teacher in Denver, Colorado. Jack brings his energy, humor, and expertise of the middle level adolescent to all as he helps all of us remember why this job makes a difference!

Are you looking to put a spark back into your teaching? Are you curious about what really makes your students tick? Are you looking for ways to connect with your students? Jack provides ideas and strategies in the areas of connecting with your students, being an adult advocate for kids, and new classroom management strategies.



## “The Ultimate Halloween Party!”

Join us for a Thursday evening social!

8:00 pm-midnight in Easton Grand Ballroom

Featuring live music from The Naked Karate Girls, costume contests, giveaways, and fun!

Remember your beverage ticket (provided to you at registration)!



## OMLA Regional Roundup Meetings

Thursday 3:45 - 4:15 pm

Stop by your OMLA region meeting to learn more about OMLA regional events and how to get more involved!

Central	Regent 1	Northwest	Juniper A
North Central	Regent 2	Southwest	Juniper B
Northeast	Regent 3	West	Juniper C
East & Southeast	Lilac	University Professors	Magnolia

## Interested in Becoming More Involved in OMLA?

Return completed form to your regional roundup, the OMLA registration table, or email us by using our *Contact* feature at [www.ohiomla.org](http://www.ohiomla.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

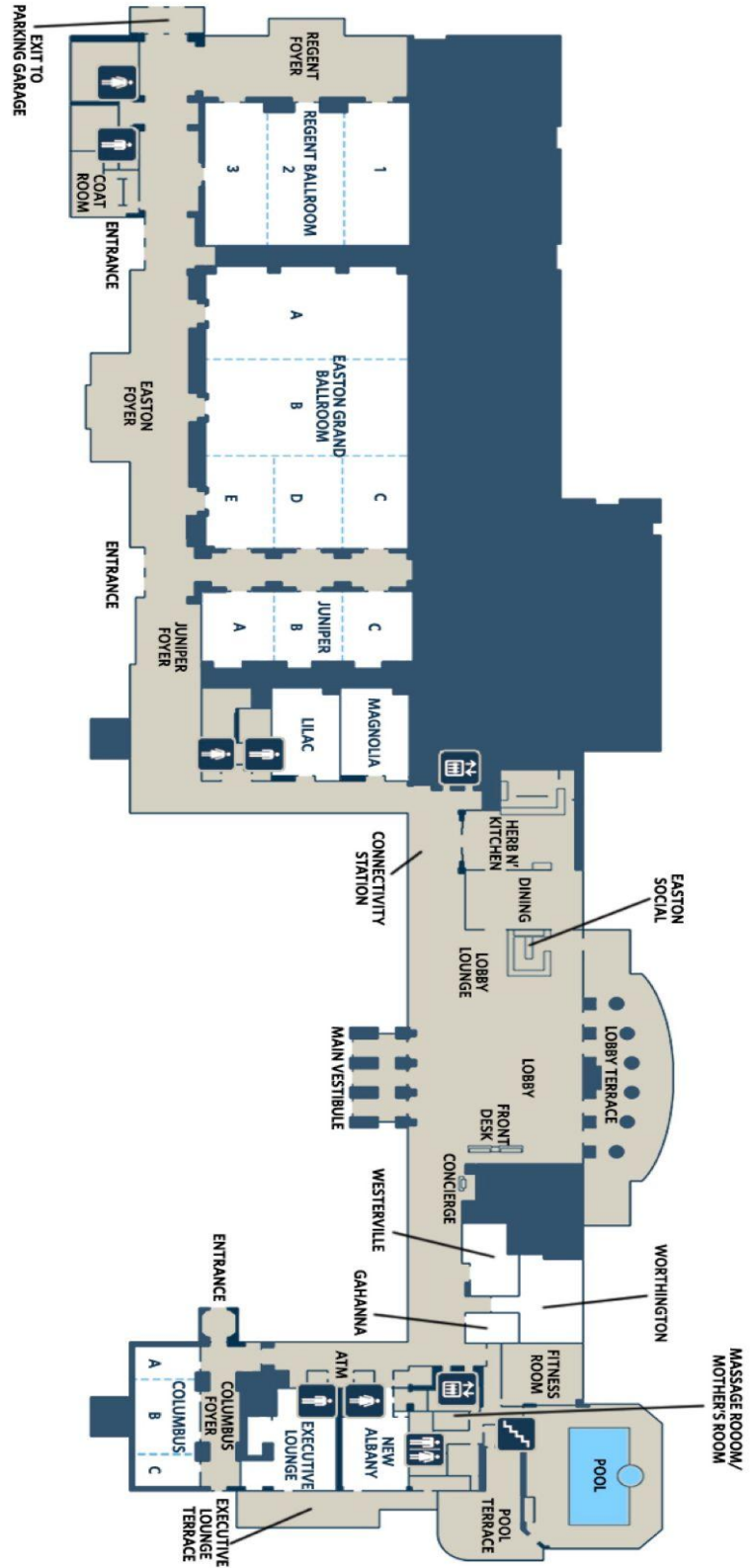
School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Twitter Handle: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_



# The Hilton at Easton: Conference Center Map



**2021 Ohio Middle Level Association State Conference**  
**October 28-29, 2021**  
**Conference Attendance Log Sheet**

DIRECTIONS: Complete this form listing the sessions you attended, **including the code which will be announced at the conclusion of each session**. Submit it to your LPDC for professional development credit. ***THIS INFORMATION WILL NOT BE PROVIDED AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE!***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thursday, October 28, 2021***

**General Session: (130 minutes) - Awards & Keynote (AJ Juliani)** Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Session I Title: (50 mins.) \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Session II Title: (50 mins.) \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Session III Title: (50 mins.) \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Session IV Title: (50 mins.) \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Roundup: (30 mins.) Region - \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

***Total Contact Hours = 6.00***

***Friday, October 29, 2021***

**General Session: (120 minutes) - Awards & Keynote (Jennifer Gonzalez)** Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Session I Title: (50 mins.) \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Session II Title: (50 mins.) \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Session III Title: (50 mins.) \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Session IV Title: (50 mins.) \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

***Total Contact Hours = 5.3***

*Michelle Koussa, President OMLA*

**Ohio Middle Level Association - Thursday, October 28 - Columbus Hilton at Easton**

<b>ROOM</b>	<b>Session I 10:45 AM - 11:35 AM</b>	<b>Session II 12:45 PM - 1:35 PM</b>	<b>Session III 1:45 PM - 2:35 PM</b>	<b>Session IV 2:45 PM - 3:35 PM</b>
Regent Ballroom 1	The Epic Guide to Student Engagement <b>A. Juliani</b>	LAUNCH into Design Thinking <b>A. Juliani</b>	Teaching Strategies That Motivate Students <b>J. Berckemeyer</b>	Creating Advisory to Support SEL <b>B. Carter</b>
Regent Ballroom 2	An Introduction to Trauma <b>M. McClain</b>	Implementation of Restorative Practices in Middle School Classrooms <b>M. McClain</b>	How to Become a School of Distinction <b>K. Powell AMLE</b>	YA Development: Who Are These People, And What Do I Do With Them? <b>K. Powell AMLE</b>
Regent Ballroom 3	The Philosophy of Standards-Based Grading <b>M. Kays</b>	Engagement = Attention + Commitment <b>J. Frame</b>	Eagle Outreach: PBL + Community Service <b>E. Cline</b>	STOP: Students and Teachers Observing Progress <b>J. Hill</b>
Easton Ballroom C	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	A Student Services-Based Team Approach <b>M. Kurz</b>	Student Mentoring <b>E. Bartkowski</b>
Easton Ballroom D	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	Community Events <b>L. Pancoast</b>	One Life to Love <b>B. Bruce</b>
Easton Ballroom E	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	Who Am I? <b>L. Kubaszewski</b>	Empower and Inspire #theCrestwoodWay <b>P. Griffis</b>
Juniper A	Transform the Norm <b>T. Leonard</b>	Social Studies: Students Make the Darndest Things <b>J. Catullo</b>	Read on the Edge of Your Life! <b>R. Nagelhout</b>	Coaching & Caring <b>C. Sanchez</b>
Juniper B	Pick Up the Phone <b>A. Mills</b>	FlashCards vs Math Cards <b>R. Nisbet</b>	The Positive Posse <b>M. Stanton</b>	Administrator Legal Update <b>H. Powell OASSA</b>
Juniper C	Twenty Golden Nuggets <b>K. Fial</b>	Everyone Needs a Break Room <b>P. Wheeler</b>	Deconstructing Depth of Knowledge <b>E. Francis</b>	Inquiring Minds <b>E. Francis</b>
Lilac	Administrator Roundtable	Literacy Roundtable Discussion	Math Roundtable Discussion	Science & Social Studies Roundtable Discussion
Magnolia	The Love of Teaching Middle School <b>J Berckemeyer</b> <i>*preservice teachers</i>	Parents 101 <b>M. Fulks</b> <i>*preservice teachers</i>	Getting Hired! <b>A. Gibson</b> <i>*preservice teachers</i>	<b>2:45 - 3:10 Chat Time With Jack</b> <b>3:15 - 3:35 Chat Time With Jack</b>



**Thursday, October 28, 2021**  
**Session I**  
**10:45 AM - 11:35 AM**

*Regent Ballroom 1*

**The Epic Guide to Student Engagement: Developing Student-Centered Activities with Choice and Inquiry**

A.J. Juliani

"We all want to engage students at a higher level. But how do we do that?"

The key to engagement is high attention and high commitment from our students. However, in order to foster that attention and commitment, we must allow students to motivate themselves and each other through choice-based work.

In this workshop, A.J. Juliani will tackle these five strategies that work to engage students at every grade level and inspire innovative work:

1. Choice-based instruction
2. Inquiry-based projects
3. Authentic audience
4. Competitive Challenges
5. Launching to the World"

*Regent Ballroom 2*

**An Introduction to Trauma**

Missy McClain

Akron Children's Hospital

This component covers the basics of trauma, what types of trauma students may face, and how trauma can affect a student's physical, emotional, and cognitive abilities.

*There are sensitive topics discussed in this programming. This material may affect people emotionally. This effect can be especially difficult if a person has experienced past traumatic events.*

*Regent Ballroom 3*

**The Philosophy of Standards-Based Learning**

Maggie Kays and Tessa Keyes

Delhi Middle School

The goal of this presentation is to inform educators about the philosophy behind Standards-Based Learning. After this presentation, educators will understand the non-negotiables of SBL and how to implement this practice in any classroom.

*Juniper A*

**Transform the Norm: Reimagining Time, Space, and Instruction for Student Personalization**

Tina Leonard, Shannon Saunders, Jacquelyn McLaughlin, Dan Wojciechowicz, Rachel Trentanelli and Rachael Streitman  
Mayfield Middle School

Mayfield Middle School has increased student personalization through interactive content, student agency, and individualized feedback as well as the creative use of time and underutilized building spaces. The teaming model offers flexibility for unique scheduling options that allow more opportunity for self-paced lessons, student voice and choice, and performance-based assessments. By moving beyond the traditional bell schedule, instruction has been transformed to better meet students' needs. Student ownership and engagement have increased as a result of these changes.

*Juniper B*

**Pick Up the Phone: Creating a Culture that Established Meaningful Relationships with Students**

Andrew Mills  
Harvest Preparatory School

The Pick Up the Phone Presentation focuses on helping teachers create a culture that helps them build positive and supportive relationships with students using a 5-step model. The model is simplistic in nature but has the potential to yield significant results when it comes to rapport with students, classroom management, and discipline issues. The main focus of this presentation is derived from the real-life experiences of the presenter which can be found in his Amazon Best-Selling book "Pick Up the Phone."

*Juniper C*

**Twenty Golden Nuggets**

Kerry Fial  
Port Clinton Middle School

Are you in a teaching funk, slump, or feeling "dusty"? Have you been searching for ways to invigorate your classroom? Do you feel the urge to instructionally "shake things up" and try something new? In this session, I will share more than 20 golden nuggets that have helped re-electrify my class. My ZEST and passion for teaching ALL things reading and writing is BACK! Let ME give YOU a BOOST! (This session is geared towards ELA, but many golden nuggets can CERTAINLY apply to ALL content areas).

*Lilac*

**Administrator Roundtable Discussion**

OMLA Executive Board Members

Join other educators in a roundtable discussion to share advice and ideas. The goal of the roundtable is for participants to take away new perspectives and information. This session is moderated by current OMLA Board Members.

*Magnolia - This Session is Designed for Preservice Teachers*

**The Love of Teaching Middle School**

Jack Berckemeyer

Pre-service - Ready to learn about middle school students? Come listen to Jack as he shares some great ideas and stories on how to be a great middle school educator. Plus he is funny.

**Session II  
12:45 PM - 1:35 PM**

*Regent Ballroom 1*

**LAUNCH into Design Thinking: How to Bring Out the Maker in Every Subject**

A.J. Juliani

Creative work can be hard. It can be challenging. It can sometimes be overwhelming to try and plan and incorporate into the classroom. Yet, we know our students are going to have to be more creative than ever to successfully thrive in today's world. This workshop shares how design thinking can provide a structure for creative teaching and learning, and how this process can empower our students to do remarkable work inside our schools right now.

*Regent Ballroom 2*

**Implementation of Restorative Practices in Middle School Classrooms**

Missy McClain

This session provides school staff with the opportunity to learn about Tier 1 and 2 restorative practice circles and interventions that turn classroom discipline from just punitive to positive learning and relationship-building exercises.

*Regent Ballroom 3*

**Engagement = Attention + Commitment**

Josh Frame, Ryan Balaz, Laura Boening, Carrie Knight, Keri Kotchounian, and Ryan MocarSKI  
Big Walnut Middle School

At Big Walnut Middle School, student engagement is the sum of Attention and Commitment. Our middle-level educators will be sharing their go-to strategies to increase student engagement in the classroom. You will have a choice in this session to dig deeper into multiple strategies you can personalize for your school next week in order to get that desired level of attention and commitment from your students.

*Juniper A*

**Social Studies: Students Make the Darndest Things**

Joseph Catullo, Rachel Trentanelli, Rachael Streitman,  
Mayfield Middle School

Students make the darndest things. In this session, we will share blended learning strategies that grab students' attention, maintain engagement, and allow students' voice and choice in how they demonstrate mastery. Walk away with alternative ways to assess your students!

*Juniper B*

**FlashCards vs Math Cards**

Ronda Nisbet  
Dixie Middle School

How do you teach students to memorize math facts when they are entering middle school? You don't! Memorizing math facts does not always work, nor does it ensure that students understand the facts or have a strong number sense. Students need to be taught how to derive unknown facts which will lead to building their number sense. How do you get them to become engaged in this task? Come join us to discover games and strategies to help all learners increase their math fluency and number sense.

*Juniper C*

**Everyone Needs a Break Room**

Paul Wheeler, Gabrielle Carsey, and Amy Heydinger  
Galion Middle School

Everyone needs a break, at Galion Middle School, we focus on the whole child and understand that sometimes kids simply need a timeout. We have created a space for the student who is stressed, upset, or acting out can quickly be removed, recover, and return to class, before the issue takes over. With support and compassion, we have worked to allow the students a quick timeout in order to keep them out of the office and back in the classroom and ready to learn. It takes a team to make it work, but we know that a 10-minute break may save the day for a kid.

*Lilac*

**Literacy Roundtable Discussion**

OMLA Executive Board Members

Join other educators in a roundtable discussion to share advice and ideas. The goal of the roundtable is for participants to take away new perspectives and information. This session is moderated by current OMLA Board Members.

*Magnolia - This Session is Designed for Preservice Teachers*

**Parents 101**

Mindy Fulks, Julia Morton  
Wright State University

Justin's mom says he's going to the NFL so he doesn't really need to finish the project. Lee's mother's boyfriend argues Lee doesn't deserve detention because. Fighting is what boys do! Samantha's dad says it's the teacher's fault that Samantha cheated on her test. ("Why weren't you watching her more closely?!")

Successful teachers develop classroom management skills as well as parent management skills. Without such skills, an adversarial relationship between a teacher and parent can take its toll. What can beginning teachers do when faced with problem parents? We will offer you some effective techniques and strategies that will prove successful a great deal of the time and allow you to face your students' parents with confidence...including the terrifying parent phone call.

**Session III**  
**1:45 PM - 2:35 PM**

*Regent Ballroom 1*

**Teaching Strategies That Motivate Students**

Jack Berckemeyer

Looking for fun and motivating ideas for your middle-level classroom? This is a hands-on session that provides real, quality strategies in the areas of reading, writing, spelling, grammar, listening, and speaking skills. No philosophy here, just creative ideas to motivate the middle-level learner. This is a great session for new teachers and experienced teachers. Be ready to dance, laugh, and move!

*Regent Ballroom 2*

**How to Become A School of Distinction**

Katie Powell

Are you interested in learning more about becoming an AMLE School of Distinction? Join Katie Powell to uncover what it takes to earn this title and the benefits that AMLE can provide.

*Regent Ballroom 3*

**Eagle Outreach: Project-Based Learning + Community Service**

Emily Cline and Jenna Hill  
Bellbrook Middle School

Everyone can agree that teaching students to serve in their communities is important...but how can you implement a community service class into your school? The key is in using a Project-Based Learning model to give students ownership of their service. Learn how one school uses its Eagle Outreach class to teach students the importance of service by allowing them to design their own community service project!

*Easton Ballroom C*

**A Student Services-Based Teaming Approach for Building Administrators, School Counselors, Social Workers, & School Psychologists**

Mark Kurz, Mike Sislowksi, and Kathy Suvak

Olmsted Falls Middle School

Learn how a comprehensive Student Services Team model is being implemented in a middle school setting that houses grades 6, 7, & 8. Learn how to structure weekly Student Services Team meetings complete with a meeting agenda format and a strategic approach to discuss students and plan programs. Participants will learn how we developed our Student Services Team model. The purpose of our Student Services Team is to focus on meeting the needs of our students by supporting their teachers with the tools, time, and technical support needed to help students be successful academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally.

*Easton Ballroom D*

**Community Events**

Leigh Pancoast, Matt Smith and Kaye Batanian

Swanton Middle School

INVITE your COMMUNITY/local businesses into your schools. They love to be a part of what is going on in your buildings and we have just the ideas you are looking for; community events by Swanton Middle School. Not only do businesses and community members love to see what you are doing in your buildings and interact with your students but once they see how awesome your kiddos are they start to donate money. Who couldn't use some extra money to better your PBIS initiatives? At Swanton Middle School we host several community events. We would like to share with you our Amazing Shake, Manners Luncheon/SMS Italiano, Fall Festival, Military Luncheon, and Christmas Parade-Float/Christmas Decoration Contest. We will conclude our session by helping you brainstorm ideas for your community and allow time for a question/answer session.

*Easton Ballroom E*

**Who am I?**

Lorrie Kubaszewski

Wright State University

Middle level students are at a place in life where they are most concerned with how others perceive them, and this often results in students forming their identity based on what they think others want them to be. It is important for students in the middle to have the opportunity to think about and develop their own true identity. Attend this session and take away short, but powerful activities that can be implemented in any classroom that allows students to explore the questions: Who am I? What do I stand for? What do I believe in?

*Juniper A*

**Read on the Edge of Your Life!**

Rebecca Nagelhout

King Junior High

Want to get your kids (and your community) to read more? This session includes over 15 ideas of how to make your IR program soar. The discussion will include practical ideas you can implement all year long.

*Juniper B*

**The Positive Posse - Creating a positive culture in your building**

Meredith Stanton, Erin Calabrese, and Karen Pissini

North Royalton Middle School

Audience members will gain ideas that they can take with them to immediately start incorporating within their school building in order to develop a positive culture amongst staff and students.

*Juniper C*

**Deconstructing Depth of Knowledge: A Method and Model for Deeper Teaching and Learning**

Erik Francis

What exactly is depth of knowledge? How do Webb's DOK Levels describe four different ways students can demonstrate their learning? Why is the DOK Wheel inaccurate? Learn how depth of knowledge determines the cognitive demand of academic standards, activities, and assessments and how Webb's DOK Levels can be used as a method and model for delivering instruction, responding to intervention, and extending student learning.

*Lilac*

**Math Roundtable Discussion**

OMLA Executive Board Members

Join other educators in a roundtable discussion to share advice and ideas. The goal of the roundtable is for participants to take away new perspectives and information. This session is moderated by current OMLA Board Members.

*Magnolia - This Session is Designed for Preservice Teachers*

**Getting Hired!**

Andy Gibson and Brenda Svec

Amherst Junior High

We would like to have an open forum with our college students on how to land a job. We will offer effective ways to set themselves apart from other candidates starting from their college experiences, summer jobs, and interview techniques.

**Session IV**  
**2:45 PM - 3:35 PM**

*Regent Ballroom 1*

**Creating Advisory to Support SEL**

Brent Carter and Jessica Swaldo  
Indian Valley Middle School

We have re-worked our master schedule to create Advisory time for our middle school students. We use this time to build relationships and meet SEL requirements. Advisory has quickly become the highlight of our students' (and teachers') day.

*Regent Ballroom 2*

**YA Development: Who Are These People, And What Do I Do With Them?**

Katie Powell  
AMLE

If you've ever met a young adolescent, you already know they're different from children just a bit younger or teens a bit older than them. This stage of development is wonderfully unique! Join Katie Powell, Director for Middle Level Programs at AMLE, to learn more about the physical, cognitive, and emotional development of our students and the implications for us as educators.

*Regent Ballroom 3*

**STOP: Students and Teachers Observing Progress, a new way to “check-in” with each and every student in your building**

Jenna Hill, Bridget Fiore, Matt Salyer, and Hillary Waugh  
Bellbrook Middle School

SEL, PBIS, RTI- need a simple but effective way to meet all of these needs? We've got it for you! Our STOP form was created to help our RTI team find a way to check in with each student in our building on a bi-weekly basis. This one form gives students the opportunity to self-assess their grades, attendance, and social-emotional health AND ask for help in an anonymous fashion. You will hear from the team that started it all and then how two administrators made it their own in two other school districts.

*Easton Ballroom C*

**Student Mentoring: Harnessing a Middle School's Greatest Untapped Energy Source**

Eric Bartkowski and Michelle Kenney  
Olmsted Falls Middle School

When implemented effectively, peer-to-peer mentoring programs promote a positive culture and community within the middle school setting. Join us as we share the journey and evolution of our Bulldog Buddies peer mentoring program: From its humble, patchwork beginnings, to a remote learning pivot, all while fully realizing and utilizing a middle school's greatest energy source: 7th Graders!



*Easton Ballroom D*

**One Life to Love (the importance of developing and sustaining meaningful relationships with students)**

Brian Bruce

Memorial Junior High School

This presentation is designed to highlight the importance of developing a positive rapport with students and their parents while providing strategies to help them develop these rapport. I will connect with participants by discussing personal experiences growing up as a child and currently as a teacher at Memorial Junior High School. I will break down how domestic violence, death, emotional/physical/sexual abuse, and mental health affect our students. This presentation will remind educators that we have a responsibility to not only teach academics but to also address the social-emotional issues and needs of our students to give them confidence and provide them with a sense of hope. By inspiring and motivating our students and their families to make a positive change in their lives today, educators are encouraged to remember that everyone has just one life to love.

*Easton Ballroom E*

**Empower and Inspire #theCrestwoodWay**

Patrick Griffis and Sherry Peters

Crestwood Intermediate School

Crestwood Intermediate School uses many resources and opportunities that inspire teachers and students to feel empowered at school creating teacher and student leaders. This leadership model has created shared ownership in our school's successes and has helped teachers and students feel part of the educational process. Shared leadership brings more stakeholders to the table allowing the school to truly represent and empower all.

*Juniper A*

**Coaching & Caring ~ Loving ALL the People**

Carrie Sanchez

Port Clinton Middle School

The role of a school leader stretches far beyond the organizational structure and functionality of the school. The role of the school leader even stretches beyond the classroom instructional experience. The role of the school leader is to care for ALL of the people in the school community. In this presentation, you will hear about creative ways to connect and collaborate with a variety of people in a variety of ways.

*Juniper B*

**Administrator Legal Update**

Heather Powell

OASSA

Join Heather Powell, Associate Executive Director of OASSA, for a session designed to provide current administrators with a legal update and an opportunity to engage in discussion with people from other districts from around the state.

*Juniper C*

**Inquiring Minds: Using Good Questions to Promote Inquiry**

Erik Francis

What is a good question - or rather, how does a good question challenge students to demonstrate different levels of thinking and understand and use their depth of knowledge in different contexts? Learn how to rephrase the performance objectives of academic standards and learning targets into good questions that can be used to "hook" students' curiosity and interest to learn, assess and build foundational knowledge and skills, deepen understanding and awareness, and develop students' education, experience, and endowments into personal expertise.

*Lilac*

**Science & Social Studies Roundtable Discussion**

OMLA Executive Board Members

Join other educators in a roundtable discussion to share advice and ideas. The goal of the roundtable is for participants to take away new perspectives and information. This session is moderated by current OMLA Board Members.

*Magnolia*

**Chat Time with Jack Berckemeyer**

Jack Berckemeyer

Needing some free advice regarding your middle school? Seeking some ideas and solutions- Jack can help. Set up a time at the registration desk - there are several 30-minute slots available during the conference.

**Ohio Middle Level Association - Friday, October 29 - Columbus Hilton at Easton**

<b>ROOM</b>	<b>Session I 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM</b>	<b>Session II 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM</b>	<b>Session III 1:10 PM - 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Session IV 2:10 PM - 3:00 PM</b>
Regent Ballroom 1	Supporting Student Readers and Writers in Every Class <b>J. Gonzalez</b>	Driving Your Instruction with Unlimited Data <b>K. Bauer</b>	Cultivating a Healthy Classroom Climate <b>J. Gonzalez</b>	Boredom Busters: Transform Worksheets, Lectures, and Grading Into Engaging Learning Experiences <b>K. Powell AMLE</b>
Regent Ballroom 2	Math in the Middle <b>M. Novak</b>	Courageous Conversations With the Community, Staff, and Students <b>M. Love</b>	Taming of the Team <b>J. Berckemeyer</b>	Leading a School from the Classroom <b>A. Hartley</b>
Regent Ballroom 3	Ditching the Textbook: Engaging Social Studies <b>J. Cox</b>	Character and Leadership Development 2.0 <b>A. Olds</b>	Building High-Quality ELA Common Assessments (Part 1) <b>B. Brunswick</b>	Building High-Quality ELA Common Assessments (Part 2) <b>B. Brunswick</b>
Easton Ballroom C	PHabulous PHablab <b>A. Cardinal</b>	22 Two-Minute Tech Tips <b>R. Evarts</b>	Genius Hour <b>C. Powers</b>	Language Acquisition, Academic Growth, and Brain Science <b>C. Ferguson</b>
Easton Ballroom D	The ABCs of Our Advisory Program <b>C. Mullen</b>	Creating a School-Wide Literacy Plan <b>M. Bradley</b>	SEL Activities to Promote Global Citizenship <b>L. Diaco</b>	Data to Drive Instruction, Engagement to Produce Results <b>J. Grega</b>
Easton Ballroom E	Strategies to engage and Motivate Reluctant Writers <b>H. Chai</b>	Making Middle Math Motivating <b>K. Kopp</b>	Anti-Bias Curriculum <b>L. Vance</b>	Quiet on the Set! Taking Morning Announcements to the Next Level <b>S. Deitrick</b>
Juniper A	Using Daily Check-Ins to Network and Monitor SEL <b>N. Brunner</b>	How to Use Book Clubs as Professional Development <b>A. Bryant</b>	Context is your Superpower <b>B. McIntosh</b>	Extinguish the Dumpster Fire! <b>C. Huffman</b>
Juniper B	Intervention Specialist Roundtable Discussion	Related Arts Roundtable Discussion	Motivating and Managing the Unmotivated <b>J. Kauffman</b>	Leveraging Mastery-Based Learning to Improve Student Outcomes <b>A. Starinsky</b>
Juniper C	A Year of Recovery: SEL Top 10 <b>V. Gaier</b>	Student Safety and Well Being in a Digital Playground <b>R. Gasparro</b>	Pear Deck 101 <b>J. Cooper</b>	Collaboration in the Classroom and Beyond <b>M. Cicerchi</b>
Lilac	<b>8:00 - 8:25 Chat Time With Jack</b> <b>8:30 - 8:55 Chat Time With Jack</b>	<b>9:00 - 9:25 Chat Time With Jack</b> <b>9:30 - 9:55 Chat Time With Jack</b>	Middle School Kids These Days <b>M. Fulks</b>	Placement Matters <b>M. Shauer</b>

**Session I**  
**8:00 AM - 8:50 AM**

*Regent Ballroom 1*

**Supporting Student Readers and Writers in Every Class**

Jennifer Gonzalez

Teachers in all subjects are expected to support student reading and writing. In this session, we will explore why students need literacy support in every class, the misconceptions that keep teachers in non-ELA content areas from effectively delivering this support, and the surprisingly simple strategies teachers can use to support student reading and writing in any content area.

*Regent Ballroom 2*

**Math in the Middle**

Missy Novak

Strongsville Middle School

Research shows that students retain more information if they are actively involved in their learning.

This presentation will share a variety of interactive activities for the middle school math classroom. Help your students become more successful in their learning and get them out of their seats to learn math by keeping them engaged, focused, and active in their math work.

*Regent Ballroom 3*

**Ditching the Textbook: Engaging Social Studies**

Jared Cox

Wynford Middle School

Make your social studies textbook ancient history! This presentation will focus on bringing the middle school social studies curriculum to life. Attendees will be provided with ideas to keep students engaged and interested while learning about past civilizations and other social studies concepts.

*Easton Ballroom C*

**PHabulous PHablab**

Andy Cardinal and Mandi Matchinga

Cardinal Middle School

Cardinal Middle School's "PHablab" was recognized as NC3's "#1 School on the Rise" for the 2020-2021 school year, out of over 1,000 schools. In partnership with NC3, all CMS students are educated in the use of the 3D printer, laser cutter, and CNC machine; most receive certification in their use by the end of their courses. CMS students are doing great things in the PHablab, and we'd like to share that with you.

*Easton Ballroom D*

**The ABC'S of Our Advisory Program**

Chris Mullen and Erin Trigg

St. Ambrose High School Prep.

We will provide our example of how adding advisory to our middle school program helped to improve school culture, behavior, and ultimately student engagement. Data to back it up and resources and suggestions to begin an advisory program at your school.

Ohio Middle Level Association State Conference | #OMLA2021

*Easton Ballroom E*

**Strategies to Engage & Motivate Reluctant Writers**

Hannah Chai

Teacher Education at Wright State University

Engaging reluctant writers is the goal of many ELA teachers. Writing can serve as a powerful tool by which to learn, and so it is important that all students are engaged as writers. Grounded in teacher research, this session serves to provide concrete strategies and ideas to make teaching writing more engaging and motivating for reluctant writers.

*Juniper A*

**Using Daily Check-Ins to Network and Monitor SEL**

Noelia Brunner, Margaurita Cueva, and Megan Linder

Ridge Junior School

It is often a struggle for teachers to find the time to create a positive culture, manage students' emotional needs, and still cover their content. In this session, we will discuss how teachers can effectively and efficiently incorporate daily check-in questions to build relationships with students both face to face and remotely, as well as in order to provide an opportunity for increasing student self-awareness and academic achievement. By the end of this session, you will have access to the research supporting the need for SEL-based practices in daily activities and tools to begin utilizing the strategies upon return to your classroom.

*Juniper B*

**Intervention Specialist Roundtable Discussion**

OMLA Executive Board Members

Join other educators in a roundtable discussion to share advice and ideas. The goal of the roundtable is for participants to take away new perspectives and information. This session is moderated by current OMLA Board Members.

*Juniper C*

**A Year of Recovery: SEL Top 10**

Veronica Gaier and Sarah Jane Magoteaux

Lehman High School and Piqua Intermediate School

Feeling anxious about school? Wondering how to bridge the learning and emotional gap? Trying to reach your students without falling apart in the process? Come to our session and learn our tried and true Top 10 strategies for embedding Social Emotional Learning in your classroom during this year of recovery where everything seems new all over again!

*Lilac*

**Chat Time with Jack Berckemeyer**

Jack Berckemeyer

Needing some free advice regarding your middle school? Seeking some ideas and solutions- Jack can help. Set up a time at the registration desk - there are several 30-minute slots available during the conference.

**Session II**  
**9:00 AM - 9:50 AM**

*Regent Ballroom 1*

**Driving Your Instruction With Unlimited Data!**

Katie Bauer and Meghan Lester  
Ridge Junior School

The emphasis on using data to drive instruction has been brought to the forefront as a result of the updated OTEs rubric. So, are you one of the many that may be looking for ways to use data to provide personalized instruction but need a starting place? This presentation will provide manageable ways to use data in a personalized learning environment. Using language arts and social studies lessons as examples, you will see accessible tools that can be used in any curriculum.

*Regent Ballroom 2*

**Courageous Conversations with the Community, Staff, and Students**

Mike Love and Steve Deitrick  
Kimpton Middle School

Our goal at Kimpton Middle School is to Wage Hope for our students. We determined that as a staff team we wanted to make sure that we are Waging Hope for all of our students, including our students from diverse backgrounds. Our presentation will include the steps that we took to make our middle school a more inclusive environment.

*Regent Ballroom 3*

**Character & Leadership Development 2.0. It's All About the Process!**

Andy Olds  
Kings Junior High School

It's one thing to talk about how to experience and develop character & leadership in your classroom. But there is no greater way to learn than "doing" character & leadership! Join us to learn and to experience for yourself the power of "doing" character & leadership and then learning how to help students "process" their experiences as it translates to real life!

*Easton Ballroom C*

**22 Two-Minute Tech Tips**

Ryan Evarts  
Port Clinton Middle School

This fast-paced session will take you on a journey through 22 different tech tips that I have discovered over my last seven years as a middle school teacher, many of which were learned mid-pandemic with the implementation of virtual learning across many districts. I will spend approximately two minutes on each tech tip to get through everything and expose you to as much as possible within the session time frame. A linked presentation will be sent to all attendees with all tips and resources discussed within the session.

*Easton Ballroom D*

**Creating a School-Wide Literacy Plan**

Matt Bradley

Highland Middle School

Highland Middle School embarked on the journey to create and implement a school-wide literacy plan. Learn what the HMS literacy team has learned and accomplished so far, as well as the next steps in their journey.

*Easton Ballroom E*

**Making Middle Math Motivating**

Kayla Kopp and Sheila Vogley

Tuscarawas Valley Middle School

Do you ever have a student seem disengaged in the classroom while testing? Project-based math assessments are a fun way to get students immersed in math without even realizing it. Learn ways to incorporate projects in your classroom in place of "normal" summative assessments. If students are engaged while doing their project, it is a win for everybody!

*Juniper A*

**How to Use Book Clubs as Professional Development: The Moral Obligation of Teaching YA Literature**

Alyssa Bryant and Megan Agresta

John Carroll University Student Teachers

Book clubs (or literature circles) are powerful tools for instructing students, but they are just as powerful for instructing teachers, which we have learned in a Young Adult (YA) book club that took place at our university. From that book club, we have developed tips for running a YA book club for teachers that will aid them in selecting texts, implementing texts, and understanding both themselves and their students on a deeper level. We used a framework for the club that encouraged reading through the Youth Lens and with a culturally conscious mindset, which led the club to choose inclusive texts based on cultures, abilities, races, etc. Many preservice teachers found the model and structure of the club to be beneficial since it provided an open space for them to learn about and understand their future students. Thus, they began to feel more confident in their ability to use and discuss YA literature in their own classrooms, so we encourage both preservice teachers and in-service teachers to follow our club model and indulge deeply with the YA genre with one another in order to professionally develop.

*Juniper B*

**Related Arts Roundtable Discussion**

OMLA Executive Board Members

Join other educators in a roundtable discussion to share advice and ideas. The goal of the roundtable is for participants to take away new perspectives and information. This session is moderated by current OMLA Board Members.

*Juniper C*

**Pear Deck 101**

Jena Cooper

Pear Deck - Peardeck + GoGuardian is a business partner of OMLA.

Learn how to create interactive lessons and achieve 100% student engagement with Pear Deck! This session will cover how to add formative assessments, polls, and interactive activities, and how to use Pear Deck Templates to enhance your lessons. You'll also see examples of best practices to help cultivate an engaging classroom with Pear Deck in any learning environment.

*Lilac*

**Chat Time with Jack Berckemeyer**

Jack Berckemeyer

Needing some free advice regarding your middle school? Seeking some ideas and solutions-Jack can help. Set up a time at the registration desk - there are several 30-minute slots available during the conference.

**Session III  
1:10 PM - 2:00 PM**

*Regent Ballroom 1*

**Cultivating a Healthy Classroom Climate**

Jennifer Gonzalez

The emotional climate of a classroom significantly impacts students' academic achievement. If you struggle with classroom management, unmotivated students, or lessons that just don't go well, the problem might have something to do with climate. This session examines five factors that affect classroom climate—teacher mindset, relationship building, academic safety, inclusiveness, and teacher language—and offers specific ways you can make improvements in each area.

*Regent Ballroom 2*

**Taming of the Team**

Jack Berckemeyer

Being on a middle school team can be filled with great joys, struggles, and frustrations. It can also be a trying time for those involved in the meeting. This practical session focuses on the real-life issues surrounding teaming. We will provide informative examples to help with the effective use of team time and how teams can work together to deal with kids, curriculum, and professional development. You might even laugh at Jack's descriptions of the characteristics of a team member. Based on the book, *Taming of the Team*.

*Regent Ballroom 3*

**Building High-Quality ELA Common Assessments Aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards (Part 1 of 2)**

Brad Brunswick

Indian Hill Elementary School

In this session, learn how to design a standards-based assessment that meets the language arts rigor required of Ohio's Learning Standards since the revision process in 2017. Using an evidence-centered design, Ohio's Test Specifications, and characteristics for generating



high-quality items reflecting different types of technology-enhanced items, participants will learn how to write an aligned assessment using a team-created assessment or released item banks connected to the work of state-level departments, assessment committees, and Cambium Assessment. If time permits, participants will be able to explore and critique a previous assessment where students are underperforming or exceeding expectations while taking a stab at revising their own aligned questions by accepting items as they appear, revising the item, or completely rejecting the item to reflect the same parameters the Ohio Department of Education assessment committees make when making crucial decisions about materials linked to intermediate and middle level grades who administer the yearly ELA Ohio's State Tests. Participants are encouraged to bring department-level teams to generate rough drafts of blueprints, release guides, and/or rationale keys so these assessments can be purposefully implemented in the 2021-2022 school year. Extensive use of free technology tools and resources will be provided to help support the assessment design process.

*Easton Ballroom C*

**Genius Hour: Connecting the Dots**

Cassidy Powers and Natalie Horvath  
Crestwood Intermediate School

Genius Hour is a way for students to explore their passions and create a final product to share what they have experienced through the design process. Passion projects give students an opportunity to learn by doing and make real-world connections outside of the classroom. In this session, you will learn how to incorporate Genius Hour into different school settings.

*Easton Ballroom D*

**SEL Activities to Promote Global Citizenship and Global Learning**

Laura Diaco  
Warren Middle School

Combining SEL with global learning can deepen students' interpersonal skills while honing their knowledge and awareness of world issues. In this hands-on session, discover motivational lessons to encourage social and emotional learning in the middle school science and social studies classrooms while addressing current events around the global environment, population trends, resource use, and human well-being. Engage in classroom simulations, games and discussion of civic engagement projects all matched to Ohio's Learning Standards.

*Easton Ballroom E*

**Anti-Bias Curriculum: Innovative Ways to Teach Content Standards and Inspire Social Change**

Lindsay Vance  
Lourdes University/Tiffin University

This presentation will discuss the ways in which content standards can be blended with anti-bias learning objectives. When taught simultaneously, students will be better prepared to live in a diverse society. This presentation discusses the "isms" plaguing our society and gives innovative possibilities for bringing issues of social justice into the classroom.

Juniper A

**Context is Your Superpower**

Brandon McIntosh

Princeton Community Middle School

Information is good to have and you should work towards obtaining good information. Having good information does not activate your superpower in the classroom. Being able to relate and touch a generation of youth every day gives you the opportunity and advantage, to make a difference. Context is your superpower and becomes your ability to influence and impact.

*Juniper B*

**Motivating and Managing the Unmotivated - Especially Boys**

Josh Kauffman

Bluffton Middle School

"That kid." We all have had them at one time or another. This presentation will highlight the work of Brian Mender and Kim Campbell who both do an exceptional job of giving real strategies to help teachers get "that kid" engaged and dialed into the educational experience. You might also find that it recharges your own battery to handle those most difficult students in your classroom and do it with a smile!

*Juniper C*

**Student Safety and Well-Being in a Digital Playground**

Rocco Gasparro

Gaggle - *Gaggle is a business partner of OMLA.*

Today's children are growing up in a digital playground. Their primary learning modalities are grounded in technology that encompasses both their private and public lives, as well as their future educational and professional careers. Students cannot learn if they do not feel safe and learn better when social-emotionally well. A child left unattended in a playground and a child online can face the same dangers: bullying, suicide, drug and alcohol addiction, and acts of violence. Hear Ohio district advocates and Rocco Gasparro, Gaggle's Regional Sales Manager, discuss the key components of student and school safety, their experiences with districts like yours, and solutions for prevention. Together we can keep our students safe and engaged in any learning environment, whether that be virtual or brick and mortar.

*Lilac*

**Middle School Kids These Days**

Mindy Fulks, Kylie Lyons, Connor Reed, Grace Mceldowney, and Grace Swander

Wright State University

They don't sit up straight at their desks. Their arms are too long for their bodies. They are loud and have never-ending drama. Some have baby faces, some are growing their first mustache. They are the most misunderstood group on the planet. Middle school kids deserve caring adults (with a sense of humor) who understand and appreciate them. We will be sharing Ten Things MS kids would like for their teachers to know.

**Session IV**  
**2:10 PM - 3:00 PM**

*Regent Ballroom 1*

**Boredom Busters: Transform Worksheets, Lectures, and Grading into Engaging Learning Experiences**

Katie Powell  
AMLE

Sometimes we have the perfect activity to support a lesson. And sometimes...we don't. What do we do when our lesson plan just reads, "page 147"? Boredom Busters are low- or no-prep activities that transform our ordinary worksheets and lectures into novel, exciting, engaging learning experiences, perfect for any grade level or content area. Curious? Your students will be too. And they'll want to come back for more tomorrow. Bonus: In celebration of Katie's upcoming NEW book, Frustration Busters, learn a new way to look at common classroom management frustrations!

*Regent Ballroom 2*

**Leading a School from the Classroom**

Adam Hartley  
Perkins High School

Too often teachers feel that they have limited impact on the school because they don't have a "Title." This is far from the truth! I'll share some ways that classroom teachers can have a positive impact on their school's environment, and then give you some tips for taking your next step as a leader.

*Regent Ballroom 3*

**Building High-Quality ELA Common Assessments Aligned to Ohio's Learning Standards (Part 2 of 2)**

Brad Brunswick  
Indian Hill Elementary School

In this session, learn how to design a standards-based assessment that meets the language arts rigor required of Ohio's Learning Standards since the revision process in 2017. Using an evidence-centered design, Ohio's Test Specifications, and characteristics for generating high-quality items reflecting different types of technology-enhanced items, participants will learn how to write an aligned assessment using a team-created assessment or released item banks connected to the work of state-level departments, assessment committees, and Cambium Assessment. If time permits, participants will be able to explore and critique a previous assessment where students are underperforming or exceeding expectations while taking a stab at revising their own aligned questions by accepting items as they appear, revising the item, or completely rejecting the item to reflect the same parameters the Ohio Department of Education assessment committees make when making crucial decisions about materials linked to intermediate and middle level grades who administer the yearly ELA Ohio's State Tests. Participants are encouraged to bring department-level teams to generate rough drafts of blueprints, release guides, and/or rationale keys so these assessments can be purposefully implemented in the 2021-2022 school year. Extensive use of free technology tools and resources will be provided to help support the assessment design process.

*Easton Ballroom C*

Ohio Middle Level Association State Conference | #OMLA2021

## **Language Acquisition, Academic Growth, and Brain Science**

Celeste Ferguson and Emily Futransky  
Fugees Academy

In the middle grades, we often have the privilege of teaching students with diverse language and academic backgrounds. In this session, participants will build their understanding of how the brain works in order to increase language acquisition and academic growth. Participants will leave the session with strategies they can use with any curriculum to cultivate equity in the classroom.

*Easton Ballroom D*

### **Data to Drive Instruction, Engagement to Produce Results**

Jon Grega  
Northern Buckeye Education Council

All too often data leads students down a one-way path that leaves students longing for relevance and excitement. Data to Drive Instruction, Engagement to Produce Results will demonstrate through hands-on practice the process of using data to inform engaging instruction. Instructional practices will be shared that capitalize on data, engage students, and differentiate learning. You will walk away with tools to use immediately in the classroom.

*Easton Ballroom E*

### **Quiet on the Set! Taking Morning Announcements to the Next Level**

Steve Deitrick and Leslie Haynam  
Kimpton Middle School

We will discuss ways to use simple technology to create interactive videos and morning announcements to showcase all that is happening in your middle school; providing valuable technical experiences for students along with public speaking opportunities. These opportunities can be offered in the form of a club (Morning Announcements) or even an elective course.

*Juniper A*

### **Extinguish the Dumpster Fire!**

Craig Huffman  
Retired Educator

Would you like to extinguish 70+% of your classroom discipline problems? In one hour, walk away with research-based management techniques (not gimmicks) that you can use on Monday!

*Juniper B*

### **Leveraging Mastery-Based Learning to Improve Student Outcomes**

Alyssa Starinsky

Education loves the idea of magic bullets, but spoiler alert- there are none! While there are many, many pedagogical frameworks out there, using a mastery-based framework is not a gimmick, as much as it is a shift in thinking. By leveraging mastery-based learning, student grades will reflect their proficiency of skills, rather than regurgitation of content. Mastery-based learning is not “the key,” but a key to empowering students to be successful, and learning to deepen.

*Juniper C*

**Collaboration in the Classroom and Beyond**

Melissa Cicerchi, Flo Brett, and Heather Lee

Effective Leadership Academy - *Effective Leadership Academy is a business partner of OMLA*

ELA recognizes that success is rarely achieved in isolation, but rather through teamwork. If young people are to thrive in the 21st century, they must learn how to work effectively with others. ELA's workshop will help participants learn how to teach youth the essential art of teamwork so that they can be better prepared for workforce and life success.

Effective Leadership Academy invites you to explore how to teach middle schoolers to effectively collaborate and communicate within a team. Reflect on the strengths individuals from diverse backgrounds bring to a group and discover ways to work through common team pitfalls. This dynamic, interactive workshop will have you up out of your seat, learning how the most effective groups work together and how you can empower youth to be effective team players.

*Lilac*

**Placement Matters: The Development of Critical Consciousness in Year-Long Clinical Student Teaching Experiences**

Margaret Schauer

John Carroll University

The action research study presented critically examines curriculum and field placements that support the development of critical consciousness in preservice teachers during year-long student teaching assignments. Research questions included: 1. How do method course curriculum and field placements foster the development of critical consciousness in the clinical year, preservice teacher candidates, as evidenced in reflective journal writing and related course assignments, and 2. What revisions to course curriculum and field placements might better support the development of critical consciousness in future course offerings? Findings and recommendations for future study are discussed.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Present at OMLA2022!</b></p> <p>Scan this QR Code to submit your proposal!</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session Feedback</b></p> <p>Scan this QR Code to fill out our general session &amp; breakout session evaluation form</p> 
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**Join us for #OMLA2022 as *OMLA Celebrates  
50 Years of Excellence in the Middle!***



**Ohio Middle Level Association State Conference**

November 10-11, 2022

The Hyatt, Downtown Columbus

**Keynote Speakers: Jon Gordon & Jack Berckemeyer**

*This golden celebration is one you DO NOT want to miss!*

## #OMLA2022 Keynotes

### Jon Gordon



Jon Gordon's best-selling books and talks have inspired readers and audiences around the world. His principles have been put to the test by numerous Fortune 500 companies, professional and college sports teams, school districts, hospitals, and non-profits. He is the author of 24 books including 12 best sellers and 5 children's books. His books include the timeless classic *The Energy Bus* which has sold over 2 million copies, *The Carpenter* which was a top 5 business book of the year, *Training Camp*, *The Power of Positive Leadership*, *The Power of a Positive Team*, *The Coffee Bean*, *Stay Positive*, and *The Garden*. Jon and his tips have been featured on The Today Show, CNN, CNBC, The Golf Channel,

Fox, and Friends and in numerous magazines and newspapers. His clients include The Los Angeles Dodgers, Campbell's Soup, Dell, Publix, Southwest Airlines, Miami Heat, The Los Angeles Rams, Snapchat, Truist Bank, Clemson Football, Northwestern Mutual, West Point Academy, and more.

Jon is a graduate of Cornell University and holds a Masters in Teaching from Emory University. He and his training/consulting company are passionate about developing positive leaders, organizations and teams.

**Facebook:** Jon Gordon    **Twitter/Instagram:** @jongordon11    **Website:** www.jongordon.com

### Jack Berckemeyer



A nationally recognized presenter, author, and humorist, Jack Berckemeyer, began his career as a middle school teacher in Denver, Colorado. Jack brings his energy, humor, and expertise of the middle level adolescent to all as he helps all of us remember why this job makes a difference!

Are you looking to put a spark back into your teaching? Are you curious about what really makes your students tick? Are you looking for ways to connect with your students? Jack provides ideas and strategies in the areas of connecting with your students, being an adult advocate for kids, and new classroom management strategies.

**Facebook:** Berckemeyer Consulting Group    **Twitter/Instagram** @jberckemeyer

**Website:** www.jackberckemeyer.com

## Ohio Middle Level Association Awards and Recognition



The Ohio Middle Level Association is proud to recognize many deserving middle level educators, students, parents, support staff, and school buildings for their outstanding contributions to middle level education in Ohio. To nominate a deserving individual or school building, please scan the QR code.

**Component Awards** - The purpose of the Ohio Middle Level Association Component Award Recognition Program is to identify and recognize schools that have implemented middle school concept components in an exemplary manner. It is the intention of OMLA that the recognized programs will serve as models for aspiring educators and provide model resources for schools striving to develop, refine or polish components of their middle schools. Recognized schools are open for visitations and encouraged to give presentations at the annual OMLA State Conference.

**Outstanding Middle Level Component Awards are given in the following areas:**

- Advisor/Advisee
- Parent and Community Involvement
- Service Learning
- Student/Staff Recognition
- Interdisciplinary Curriculum
- Scheduling
- Staff Development
- Teaming

**Team of the Year** - The Team of the Year award is the most distinguished honor the Ohio Middle Level Association can bestow upon an interdisciplinary team of middle level teachers to recognize its accomplishments with students and contributions to middle level education. A monetary award of \$1,000.00 will be presented to the team to use in any way it chooses.

**Educator of the Year** - The Educator of the Year award is the most distinguished honor the Ohio Middle Level Association can bestow upon an individual to recognize his or her contributions to middle level education.

**Parent of the Year** - The Parent of the Year is awarded at our annual conference each year. Each year a parent who makes significant contributions of time, service, and leadership to school will be acknowledged with this award.

**Student of the Year** - The Student of the Year Award is intended to recognize young people who exemplify the best of our youth. Students are nominated by a member of the Ohio Middle Level Association.

**Support Staff of the Year** - School support staff play an important role in ensuring students are learning in a safe and supportive learning environment. Each year a support staff member who fosters positive, trusting relationships with staff, students, and parents will be acknowledged with this award.

**Mini-Grants** - The Ohio Middle Level Association is offering competitive mini-grants of \$500 for the development and implementation of exemplary teaming projects that would be replicated year after year. The intent is to provide encouragement to innovative risk-takers who seek to meet the needs of middle level students. This grant is intended to fund the endeavors of teams, not individual teachers.

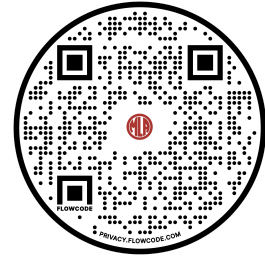


## ENGAGE: Join the OMLA Virtual PD Series

### OMLA Virtual PD - OMLA Team of the Year

November 17, 2021 7:00 PM

Join the 2021 OMLA Team of the Year as they share practices that make the middle level come alive in their team and school. Participants will come away with new ideas and be able to network with other members of the Ohio Middle Level community. Additionally, information will be shared on how you can nominate a worthy middle level team for recognition for this and other awards presented by the Ohio Middle Level Association. Use the QR code to register.

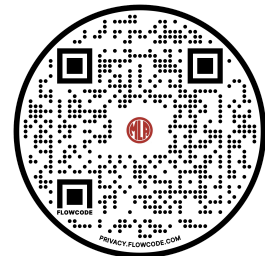


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### OMLA Virtual PD – Trauma-Informed Care

January 19, 2021 7:00 PM

Join Missy McClain from Akron Children’s Hospital as she outlines classroom practices to be aware of with children who have experienced or are currently experiencing trauma in their lives. Missy will provide scientific information as well as practical suggestions that can be implemented in your classroom and school. Use the QR code to register.

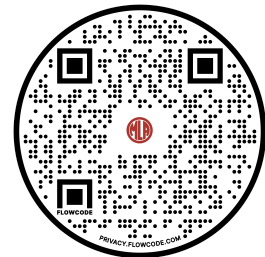


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### OMLA Virtual PD – Diversity and Equity

February 16, 2022 7:00 PM

Join Dr. Sierra Austin, Regional Coordinator for Diversity and Equity at the ESC of Central Ohio, for information and discussion on current issues facing schools and our communities on the topic of equity and inclusion. Dr. Austin will help provide context to current world news and practical advice on how to have meaningful and courageous conversations. Use the QR code to register.

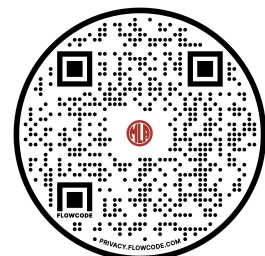


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### OMLA Virtual PD – Celebration of the Middle Level

March 16, 2022 7:00 PM

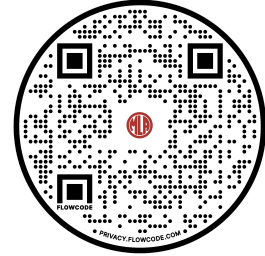
March is Middle Level Recognition month and the Ohio Middle Level Association will be bringing you a special speaker who will highlight the funny, serious, and always fulfilling role of Middle Level Educators and Administrators. This session will be one part inspiration and one part celebrations and we join together in this annual recognition. Use the QR code to register.



## OMLA Virtual PD – Special Education in the Middle

April 20, 2022 7:00 PM

Special Education teachers and paraprofessionals help to provide access to all students at the middle level. These educators and leaders are the foundation for personalized learning and providing an equitable school community. Two members of the Ohio Middle Level board will lead a presentation and conversation about best practices at the middle level and ideas to implement for the 2022-2023 school year. Use the QR code to register.

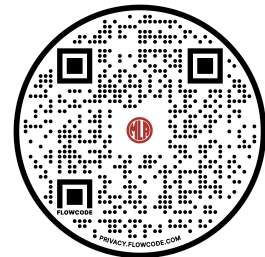


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## OMLA Virtual PD – Teacher Appreciation Celebration

May 18, 2022 7:00 PM

Join the Ohio Middle Level board as we wrap up the year together with recognitions, prizes, and guest speakers who will send us off to our summer break with inspiration and purpose. The end of the year can be stressful, but this event will be about having fun together and connecting with colleagues from around the state as we say goodbye to another school year. Use the QR code to register.



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