

Blueprint for Educational Excellence National Institute

April 14 & 15, 2011
Reading, Massachusetts

Presented by
Reading Public Schools



&



Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

Sponsored by

SMART™



READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Preparing Reading's Youth to Be Respectful and Productive Citizens of a Global Society

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Dear Fellow Educators,

On behalf of the Reading Public Schools, I am delighted to welcome you to our school district and to the Blue Ribbon "Blueprint for Educational Excellence" National Institute. We are excited that the Reading Public Schools is partnering with the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence and SMART Technologies, Inc. to present an institute that will assist us as we all move forward in providing our students with a top-notch 21st century education.

This institute includes keynote addresses by David Warlick, nationally recognized technology specialist and founder of The Landmark Project in North Carolina, educator and humorist Dr. Steve Sobel, and Jason Fulmer, former South Carolina Teacher of the Year. There will be a variety of workshops and "how-to" sessions sharing best practices in the areas of technology, literacy, instructional practices, wellness, and social emotional needs.

The Reading Public Schools has dedicated significant effort over the past several years on our journey toward excellence. As superintendent, I am so proud of the leadership that our administrative team and our faculty have displayed in moving our district forward. Their dedication and hard work have made a difference for our students. We know that we are not alone on this journey and we seek to join you in your journey toward excellence in education.

This institute allows us to build and expand partnerships and share innovative teaching strategies as well as grow a network of educators that share our passion and vision to prepare students for their futures in a 21st century global society. I am confident that you will leave the conference with new ideas that you can bring back to your schools and new colleagues with which to share your journey.

Sincerely,

John F. Doherty

John F. Doherty, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Instilling the passion to learn

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE, INC.

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to Reading, Massachusetts, and to the Blueprint for Educational Excellence National Institute! This is a rare opportunity during our country's economic downturn to share educational excellence with the most outstanding educators in the Northeast and other areas of the United States and to create a plan designed to provide exemplary opportunities for all children and all schools.

My love for children has been a driving force in my life, and I understand the importance of providing all children with the opportunity to succeed. All students do not always have the same opportunities and it is our mission to share our collective knowledge with other educators for the benefit of improving the education of our children. At this institute you will be reminded constantly about your commitment to children as you are introduced to many of the best practices that enable all children to succeed. You also will be inspired throughout this institute by students and teachers from our host district, Reading Public Schools. Let them be a constant reminder of why we do what we do!

People across our land continue to give me hope that, together, we can find ways to improve the quality of life for all people, regardless of where they live, through the power of a quality education. I believe that we will not be measured by the amount of financial wealth we accumulate, but by the wealth of friends and colleagues who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for all people through access to a quality education. We can all be rich by sharing the precious knowledge that we have accumulated to provide exemplary opportunities for all children.

Together, let us join ranks and rededicate ourselves to improving education for all children so that they can become powerful instruments in improving the quality of life in our country. This institute brings together many of the best educators from the Northeast and other areas of the United States. Together, let us pledge ourselves to excellence in education so that all children will be able to bring about positive changes in our great country and throughout the entire globe. The stakes are too high for us not to succeed!

Thank you for all you do for children! We trust that you will be inspired to be the best that you can be – and carry that inspiration back to your students to enrich their lives.

Best regards,

Bart Teal, President/CEO
Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Inc.

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Institute Agenda At-A-Glance

All events will be held at Reading Memorial High School unless otherwise noted.

Day 1

Thursday, April 14, 2011

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 7:00 a.m. | Registration and Continental Breakfast (Cafeteria) |
| 8:00 a.m. | Opening Session (Performing Arts Center) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcoming Remarks• Jason Fulmer, 2004 South Carolina Teacher of the Year |
| 8:45 a.m. | Option 1: School Site Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alice M. Barrows Elementary School• Joshua Eaton Elementary School• Walter S. Parker Middle School• Reading Memorial High School
Option 2: Technology Workshops |
| 11:15 a.m. | Buses Return to Reading Memorial High School
Technology Workshops Conclude |
| 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Lunch (Field House) |
| 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. | Afternoon Opening Session (Performing Arts Center) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remarks –MA Secretary of Education Paul Reville• Keynote Speaker – Dr. Steve Sobel |
| 1:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m. | Concurrent Workshops |
| 1:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m. | “Race to Nowhere” film and discussion (Performing Arts Center) |
| 1:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m. | SMART Board Training Workshops |

Day 2

Friday, April 15, 2011

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|-----------------------|--|
| 7:00 a.m. | Continental Breakfast (Cafeteria) |
| 8:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m. | Keynote Session-David Warlick (Performing Arts Center) |
| 9:45-10:00 a.m. | Break |
| 10:00-11:00 a.m. | Workshop Session A |
| 11:00-11:15 a.m. | Break |
| 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Workshop Session B |
| 12:15-1:30 p.m. | Lunch (Field House) |
| 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. | Workshop Session C |
| 2:30-3:00 p.m. | Closing Session and Raffle (Performing Arts Center) |

All events will be held at Reading Memorial High School unless otherwise noted.

7:00 a.m. **Registration** (Main Entrance)

7:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast** (Cafeteria)

Breakfast sponsored by O'Connor Studios.

8:00 a.m. **Opening Session** (Fine and Performing Arts Center)

Your Master and Mistress of Ceremonies are
Camden Melendy, RMHS Senior and Abigail Vieno, RMHS Sophomore.

Performance

Reading Public Schools All- District Elementary Chorus

under the direction of Alicia McKenney, Al Mosier, and Brittany Bauman,
Elementary Music Teachers

Welcome

Bart Teal, President/CEO - Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence

Jason Fulmer, 2004 South Carolina Teacher of the Year



"Teachers are in the dream-developing business. As an educator, I see my dreams become realities as I help others reach further than they thought they could." Jason Fulmer currently serves as a Program Director at CERRA (Center for Education, Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement) for South Carolina's mentoring and teacher leadership initiatives and brings great enthusiasm and passion for teaching. Fulmer served as the 2004 South Carolina Teacher of the Year. He was also one of four finalists for the 2004 National Teacher of the Year.

8:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m. **Option 1 - School Site Visits**

Select one of these outstanding Reading Public Schools to visit. Buses will depart at approximately 8:45 a.m. Bus loading will be at the main entrance of Reading Memorial High School. Buses will return from schools at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at the Reading Memorial High School Field House.

Elementary Schools

Alice M. Barrows Elementary School

Welcome to the A.M. Barrows Elementary School, home of the Shining Stars! With its dedicated faculty and staff, Barrows prides itself on meeting the needs of its 400 K-5 students through differentiated instruction, inquiry-based learning, and hands-on problem solving in an extraordinary inclusion model. To maintain an effective learning environment in the ever-changing world of education, Barrows' teachers actively participate in and lead professional development opportunities across the curriculum and employ a variety of teaching practices that include block-schedule reading, flexible grouping, Daily 5 and CAFÉ reading instruction model and specialty teaching. Curriculum and technology meld in a cutting-edge display of 21st Century Skills - where *Everyday Mathematics*, *Foundations* Phonics, and guided reading meet SMARTboards, FlipCams, MP3 players, classroom Wikis and Blogs. Learning extends beyond the curriculum with Open Circle practices, Lifelong Guidelines and Lifeskills, a recycling initiative, and a monthly community outreach program. Our inspiring service-oriented Student Council affords children in grades three, four and five the opportunity to become leaders within the school. Collaboration with an active Parent

Teacher Organization and the extended Reading community yields exceptional enrichment opportunities for the students, including an outstanding A.P.P.L.E. extracurricular program, elementary chorus, and Read Across America celebration. With the highest expectations for all learners, this national Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School proudly serves as a lifelong learning environment for students and staff as well as for aspiring educators from leading New England colleges and universities.

Joshua Eaton Elementary School

Joshua Eaton Elementary School brings to life an enthusiasm for teaching and learning second to none. With 450 students and a faculty and staff of over 60 members, this school prides itself in continuously identifying new ways to meet the needs of all students. This year Joshua Eaton is excited to have a pre-school classroom in the building. This makes us the only elementary school that is Pre-K to 5. Teachers have embraced technology and are truly integrating it within all areas of the curriculum through the use of SMARTBoards, computers on wheels, wikis, blogs, and research projects. There is an emphasis on professional development, collaboration, and lifelong learning. With a philosophy of continuous improvement through the Blue Ribbon standards, new initiatives have been designed to strengthen the sense of school-wide community such as the student recognition and school wide core values program and extracurricular activities that include Lego Robotics, Student Council, Chorus, and Math Olympiad. Teachers participate in data analysis meetings and have developed a unique flexible reading instructional model and a block schedule which have proven to be quite successful. Students of all ages are engaged in hands-on learning which connects them to the world beyond their classrooms with an emphasis on 21st century skills. There is a strong curriculum in place that includes the *Foundations* program, guided reading, and *Everyday Mathematics*. There are many opportunities for enrichment through a wide variety of PTO sponsored programs, field trips and projects that support community outreach such as the Senior Tea, annual Veterans Day program, and food drives. Joshua Eaton School is proud of the level of educational excellence it has attained and continues to light the way for others as a national Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School where students come first.

Middle School

Walter S. Parker Middle School

Walter S. Parker Middle School is a New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) Spotlight School, a Turning Points 2000 School and a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, serving 590 students in grades 6-8, located in Reading, Massachusetts. Students are members of grade level teams where they are taught Math, Science, English Language Arts and Social Studies in a six-day rotating schedule. In addition to the core subjects listed above students participate in the fine and performing arts, wellness classes and enrichment electives. The community strives to maintain a school culture that balances a rigorous and engaging learning community with a child-centered environment that honors the individual talents and challenges of every child. In the middle school years, students face some of the most dramatic physical, social and emotional growth of their lives. Thus, it is the responsibility of this school, in partnership with parents, to teach critical skills and provide the adult guidance that will help students grow to lead confident, responsible and productive lives.

The school and district leadership recognizes the Turning Points 2000 principles and practices and more recently the Blue Ribbon Standards of Critical Performance of Excellence in Schools. The nine standards are Student Focus and Support, School Organization and Culture, Challenging Standards and Curriculum, Active Teaching and Learning, Technology Integration, Professional Community, Leadership and Educational Vitality, School, Family, and Community Partnerships, Indicators of Success. Additionally, teacher leaders at Parker Middle School are trained PLC Coaches who lead and facilitate teacher groups that examine student work, research best practices in education and resolve dilemmas using protocols. Our unique teacher led professional development model is a testament to our commitment to learning. Our commitment to creating learning opportunities for teachers and students is our greatest priority.

High School

Reading Memorial High School

After the successful completion of a three-year building project in 2007, Reading Memorial High School (RMHS) is enjoying the benefits of that reconstruction. Located 15 miles north of Boston, with an enrollment of 1,250 students from grades 9-12 and a faculty of over 100 professionals, the school community has made a strong commitment to engaging in curriculum, instruction, and assessment strategies that are enhanced by state of the art facilities and technological resources. Faculty have devoted numerous professional hours to integrate class lessons with SMART Board expertise as well as an ever growing array of technological tools as a way to help students develop critical thinking skills and creative abilities to meet the demands of the 21st century. Learning within and outside of the classroom continues to flourish with the expanded use of online resources, presentation tools, databases, and collaborative work spaces. RMHS students also take advantage of online learning opportunities through our association with Virtual High School.

Over the last decade RMHS has developed a reputation for balancing an array of challenging academics with an award winning music program, a prolific drama organization, a strong athletic program and a broad range of other co-curricular clubs and organizations. This reputation is a focal point upon which students are challenged to become active participants in all facets of this vibrant school community. RMHS students certainly meet this challenge.

The process of school improvement is on-going at RMHS. The following goals have been identified as areas of focus in the RMHS School Improvement Plan:

- Through ongoing curricular team collaboration and examination of data, teachers will develop educational opportunities that will advance student learning of curricular content and 21st century skills within a challenging standards-based curriculum.
- Educate the school community about factors contributing to a safe, healthy, respectful and socially responsible school environment.
- Increase opportunities for the school's connection to the community and student volunteerism within the community.

RMHS recently initiated a restructured use of professional development time designed to facilitate sustained collaboration both within and across disciplines. As a result, exciting academic opportunities have been launched that have responded to student needs and interest including a co-taught History of Epidemic Disease course connecting social studies and scientific curricula, new science offerings in Conceptual Physics, Honors Engineering and planning in progress for Environmental Science, enhanced Web 2.0 Computer Applications as a course offering and embedded across the curriculum, and an exciting new Computer Programming elective. An Advisory Program and the Upper Connections (peer mentoring) Program for freshmen have enhanced the transition of our newest students to the high school. Project-based assessment strategies are employed across the curriculum with corresponding school wide standards based assessment rubrics designed to enhance student learning. Global awareness has been highlighted with ongoing French and Spanish exchanges and a new connection with visitors from Beijing, China.

In its 3rd year of operation, the Reading Cooperative Bank RMHS branch provides our students with an authentic learning opportunity that connects academic study with real world experiences. An expanded Career & Community Service Internship Program takes students beyond the physical walls of our school to apply their learning. Partnerships with local cable station RCTV and RISE Preschool provide internship opportunities with real curricular connections. A unique Senior Project pilot program couples travel to Iceland with advanced investigation into ecology and geography. Expansion of Senior Project opportunities are planned for implementation for next year.

RMHS has also provided the opportunity to showcase both time-honored traditions and new events, including Future Freshman Nights, Spring Awards, annual Arts Festival, and Night in New Orleans. The Performing Arts Center is the perfect venue for five major productions by the Drama Club each year including musicals and theater of social change as well as an improvisation troupe and student written plays. RMHS proudly hosts concerts and music festivals, such as this year's NESBA state level marching and jazz band competitions. The RMHS community also takes pride in hosting both league and state academic and athletic events. We are proud of our athletic success with numerous tournament level teams, a state

championship in girls' swimming, and two consecutive appearances at the high school Super Bowl for football.

Once again, we are pleased and honored to host the Blue Ribbon Schools of National Institute for Educational Excellence conference and hope you will join us for this exciting collaboration!

8:45-11:30 a.m.

Option 2 – Technology Workshops (Preregistration Required)

11:30 a.m.

Buses Return to Reading Memorial High School

11:30- a.m.-4:00 p.m.

SMART Classroom of the 21st Century Open House (Room 222)

The SMART Technologies Classroom of the 21st Century that will be set-up is designed to show educators the possibilities with the integrated technologies provided by SMART Technologies that are in use in classrooms around the world. These technologies include the Integrated SMART Board 600iGen3 system which includes a front-projection SMART Board and built-in overhead projector, the SMART Document Camera which runs in and is controlled through the SMART Notebook software and the SMART Response Interactive Response System which allows for formative and summative assessment and also runs in the SMART Notebook software.

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Lunch (Field House)

Music provided by Coolidge Middle School Chimes under the direction of Cheryl Webster, Teacher, Coolidge Middle School

12:30 p.m.

General Session: (*Fine and Performing Arts Center*)

Welcome

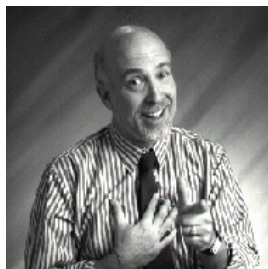
Emcees Camden Melendy and Abigail Vieno, RMHS students

Remarks

MA Secretary of Education Paul Reville

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Steve Sobel



"You're A Piece of Work! Celebrate Joy, Passion and Influence"

A wonderfully crafted presentation that truly pays honor to the tremendous influence we have as educators and "guides to the future." Dr. Steve Sobel will also enrapture you with his contagious energy, humor and passion for our students and profession.

1:45-3:15 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops (various classrooms)

1:45-3:15 p.m.

"Race to Nowhere" film (Performing Arts Center)

Facilitator: Joanne King, Teacher, Wood End School

The film's website describes it as featuring "the heartbreaking stories of young people who have been pushed to the brink, educators who are burned out and parents who are trying to do what's best for their children."

1:45-3:45 p.m.

SMART Board Basics: Location, Rm. 344

Presenters: Meg Powers,, Teacher, Parker Middle School and April Goran, Teacher, RMHS

This hands-on workshop focuses on the beginner skills needed to enhance your curriculum and engage all students using the SMART Interactive White Board. Investigate the role that

SMART Notebook software can play in your lessons. This session (Level 1) covers the SMART Board™ Interactive White Board fundamentals, including Ink Aware applications (MS Office) in Notebook 10, SMART Notebook 10 software basics, and additional SMART resources.

1:45-3:45 p.m.

Workshop “Taking a SMART Notebook lesson from Blah to Aha!”

Presenter: SMART Technologies – Room 345

Are you looking for that extra something that will make your Notebook files really pop? Looking for techniques that will help you integrate multiple pieces of technology into a single lesson? Come explore some of the SMART resources and techniques used by teachers across the country to enhance their lessons and make students more active participants in the learning process. Time will be spent learning how to create lessons in SMART Notebook as well as how to seamlessly integrate the SMART document camera, SMART Response interactive response system, SMART Slate, and media into any lesson.

Day 2

Friday, April 15, 2011

7:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast (Cafeteria)

8:00-3:00 p.m.

SMART Classroom of the 21st Century Open House (Room 222)

The SMART Technologies Classroom of the 21st Century that will be set-up is designed to show educators the possibilities with the integrated technologies provided by SMART Technologies that are in use in classrooms around the world. These technologies include the Integrated SMART Board 600iGen3 system which includes a front-projection SMART Board and built-in overhead projector, the SMART Document Camera which runs in and is controlled through the SMART Notebook software and the SMART Response Interactive Response System which allows for formative and summative assessment and also runs in the SMART Notebook software.

8:00 a.m.

General Session (Fine and Performing Arts Center)

*Your Master and Mistress of Ceremonies for this Institute are
RMHS students Camden Melendy and Abigail Vieno.*

Performance

Reading Memorial High School Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Joe Mulligan, Teacher, Coolidge Middle School and David Bunten, Teacher, RMHS

Institute Welcome

Dr. John F. Doherty, Superintendent of Schools
Reading Public Schools

Keynote Presentation

David Warlick, Director of the Landmark Project , NC

“Literacy & Learning in the 21st Century”



David Warlick is the developer and director of the Landmark Project in North Carolina, a consulting and innovations firm. He has over 34 years of experience as an educator and is passionate about preparing children for their futures. This thought-provoking address will describe how our notions of literacy must expand to harness a rapidly changing information landscape, where content and knowledge are increasingly networked, digital, and overwhelming. He will share his thoughts on the concept of literacy that is much richer and more comprehensive than the 3Rs that continue to define schooling for many.

9:45-10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Concurrent Workshop Session A (*Various Classrooms*)

11:00-11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Concurrent Workshop Session B (*Various Classrooms*)

12:15-1:30 p.m.

Lunch (*Field House*)

Music Entertainment provided by High School Jazz Ensemble
under the direction of Joe Mulligan, Teacher, Coolidge Middle School and
David Bunten, Teacher, RMHS

The box lunch includes the following:

Fresh piece of fruit

Bag of Chips

Bottle of Water

AND

One of the following sandwiches...

Sliced Jennie-O Turkey on a Roll

Ham & Cheese on a Roll

Veggie Wrap

Blue Bunny Ice Cream

1:30-2:30 p.m.

Concurrent Workshop Session C (*Various Classrooms*)

2:30-3:00 p.m.

Closing Session (*Fine and Performing Arts Center*)

Closing Comments

Raffle Prizes (Must be present to win)

Blue Ribbon School Improvement Standards

Student Focus and Support

Goals and objectives flow from the school's vision and student needs, and reflect high aspirations for all students. The school strives for and achieves excellence and equity. A cohesive and integrated network of programs, cocurricular activities, and services has been implemented to support the full spectrum of students in achievement of the goals and objectives of the school. The staff has aligned curriculum and put in place strategies to ensure successful transitions of students entering the school and transitioning to other schools. Examples of and participation rates in programs and services provide evidence that the school is committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure student success.

School Organization and Culture

The school culture exemplifies a caring community of learners that supports continuous learning and improvement flowing from student-focused goals. Examples document that members are engaged in collective inquiry, reflection, and responsible decision-making about learning. Hiring and assignment of staff, opportunities for students to build sustained and caring relationships with adults, a healthy peer climate among students, and the existence of a safe positive environment demonstrate that this school is focused on the welfare and continuous achievement of all students and staff.

Challenging Standards and Curriculum

The curriculum is rationally designed to ensure high levels of achievement of the school's goals and objectives by all students. These goals and objectives include learning of significant content by all students, and citizenship, interpersonal, and workplace skills. The curriculum is based on knowledge of effective practice, and the nature of the student body; programs, and curricula are consistently implemented, and are regularly monitored, evaluated, and improved. Students are meeting rigorous standards for promotion and/or graduation.

Active Teaching and Learning

There is clear and compelling evidence that there is purposeful decision-making governing all aspects of the teaching and learning program. There is a discernable link between instructional strategies and student achievement. Teaching practices and learning experiences reflect current research on cognition, teaching, and learning. An abundance of technology, print, and media resources is available to all students and staff to ensure that educational goals and student needs are met.

Technology Integration

School utilizes technology in an effective, efficient manner by incorporating the National Education Technology Standards for all students: Basic Operations and Concepts; Social, Ethical, and Human Issues; Technology Productivity Tools; Technology Communication Tools; Technology Research Tools; and Technology Problem-Solving and Decision-Making Tools.

Professional Community

The school recognizes the vital role continuous professional development plays in achieving the school's mission. The school has developed a culture that encourages teachers, administrators, and school staff to work together as members of a professional community, supporting each other in the improvement of student learning. Professional growth and development, both inside and outside the school walls, is continuous and thoughtfully planned, based on analysis of data on student and faculty needs, and is integral to implementing new school initiatives and/or changes in curriculum. Formal and informal support is provided to beginning and experienced teachers. Staff members are given opportunities for leadership and recognition. Finally, teachers, administrators, and support staff are provided with the time and opportunity to reflect on what is working and to change what is no longer effective.

Leadership and Educational Vitality

Dynamic leadership engages the school and community in continuous school improvement focused on student learning and based on vision, data, knowledge of research, effective practice, and continuous monitoring and assessment that has resulted in high levels of student achievement and implementation of comprehensive plans to meet current and future challenges.

School, Family, and Community Partnerships

A pattern of actions taken by the school demonstrates commitment to and recognition of the important role that families, partnerships, and community play in supporting learning. The school has implemented strategies (e.g., services that meet the needs of families, parent conferences, meeting schedules that facilitate parent participation, and methods for promoting two-way communication that are effective in involving parents from all segments of the community in supporting their children's education. Examples illustrate how the school has successfully engaged the educational resources of the community, families, and other partners to support educational goals and provided reciprocal benefits.

Indicators of Success

Based on multiple indicators, students have consistently achieved high academic standards. On norm-referenced tests, the students score at least one standard deviation above the mean. Or, the school has provided evidence of significant improvement in student achievement over time (at least one standard deviation above the mean on norm-referenced tests). Criterion reference tests and other achievement measures support that high levels of learning are achieved. Illustrations show how assessment data have been used to improve practice and to promote student learning. Factors that can have a negative effect on school climate (e.g., high absenteeism, serious discipline problems) have been minimized. Significant data are shared with the community, parents, and students concerning the outcomes of the school's programs and offerings.

The Blueprint for Educational Excellence National Institute

Leadership Strand

"The Path to Excellence: Leading the Way"

We're excited to include a Leadership Strand for teacher leaders and administrators from all levels as part of this year's Institute. Throughout the two days, there will also be great opportunities for networking with leaders from other schools in Massachusetts and beyond.

You are welcome to attend leadership sessions that are listed below or choose from any of the other workshops offered at the Institute as described in the program.

Leadership Strand Sessions for TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Thursday

1:45-3:15 p.m.

"Standards-Based Report Cards for the 21 st Century"	Rm 334	Karen Callan, Principal, Barrows School Richard Davidson, Principal, Wood End School
"School Culture: The Underlying Rules Impacting Everything"	Rm 311	Craig Martin, Principal, Coolidge Middle School
What Does Your "Safe Route to School Look Like?"	Rm 322	Chris Copeland, Teacher, Parker Middle Officer Justin Martel, Reading Police Dept. George Zambouras, Reading Town Engineer
"Technology Leadership is not about Technology"	Rm 312	Romeo Marquis, Learning Curve Consortium
"Birth to Five...Critical Time in Life of Educator"	Rm 236	Program Director for Mentoring and Teacher Initiatives at CERRA in South Carolina

Friday

Session A 10:00-11:00 a.m.

"A World of Difference"	Rm 234	Elinor Freedman, Principal, RMHS Mary Allard, Laurie Smith, RMHS teachers
"Terrific Tricks of the Trade: Blogger, Twitter, Reader, Feeder"	Rm 236	Eric Sprung, Principal, Birch Meadow School Brian Middleton-Cox, Principal, Woodville School, Wakefield
"Getting to Know the Common Core and MA Curriculum Frameworks for ELA and Math"	Rm 312	Dr. Kristan Rodriguez, Cur. Director, and Scott Morrison, Curriculum. Director, Manchester-Essex

Session B 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

"An Act Relative to Bullying"	Rm 312	Nina Pomponio, Middlesex District Attorney Partnership for Youth
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Session C 1:30-2:30 p.m.

"Personal Learning Network"	Perf. Arts Center	David Warlick, Keynote Speaker
"Teachers Teaching Teachers"	Rm 314	Doug Lyons, Principal, Leah Cristi, Jane Costa, and Meghan Lockwood, Teachers, Parker MS
"23 Ways to Bully-Proof Your School"	Chorus Room	Peggy Schleicher, Consultant, Schools With Heart
"Mentoring with a Twist – Staff and Student Buddies"	Rm 332	Cathy Giles, Principal, Jessica Ostuni, Psychologist, Karen Douglass, Gr 2 Teacher, Julia Paone, Special Education Teacher, J.W. Killam School

ROOM		WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTER	POSITION
T1	345 Lib Lab	<i>Taking a SMART Notebook Lesson From Blah to Aha! Limit of 24</i>	SMART Technologies	SMART Technologies
T2	413 Distance Learning Lab	<i>Create A Moodle Course Site Even if You've Never Created One</i>	Romeo Marquis	Executive Director: The Learning Consortium
T3	234	<i>Transition Without Tears</i>	Marie Pink, Charlie Smith	Coolidge Assistant Principal; Gr 6 Math
T4	303	<i>Podbean: Share Audio & Video From Your Classroom With the World!</i>	Kerry Gallagher	RMHS 9/10 Social Studies
T5	334	<i>Standards Based Elementary Report Card for the 21st Century</i>	Karen Callan & Richard Davidson	Principals: Barrows & Wood End
T6	340	<i>The Iceland Project: A Geographically Based Senior Project</i>	Alex Ballantyne, Emily Crampe, Katchen Lachmayr	RMHS 11/12 Teacher & 2 RMHS Students
T7	306	<i>Science Olympiad: Not Just an After School Program!</i>	Paul Guidetti	Coolidge Gr. 6 Science
T8	338	<i>Mathematical Motivation: Using Munchies as a Manipulative to Create a Hands-On Math Experience</i>	Sarah Flaherty & Jennifer Carline	Henri A. Yelle Elem. School, Norton, MA Gr. 5 Regular and Special Education Teachers
T9	Wrestling Room	<i>Be Prepared to Save a Life</i>	Lisa Suglia, Carol Fiocco, Christine Rose	Wood End, Parker, & Barrows School Nurses
T10	324	<i>Changing the Game: How Coaches & Athletes can Create a Positive School Climate</i>	Jeffrey Covitz, Pat Griffin, Phil Vaccaro, Jeff Perrotti	RMHS Senior, Honor Student & Athlete; Project Director of Changing the Game; Massachusetts Reading Athletic Director, Founding Director MA DESE Safe Schools Program
T11	322	<i>What Does Your "Safe Route to School" Look Like?</i>	Christine Copeland, Justin Martel, George Zambouras, Kimberly Bitto, Julie DeLuca & Kathleen Wilcox	Parker Health/Wellness Teacher, Reading Police Dept Safety Officer, Reading Town Engineer and 3 Wood End Parents
T12	209	<i>Cyber Safety!</i>	Nina Pomponio	Assistant District Attorney, Middlesex County
T13	312	<i>Technology Leadership is Not About Technology</i>	Romeo Marquis	Executive Director: The Learning Curve Consortium
T14	311	<i>School Culture: The Underlying Rules Impacting Everything</i>	Craig Martin	Coolidge Middle School Principal
T15	232	<i>Powerful Strategies to Enhance Learning of Gifted and Highly Able Students</i>	Nathan Levy	Author

#	ROOM	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTER	POSITION
T16	236	<i>Birth to Five...The Most Critical Time in the Life of an Educator</i>	Jason Fulmer	Program Director for Mentoring & Teaching Leadership; Center for Educator Recruitment Retention and Advancement (CERRA, SC)
T17	315	<i>Intro to Glogster - A Fabulous Web 2.0 Tool</i>	Ann Sweeney, Alison Currier, Toni-Ann Ruocco and Christen Del Rossi	Killam ES Teachers
T18	313	<i>Financial Literacy & Investing for Middle School Students</i>	Lisa Emma	Coolidge Middle School Gr. 7 & 8 Math
T19	344 Library Lab	<i>SMARTBoard Basics</i>	Meg Powers & April Goran	Parker MS & RMHS Instructional Technology Specialists
T20	345 Lib.Lab	<i>Taking a SMART Notebook Lesson From Blah to Aha! Limit of 24</i>	SMART Technologies	SMART Technologies
T21	413 Distance Learning Lab	<i>A View From Within</i>	Jean Stern	Adjunct Trainer and Consultant; Former Director Asperger's Association of New England
A1	Performing Arts Center	<i>Harnessing the Perfect Storm</i>	David Warlick	Director Landmark Project, North Carolina
A2	Chorus Room	<i>Welcoming Princess Boys, Rough & Tumble Girls and Other Outliers on the Gender Spectrum</i>	Kim Westheimer	Director, Welcoming Schools, Human Rights Foundation
A3	Drama Room	<i>Let's Play Games & Activities that Build Cooperation & Affiliation Skills</i>	Peggy Schleicher, M.ED	Schools With Heart Trainer/ Consultant and Northeast Consortium Instructor
A4	345 - Lib Lab	<i>Glogging With Small Groups</i>	Alison Currier & Ann Sweeney	Reading Specialist & Title 1 Math Killam ES
A5	223	<i>What's on the Menu? Exploring the Daily Five and CAFÉ Literacy Model in Grades K, 1, & 2</i>	Catherine Rice, Lynn Kasparian, Karen Douglass	Killam Gr. K-2 Teachers
A6	309	<i>Teaching Through Movie Making</i>	Catherine Carmody	Eaton Gr. 2 Teacher
A7	225	<i>Exploring Logic and Reasoning in the Elementary Classroom</i>	Dr. Christine Redford	Wheelock College
A8	234	<i>Making A World of Difference!</i>	Mary Allard, Laurie Smith, Elinor Freedman & Students	RMHS Teachers, Principal and Students
A9	235	<i>Cyber Bullying</i>	Maureen Mulhern, LICSW	Director of Outpatient Program: Riverside Community Care

#	ROOM	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTER	POSITION
A10	236	<i>Terrific Tricks of the Trade! Blogger, Twitter, Reader, Feeder</i>	Eric Sprung & Brian Middleton-Cox	Principals K-5 Birch Meadow School, Reading & Woodville School, Wakefield, MA
A11	237	<i>Making MCAS Prep and Enriching Experience</i>	Amy Kasprzak	Coolidge Gr. 7 & 8 Math
A12	319	<i>Wolfram/Alpha & Gapminder: Powerful Learning Tools for All</i>	Janet Dee	RMHS Business 9-12
A13	322	<i>Alcohol & Drug Use</i>	Nina Pomponio	Assistant District Attorney, Middlesex County, MA
A14	323	<i>Whose Responsibility is It?</i>	Jaimee Feinberg	Coolidge Gr. 8 Special Education
A15	324	<i>A Zen Classroom</i>	Jenn Baskin	Gr. 10/12 English, RMHS
A16	325	<i>Top 10 Tips for Paraeducators</i>	Sarah Lanzo, Jen Buckley, Julie Jeffrey, Jennifer Kobrenski, and Maureen Deligiandis	District Pupil Services; & RMHS, Wood End, Barrows & RISE Special Educators
A17	328	<i>Name That Tune: Toe Tapping, Finger Snapping Strategies to Orchestrate Student Success</i>	Jason Fulmer	Program Director for Mentoring & Teaching Leadership: Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA); South Carolina
A18	336	<i>What Are We Thinking?: Closing the Achievement Gaps With The Explicit Teaching of Thinking Skills</i>	Ms. Kristina Kyles	President & CEO: Clear Path Educational Consulting Firm
A19	338	<i>Math Counts for All Learners: Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Math</i>	Elizabeth Murray, Sr. Research Scientist	Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)
A20	340	<i>Moodle: Perfect for Hybrid Learning</i>	Chris Friberg & Kathy Favazza	Coolidge and Parker Math Teachers
A21	315	<i>Smart Planning with your SMARTBoard</i>	Brian Cormier	Parker Gr 7/8 Math
A22	344 - Lib Lab	<i>Prezi for Beginners</i>	Amanda White	RMHS 9-12 SPED
A23	307	<i>Creating Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments to Increase the Success of all Students</i>	Sara Fernandes	District Behavioral Health Coordinator
A24	311	<i>Art 2.0 and Beyond</i>	Sarah Doane	Coolidge Art Teacher
A25	313	<i>Free Education Tools from Microsoft</i>	Alfred Thompson	Microsoft Corporation

#	ROOM	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTER	POSITION
A26	312	<i>Getting to Know the New ELA and Mathematics Frameworks (Incorporating the Common Core)</i>	Kristan Rodriguez and Scott Morrison	Dir. of Curriculum., Georgetown Public Schools; Dir. of Curriculum & IT, Manchester-Essex Regional Schools
A27	321	<i>Why Wiki?</i>	Christine Steinhauer	Library Media Specialist: Coolidge MS
A28	413 Distance Learning Lab	<i>Part 1 - Advanced Classroom Strategies for Classroom Educators (A Two Part Workshop: Sessions A & B)</i>	Jean Stern	Adjunct Trainer and Consultant; Former Director Asperger's Association of New England
A29	207	<i>Online Learning Really Can Make a Difference if Only...</i>	Romeo Marquis, Deborah Donohue, Ann Morgan & Linda Post	Director & Instructional Technology Specialists: The Learning Curve Consortium
A30	222	<i>The SMART Classroom Tour</i>	SMART Technologies	SMART Technologies
A31	305	<i>The Ins and Outs of Cyber Bullying</i>	Michael Sasson & Erica Newall	Graduate Assistant, Bridgewater State University MARC
A32	510	<i>Mental Toughness Training for Peak Performance</i>	Peter Moscariello	RMHS Mathematics Department Head
A33	232	<i>Powerful Strategies to Enhance Learning of Gifted and Highly Able Students</i>	Nathan Levy	Author
B1	Performing Arts Center	<i>Cracking the Native Information Experience</i>	David Warlick	Director Landmark Project, North Carolina
B2	Chorus Room	<i>Welcoming Princess Boys, Rough & Tumble Girls and Other Outliers on the Gender Spectrum</i>	Kim Westheimer	Director, Welcoming Schools, Human Rights Foundation
B3	344 - Lib Lab	<i>Prezi is Precious!</i>	Sarah Doane & Sarah Marchant	Coolidge Art & Science
B4	209	<i>Increasing Active Student Responding in the Classroom - Getting the Most Out of Group Instruction</i>	Marge K. Lerner, M.A., BCBA; Behavior Analyst	SEEM Collaborative
B5	225	<i>Exploring Geometry and Measurement in the Elementary Classroom</i>	Dr. Christine Redford	Wheelock College
B6	234	<i>Fluency Presentation and Forum in the Primary Grades</i>	Jaime Quinn & Susan Libby	Eaton Gr. 2 Teachers
B7	235	<i>Student Focus: Social, Emotional, and Academic Support at Coolidge Middle School</i>	Christian Huizenga & Laura Warren	Coolidge Wellness; English
B8	309	<i>Journey Home Through Journaling</i>	Donna Martinson, Joan Reeve	Parker Gr. 7 English Teacher & Special Ed. Paraeducator
B9	324	<i>The Performance of Teaching</i>	Jenn Baskin, Gr. 10-12	RMHS, English

#	ROOM	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTER	POSITION
B10	322	<i>An Act Relative to Bullying - How This Legislation Impacts Our Schools</i>	Nina Pomponio	Assistant District Attorney, Middlesex County
B11	328	<i>Paraeducators Sharing Best Practices!</i>	Erline Trites & Donna Mullen	Killam SPED Paraeducators
B12	325	<i>The Reader's Chair (Four Easy -to-Make, Technology Infused Projects)</i>	Steve Olivo	Parker Gr. 8 English Teacher
B13	203	<i>Get On Your Feet!</i>	Michelle Hopkinson, Karen Feeney	Eaton PE teacher & Principal
B14	232	<i>Universal Design for Learning (UDL): Free Web-Based Scaffolded Reading</i>	Peggy Coyne, Research Scientist	Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)
B15	345 - Lib Lab	<i>Glogster Fun with Foundations</i>	Christen Del Rossi, Toni-Ann Ruocco	Killam Gr. 1 Teachers
B16	305	<i>When Children Grieve: How Educators Can Help</i>	David Quemere, LICSW	VNA Hospice Care Manager of Social & Bereavement Coordinator
B17	237	<i>Flexible Grouping Math at the Elementary Level</i>	Jolene Tewksbury, Jo-Anne Garelick, Rick Downes, Beth Slater, Kerry Mullen, & Liz Rogers	Birch Meadow Gr. 4/5 Teachers, Learning Center Teacher and Birch Meadow Parent
B18	315	<i>Wrestling the Gorilla or How to Successfully Integrate Technology into the Learning Center</i>	Dana Zazinski Wendel	Coolidge Gr. 7-8 Special Ed. Teacher
B19	332	<i>Being Proactive With A Positive Spin!</i>	Julia Paone, Jessica Ostuni, Cathy Giles	Killam Special Education, School Psychologist, and Principal
B20	236	<i>Olympians & Ancient Voices: Ideas for Using Mythology in the Classroom</i>	Nancy Irons & Danja Mahoney	RMHS Latin
B21	319	<i>Amazing Things Cells Can Do</i>	Mary Anne Lynn	RMHS 9-12 Science
B22	321	<i>Technology Presentation Projects in the Early Grades</i>	Barbara Sheehan, Isabella Jordan, & Lisa Norcross	Wood End Gr. 2 & Library Media Specialist
B23	341	<i>Loving Literacy Through Creative Technology</i>	Jennifer Scribner & Julie Merrill	Birch Meadow LLD and Parker Gr. 6 LLD
B24	303	<i>It's Podcastic!</i>	Nancy Bentley	Wood End, Gr. 4 Teacher
B25	231	<i>iTec: Integrar la Tecnologia en las Clases de Idiomas/ Integrer la Tecnoogie dans les Cours de Langues</i>	Joanne Alvarez	Foreign Lang. Dept. Head, RMHS
B26	311	<i>"Three's Company"- Co-Teaching and Maximizing the Effectiveness of the Adults in Your Room!</i>	Marie Pink, Kim Oliveira, Jessica Lynch	Coolidge MS Assistant Principal, District SPED Director, District SPED Team Chair

#	ROOM	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTER	POSITION
B27	313	<i>Fabulous, Free Web Resources for Educators</i>	Jan Rhein & Kristie Lambert	Birch Meadow Gr. 3 Teachers
B28	307	<i>Classroom Management and Classroom Relationships</i>	Craig Martin	Coolidge Principal
B29	207	<i>Beep! Beep! Back-Up With Backward Design!</i>	Jessica Bruno, Kate Carlow, Jeff Clemons, and Tonia McGuire	Killam Gr. 4 Teachers
B30	222	<i>SMART Response Family of Products</i>	SMART Technologies	SMART Technologies
B31	413 Distance Learning Lab	<i>Part 2 - Advanced Classroom Strategies for Classroom Educators (A Two Part Workshop: Sessions A & B)</i>	Jean Stern	Adjunct Trainer and Consultant; Former Director Asperger's Association of New England
B32	510	<i>Mental Toughness Training for Peak Performance</i>	Peter Moscariello	RMHS Mathematics Department Head
C1	Performing Arts Center	<i>Personal Learning Network</i>	David Warlick	Director Landmark Project, North Carolina
C2	345 - Lib Lab	<i>We're Not in the Basement Anymore! Using 21st Century Tools to Maximize Special Education Services</i>	Brigid H. Rodin	Parker Middle School Gr. 6-8
C3	319	<i>Edmodo is Elementary!</i>	Jolene Tewksbury	Birch Meadow Gr. 4
C4	344 - Lib Lab	<i>To Internet...And BEYOND!</i>	Mia Gaska	Wood End Gr. 4
C5	225	<i>Patterns Galore!</i>	Dr. Christine Redford	Wheelock College
C6	230	<i>How Fast are You at Speed Stacking?</i>	Chris Copeland, Peter DiSalvatore, Elise (Tee) O'Brien	Parker, Wood End and Killam Health & Wellness Teachers
C7	303	<i>New Ways to Teach Perspective Taking for Students on the Autism Spectrum</i>	Tara Herlihy, Jeanette Leonard, Jenn Zurcher & Cathy McInerney	Barrows DLC Teachers & Speech/Language
C8	236	<i>Online Collaborative Conversations Enhance Community</i>	Elinor Freedman	Principal, RMHS
C9	234	<i>Creating Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments to Increase the Success of all Students</i>	Sara Fernandes	District Behavioral Health Coordinator
C10	305	<i>A Blog for Every Student</i>	Steve Olivo	Parker Gr. 8 English
C11	332	<i>Mentoring With A Twist: Staff and Student Buddies!</i>	Karen Douglass, Jessica Ostuni, Julia Paone, and Cathy Giles	Grade 2, Psychologist, Special Ed Teachers and Principal

#	ROOM	WORKSHOP TITLE	PRESENTER	POSITION
C12	313	<i>Extra, Extra, Write All About It...</i>	Tonia McGuire	Killam Gr 4 Teacher
C13	314	<i>Teachers Teaching Teachers...Professional Development that Makes a Difference</i>	Doug Lyons, Leah Cristi, Jane Costa and Meghan Lockwood	Parker Principal and Gr. 6-8 Teachers
C14	325	<i>Story Form Puzzle... It's No Puzzle at All!</i>	Marian Nihan & Jackie Pepper	Wood End Gr 2 & K Teachers
C15	309	<i>"Bloom"ing Questions: Children Creating Questions for Children: Exploring Higher Level Thinking Questions Using Bloom's Taxonomy</i>	Jennifer Carlson + 2 Students	L.G. Nourse Elem. School, Norton, MA; Gr. 3
C16	307	<i>The Power of Discovery Education: Using Images & Video to Enhance Student Work</i>	Robyn Ferrazzani	Parker Library/Media Specialist
C17	340	<i>Creative Science: A 21st Century Approach</i>	Sarah Marchant	Coolidge Gr 8 Science
C18	334	<i>Let Jing Ring!</i>	Kristie Lambert & Jan Rhein	Birch Meadow, Gr. 3
C19	235	<i>Is Special Education the Right Service?</i>	Pam Girouard and Sarah Lanzo	District Special Education Administrators
C20	336	<i>Linking Learners to Literacy</i>	Julie Merrill & Jennifer Scribner	Parker Gr. 6 Lang. Based Classroom, Birch Meadow LLD teacher
C21	Chorus Room	<i>23 Ways to Bully-Proof Your School</i>	Peggy Schleicher, M.ED	Schools With Heart Trainer/ Consultant and Northeast Consortium Instructor
C22	341	<i>Art is Poetry, Poetry is Art</i>	Michelle Goodnow	RMHS Gr. 10/12 English
C23	222	<i>SMART Classroom Suite™/ Create - Teach - Learn - Assess</i>	SMART Technologies	SMART
C24	338	<i>Team Process - Unraveling the Mystery</i>	Colleen Dolan	Director, Northshore Education Consortium
C25	315	<i>Why Weebly?</i>	Jennifer Emmet, Melissa Fleishman, Beth Slater	Birch Meadow Gr. 5 Teachers
C26	Field House	<i>Adventure Programming Cross Curriculum Workshop</i>	Charlie Williams & Tom Zaya	Wingspeed Adventures/ Trainer; Wellness Department Head, RMHS
C27	324	<i>Kindling a Connection</i>	Jenn Baskin, GR. 10-12	RMHS, English

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Thursday, April 14th ~ 8:45-11:30 AM

T1 Taking a SMART Notebook Lesson From Blah to Aha!: Location, Rm. 345: Recommended for All: Maximum 24

SMART Technologies, Inc.

Are you looking for that extra something that will make your Notebook files really pop? Looking for techniques that will help you integrate multiple pieces of technology into a single lesson? Come explore some of the SMART resources and techniques used by teachers across the country to enhance their lessons and make students more active participants in the learning process. Time will be spent learning how to create lessons in SMART Notebook as well as how to seamlessly integrate the SMART Document Camera, SMART Response interactive response system, SMART Slate, and media into any lesson.

Standards: Technology Integration

T2-Create a Moodle Course Site Even if you've Never Created One: Location: Rm. 413, Distance Learning Lab: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Romeo Marquis, Executive Director: The Learning Curve Consortium

Have you wondered what this "Moodle thing" is all about? Would you like to tinker with it to see if this is something you'd like to do? During this workshop you can create a Moodle site of your own, pop it onto a Moodle server, even if your school doesn't have one, and practice developing a dynamic online learning environment. You need your own laptop with wireless access if you want to participate in this workshop.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration, Indicators of Success

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Thursday, April 14th, Concurrent Workshops ~ 1:45–3:15 PM or 3:45 PM

T3-Transition Without Tears: Location 234: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Marie T. Pink, Assistant Principal, Charlie Smith, Gr. 6 Math: Arthur W. Coolidge MS

The goal of this session is to introduce participants to a number of strategies that have been proven to reduce parent and student anxiety natural to transition into middle school. Included will be an in depth focus on a successful summer induction program for students.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, School Organization & Culture

T4-Podbean: Share Audio & Video From Your Classroom With the World: Location Rm. 303: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-12

Kerry Gallagher, Gr. 9/10 Social Studies: RMHS

Podbean is a free and easy way to allow parents and colleagues who don't get to be IN your classroom to feel as though they visited for a short time. My students will help me demonstrate how we have published their new-found history knowledge with audio and video podcasts this year. You will learn how to use simple technology like Flip cameras and Audio Expert.com to produce the audio/video and then publish it to the world! Students have a great time planning and producing their podcasts, and parents enjoy commenting on them to encourage their children's efforts at school. Before you leave the workshop you will have your own AudioExpert and Podbean Accounts, and you will have published your first podcast!

Standards: Technology Integration, Active Teaching & Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum, School, Family and Community Partnerships

T5- Standards Based Elementary Report Card for the 21st Century!: Location 334: Recommended for Paraeducators and Teachers PreK-12

Karen Callan and Richard Davidson: Principals, Alice M. Barrows and Wood End ES

In September, 2009 an Elementary Report Card Committee was formed. During the past eighteen months the committee has explored various report cards, attended a standards-based conference, and created an elementary standards-based report card based on the Common Core and the MA State Standards. This workshop will give educators an update on the progress that the committee has made and the report card that will be piloted next fall. Additional input by educators is welcome as to the format, the criteria and the rubrics of the report card. All levels are welcome to attend.

Standards: Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Student Focus & Support, Leadership & Educational Vitality

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Thursday, April 14th, Concurrent Workshops ~ 1:45–3:15 PM

T6-The Iceland Project: A Geographically Based Senior Project: Location, Rm. 340: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 6-12

Alex Ballantyne, Gr. 11/12 Science and Emily Crampe & Katchen Lachmayr, Students: RMHS

This presentation is a culminating experience for the two students who have been test subjects and trailblazers for the pilot year of our academically based foreign experience senior project program. For this first year, the program was based on a week long field trip to Iceland, concentrating on scientific and environmental aspects of the island nation. Students have performed research on topics of interest to themselves and written reports and developed presentations for a variety of audiences using Prezi software. The students will present a Prezi format presentation based on their field experiences and the research topics they have explored. This includes the oceanographic environment and cetacean populations around Iceland and the very active glacial-volcanic environment of this fascinating mid-Atlantic nation.

Standards: Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Student Focus & Support, Technology Integration

T7-Science Olympiad: Not Just an After-School Program!: Location, Rm. 306: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 6-8

Paul Guidetti, Gr. 6 Science: Arthur W. Coolidge MS

The National Science Olympiad (SO) Program consists of 23 separate events, all of which are aligned with National Science Standards. This presentation/hands-on workshop will help educators bring an event from the SO Program into their classroom and make it accessible for students of all levels. Educators attending this session will also build and test their own wind turbines. Prizes will be awarded!

Standards: Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Active Teaching & Learning

T8-Mathematical Motivation: Using Munchies as a Manipulative to Create a Hands-On Math Experience: Location, Rm. 338: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-5: Limited to First 30

Sarah Flaherty and Jennifer Carline, Special Ed. & Gr. 5 Teachers: Henri A. Yelle Elementary School: Norton, MA

Are you looking for new ways to reinforce mathematical concepts such as number sense, geometry, data analysis, and probability? Mathematical Motivation is an interactive grade 3-5 workshop for regular and special education teachers to learn how to engage students with hands-on activities involving food. Teachers will actively participate in lessons and go home with a wealth of resources and ideas.

Standards: Technology Integration and Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning

T9-Be Prepared to Save a Life: Location, Wrestling Room: Recommended for Paraeducators & Teachers PreK-12: Limit 24

Lisa Suglia, Carol Fiocco and Christine Rose, School Nurses: Wood End ES, Walter S. Parker MS and Alice M. Barrows ES

Learn CPR Basics through video and hands-on practice. After correct demonstration of your skills you will receive a Heartsaver AED Course completion card in the mail. (Must bring \$7 for card)

Standards: Professional Community

T10-Changing the Game: How Coaches and Athletes Can Create a Positive School Climate: Location Rm. 324: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 6-8

Jeffrey Covitz, RMHS Senior Honors Student & Athlete; Pat Griffin, Project Director of Changing the Game; Phil Vaccaro, Massachusetts Athletic Director of the Year 2010 and Reading Athletic Director; & Jeff Perrotti, Founding Director of the Massachusetts DESE's Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students

This workshop will focus on strategies for making athletics and physical education safe, respectful and inclusive for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities/expressions. It will address the special role that athletes and coaches play in creating a positive school climate that is welcoming of everyone, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, School Organization & Culture

T-11 What Does Your "Safe Route to School Look like?: Location, Rm. 322: Recommended for Teachers PreK-8

Chris Copeland, PE: Walter S. Parker MS; Officer Justin Martel, Reading Police Dept. Safety Officer; George Zambouras, Reading Town Engineer; Kimberly Bitto & Julie DeLuca: Wood End ES Parents; Kathleen Wilcox: Joshua Eaton ES Parent

Safe Routes to School Programs enable community leaders, schools, and parents across the United States to improve safety and encourage more children, including children with disabilities, to safely walk and bicycle to school. In the process, programs are working to reduce traffic congestion and improve health and the environment, making communities more livable for everyone. Come see how the collaboration of the Town of Reading Departments – Engineering, Police and Schools are trying to keep students safe.

Standards: School Organization & Culture and School, Family & Community Partnerships

T12-Cyber Safety: Location, Rm. 209: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-12

Nina Pomponio, Assistant District Attorney: Middlesex County

The Internet, cell phones and social networking sites offer powerful and almost limitless opportunities to gain knowledge and make contact with others. When used appropriately, they are powerful and positive tools. However, there are many pitfalls and risks to young people. Effective prevention and intervention strategies for school staff and parents will be presented. The capabilities of the Middlesex District

Attorney's Office Cyber Protection Program, created in 2007

by Middlesex District Attorney, Gerry Leone, will also be outlined. Cyber Safety will be the featured topic for the annual PSA Project this year. Please see the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. Website for details.

Standards: School, Family & Community Partnerships

T13-Technology Leadership is Not About Technology: Location, Rm. 312: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Romeo Marquis, Executive Director: The Learning Curve Consortium

One of Sir Isaac Newton's laws states that, "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." Superintendents, principals and other leaders generate lots of reactions by their approaches to technology integration. How can education leaders generate the types of reactions they seek? What is your approach to technology leadership and what types of reactions are *you* generating? Get in touch with *the Decision Making and Problem Solving Matrix* during this brief workshop.

Standards: Leadership & Educational Vitality, School Organization & Culture, Technology Integration

T-14 School Culture: The Underlying Rules Impacting Everything: Location, Rm. 311: Recommended for Administrators & Teachers PreK-12

Craig Martin, Principal: Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School

This presentation will focus on the importance of school leaders' shaping and nurturing *culture*, as the invisible but powerful ingredient affecting all aspects of a school, including school improvement initiatives, professional development, community involvement, and student success.

Standards: Professional Community, Leadership & Educational Vitality

T15-Powerful Strategies to Enhance Learning of Gifted and Highly Able Students: Location, Rm. 232: Recommended for Teachers All Levels

Nathan Levy, Author and Educational Consultant

This workshop presents innovative, easy to implement strategies for successfully teaching gifted and highly able students. Practical techniques for increasing the motivation and achievement within this special segment of the population will be presented. Methods to successfully break the cycle of discouragement and perfectionism that many of these students experience are included. Participants will learn creative ideas to assist students meet today's higher standards. Participants will leave with specific methods they can implement the very next day.

Standards: Student Focus & Support

T16-Birth to Five...The Most Critical Time in the Life of an Educator: Location, Rm. 236: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Jason Fulmer, Program Director for Mentoring & Teaching Leadership: CERRA; South Carolina

The induction and retention of beginning teachers is one of the most important challenges facing education today. We must allow the challenge to inspire us to make dramatic improvements in the way we support new teachers and provide for their ongoing learning. By providing qualified, trained, and appropriately assigned mentors, research demonstrates a significant reduction in new teacher turnover through comprehensive induction – a combination of high quality mentoring, professional development and support, scheduled interaction with other teachers in the school and larger community, and formative assessments. What conditions can educational leaders create to support effective mentoring practices? How does a teacher emerge as an educational leader who serves as an advocate for students and the profession? This interactive session will provide opportunities for participants to examine the multiple roles of teacher leaders as mentors and change agents.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning

T17-Intro to Glogster – a Fabulous Web 2.0 Tool!: Location, Rm. 315: Recommended for Teachers K-5

Alison Currier, Reading Specialist; Ann Sweeney, Title 1 Teacher; Toni-Ann Ruocco, & Christen Del Rossi, Gr. 1:
J. Warren Killam ES

Are you looking for a fun way to launch your instruction into the 21st Century? Come join us for a 1.5 hour lab experience. We will show you how we have been using Glogster, an online interactive poster, to engage students, communicate with parents, and present to staff. We will also help you start your own free account and guide you as you start getting familiar and comfortable with this fabulous Web 2.0 tool. Be sure to come with a curriculum concept idea in mind that you'd like to develop. Get ready to create!

Standards: Technology Integration

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Thursday, April 14th, Concurrent Workshops ~ 1:45–3:15 PM

T-18-Financial Literacy & Investing for Middle School Students: Location, Rm. 313: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 6-8

Lisa Emma, Gr. 7/8 Math: Arthur W. Coolidge MS

Using Moodle, a course management system, this workshop will demonstrate enrichment class for middle school students focusing on financial literacy and investing in the stock market. This class includes topics such as the history of money, budgeting, banking, credit cards and investing in the stock market using *The Stock Market Game*™.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Technology Integration

T19-SMART Board Basics: Location, Rm. 344: Recommended for All (WORKSHOP ENDS at 3:45 p.m.)

Meg Powers and April Goran, Instructional Technology Specialists: Walter S. Parker MS and RMHS

This hands-on workshop focuses on the beginner skills needed to enhance your curriculum and engage all students using the SMART Interactive White Board. Investigate the role that SMART Notebook software can play in your lessons. This session (Level 1) covers the SMART Board™ Interactive White Board fundamentals, including Ink Aware applications (MS Office) in Notebook 10, SMART Notebook 10 software basics, and additional SMART resources.

Standards: Technology Integration

T20-Taking a SMART Notebook Lesson From Blah to Aha!: Location, Rm. 345: Recommended for All: Limit of 24

SMART Technologies, Inc.

Are you looking for that extra something that will make your Notebook files really pop? Looking for techniques that will help you integrate multiple pieces of technology into a single lesson? Come explore some of the SMART resources and techniques used by teachers across the country to enhance their lessons and make students more active participants in the learning process. Time will be spent learning how to create lessons in SMART Notebook as well as how to seamlessly integrate the SMART Document Camera, SMART Response interactive response system, SMART Slate, and media into any lesson.

Standards: Technology Integration

T21-A View From Within: Location, Rm. 413; Distance Learning Lab: Recommended for Teachers All Levels

Jean Stern, MS: Consultant/Trainer and Former Director of Children's Services for the Asperger's Association of New England

This course is designed for staff working in school programs who teach children with Asperger's Syndrome. It will focus on understanding the academic, social and behavioral needs of AS students by having the participants "feel" what it is like to have AS. It will include systemic and individualized strategies. This workshop is based on foundation information put forth by the scholars and practitioners such as the

Asperger's Association of New England, Dr. Tony Attwood's work, Dr. Ami Klin, Dr. Brenda Smith Myles and the many other experts on AS.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, School Organization & Culture, Active Teaching & Learning, Professional Community & Partnerships

Need Internet Access?

If you brought your own laptop...

Wireless Internet access is provided throughout the entire conference.

If you did not bring your own laptop....

Visit Our Library Media Center on the 3rd Floor

during lunch and breaks.

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshops Session A ~ 10:00-11:00 AM

A1-Harnessing the Perfect Storm: Location, Performing Arts Center: Recommended for All

David Warlick, Director of Landmark Project, North Carolina

For decades, education has been an easy institution to define. It consisted of acknowledged literacy skills, definable bodies of knowledge, and pedagogies for teaching willing students within information-scarce learning environments. Today, for the first time in decades, we are questioning our notions about teaching and learning as we adapt to a world that is changing faster than our ability to react. We are struggling to rethink what it is to be educated, to reinvent where it happens, and redefine our roles as educators – as the line between teacher and student appears to blur. This presentation will explore some of these changes and challenges and arrange them as a set of converging conditions that might actually hold the clues for redefining and retooling 21st Century education.

Standards: Leadership & Educational Vitality

A2-Welcoming Princess Boys, Rough & Tumble Girls and Other Outliers on the Gender Spectrum; Location, Chorus Rm.: Recommended for Teachers PreK-5

Kim Westheimer, Director: Welcoming Schools: Human Rights Campaign

Do you know students who are teased because they aren't considered "boy enough" or "girl enough"? Have you heard parents complain because their son likes to wear girls' accessories at play time or because their daughter has no interest in dolls or dressing up? In this workshop we'll look at how expectations about gender affect individuals, classrooms and communities using resources from *Welcoming Schools: A guide to help elementary schools embrace family diversity, avoid gender stereotyping and stop bullying*.

Standards: School Organization and Culture; School, Family and Community Partnerships

A3-Let's Play: Games & Activities that Build Cooperation and Affiliation Skills; Location, Drama Rm.: Recommended for Paraeducators & Teachers Gr. 3-8

Peggy Schleicher, M.Ed.: Schools With Heart Trainer/ Consultant & Northeast Consortium Instructor

Com on in and let's play! Research shows that joy and play in our classrooms enhances academic learning and builds the cooperation and affiliation skills needed in a respectful learning environment. This interactive session presents quick, fun, easily-used structures that promote a caring learning community. In this workshop, you will experience cooperative learning structures that you can use tomorrow with your students.

Standards: School Organization and Culture

A4-Glogging With Small Groups; Location, Back Library Computer Lab, Rm. 345: Recommended for Teachers Gr. PreK-5
Alison Currier, Reading Specialist and Ann Sweeney, Title 1 Teacher; J. Warren Killam ES

This GlogsterEDU presentation will focus on Reading and Math. We will show you how we have successfully used Glogster, with small groups in both areas of the curriculum. Glogster is essentially an online, interactive poster that both teachers and students can instruct from, view, share, and create. We will also help you start your own free account and guide you as you start getting familiar and comfortable with this fabulous web 2.0 tool.

Standards: Student Focus & Support; Technology Integration; Challenging Standards & Curriculum; Active Teaching & Learning

A5-What's On The Menu? Exploring the Daily Five and CAFÉ Literacy Model in Grades K-2: Location, Rm. 223: Recommended for Teachers K-2

Catherine Rice, Lynne Kasparian and Karen Douglass: K-2 Teachers: J. Warren Killam ES

Three teachers from grades K, 1 & 2 will share their experiences implementing this practical and simple structure during literacy time. Teachers will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation about this innovative literacy model.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum, and Professional Community

A6-Teaching Through Movie Making; Rm. 309: Recommended for Teachers PreK-5

Catherine Carmody, Gr. 2 Teacher: Joshua Eaton

Today's kids are growing up in front of a camera so...let's motivate and teach through movie making! Create a commercial, a skit, news report, or read a story to be viewed on-line. The ideas are endless! Working on reading and writing skills couldn't be more fun. With the use of a flip video camera you can bring learning alive in your classroom. This workshop will provide examples of the above, discuss the benefits of "behind the scenes", instructions on how to use Microsoft Movie Maker and address management concerns.

Standards: Technology Support and Student Focus & Support

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session A ~ 10:00-11:00 AM

A7-Exploring Logic and Reasoning in the Elementary Classroom: Location, Rm. 225: Recommended for Teachers PreK-5

Dr. Christine Redford, Wheelock College

Come and explore interactive elementary logic and reasoning that addresses the new Common Core Standards. Manipulatives and games will be used to delve into a variety of logic and reasoning topics that will be easy to implement.

Standards: Challenging Standards and Curriculum

A8-A World of Difference! Location, Rm. 234: Recommended for Teachers 6-12

Mary Allard, Laurie Smith, HS Teachers; Elinor Freedman, HS Principal; and Students

Using the Anti-Defamation League's *A World of Difference Peer Training Curriculum*, RMHS students are actively engaging in affecting and sustaining a positive school culture in Reading Public Schools. Meet some of our dynamic peer leaders who will talk about their involvement with both High and Middle school populations, lead participants through thought provoking activities, and give insight into how students can make a difference in their community.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, School Organization & Culture

A9-Cyber Bullying: Location, Rm. 235: Recommended for Gr. 3-12 Teachers

Maureen Mulhern, LICSW; Riverside Community Care

Most adults can remember instances from their childhood where they were bullied. For our children, the bullying landscape has changed. Technology has increased the speed and frequency of communication and made social interaction almost constant. Bullying can now happen any hour of the day, can easily reach a child's home, and can be harder for adults to stop. Cyber bullying is considered more harmful than other types of bullying because it can lead children to feel helpless more than direct kinds of bullying. The purpose of this talk will be to discuss ways to improve prevention and early detection, increase the effectiveness of responses to incidents, and generally create a community where students fully understand the harmful effects of this behavior.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, School Organization & Culture, Active Teaching & Learning

A10-Terrific Tricks of the Trade! Blogger, Twitter, Reader, Feeder: Location, Rm. 236: Recommended for Administrators K-12 and Teachers PreK-5

Brian Middleton-Cox, Principal Woodville ES, Wakefield, MA and Eric Sprung, Principal, Birch Meadow ES, Reading

Learn to blog, create video and share digital photographs as a way to communicate with parents. Two experienced principals will share how technology is a tool to share information about your classroom or school. Included in the presentation will be ways to save time, learn from educators around the world, and make the information come to you rather than you having to find it.

Standards: Student Organization & Culture, School, Family, & Community Partnerships, Technology Integration

A11-Making MCAS Math Prep an Enriching Experience: Location, Rm. 237: Recommended for Teachers 6-8

Amy Kasprzak, Gr. 7/8 Math: Arthur W. Coolidge MS

Come explore the Moodle approach for middle school MCAS math prep. This workshop will show how students can prepare for standardized testing by using an Internet-based, student centered learning environment to explore the Massachusetts mathematics standards. In this course students develop independence by monitoring their own progress while completing a variety of interactive and traditional practice modules

Standards: Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

A12- Wolfram/Alpha and Gapminder: Powerful Learning Tools for All: Location, Rm. 319: Recommended for Paraeducators and Teachers PreK-12

Janet Dee, Gr. 9-12 Business: RMHS

Learn about the latest models/simulations to help your students investigate unfamiliar systems and issues? We will explore fascinating tools, Wolfram/Alpha and Gapminder that were designed to dramatically change how and what we learn.

Their visualizations can capture the attention of the most impatient students. Participants will learn how to integrate these free sites and about their innovative creators, Stephen Wolfram and Hans Rosling. Try these sites and if you are intrigued, come join us!

Standards: Challenging Standards and Curriculum, Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session A ~ 10:00-11:00 AM

A13-Alcohol & Drug Use: Location, Rm. 322: Recommended for Teachers 6-12

Nina Pomponio, Assistant District Attorney, Middlesex County: Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc.

Alcohol and drug use by teens continues to be a major issue. Last year, the Middlesex District Attorney's PSA project focused on impaired driving as the topic. The winning PSA may be seen on the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, Inc. website. While street drugs are readily available in many communities, a majority of teen drug users easily obtain over-the-counter or prescription medications from a variety of sources, including their family's medicine cabinet. Use of inhalants and steroids is also discussed. Signs and symptoms of substance use and abuse are also detailed. Social and health-related consequences of alcohol and drug use by teens can be severe and far reaching.

Standards: School Organization & Culture, School, Family, and Community Partnerships

A14-Whose Responsibility Is It?: Location: Rm. 323: Recommended for Paraeducators and Teachers PreK-12

Jaimee Feinberg, Gr. 8 Special Education Teacher; Arthur W. Coolidge MS

In this interactive workshop we will discuss regular and special educator roles as they pertain to IEPs. Who modifies tests? Who provides word banks? Is the regular education teacher responsible for providing extra time? This activity and discussion will highlight specific special education laws as they pertain to IEPs and will demonstrate the team approach to specialized instruction.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Professional Community, School Organization & Culture

A15-A Zen Classroom: Location, Rm. 324: Recommended for Administrators, Paraeducators and Teachers PreK-12

Jennifer Baskin, Gr. 10/12 English, RMHS

Many Wellness professionals advocate some sort of meditation or quiet time, but how do you empty your mind when you have so much to worry about? Try focused meditation, which improves concentration and clarity of thought. In this interactive workshop you will discover the benefits of meditation to students and teachers alike, learn the technique of focused meditation, and spend some time practicing stillness in the midst of a hectic day.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Professional Community, Student Focus & Support

A16- Top 10 Tips for Paraeducators: Location, Rm. 325 Recommended for Paras Pre-K-12

Sarah Lanzo, District; Jen Buckley, RMHS; Julie Jeffery, Wood End ES; Jennifer Kobrenski, Alice M. Barrows ES; Maureen Deligianidis, RISE: Special Education Educators

This workshop aims to provide paraeducators with practical strategies that can be used across grade levels to support students with special needs both in the inclusion setting and when working in a separate setting. Topics of discussion will include, but are not limited to, data collection, behavior management, social skills supports, and promoting positive interactions. In addition to this, paraeducators are invited to bring their own tried and true tricks of the trade to share with the group!

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning, Professional Community

A17-Name That Tune: Toe Tapping, Finger Snapping Strategies to Orchestrate Student Success: Location, Rm. 328: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Jason Fulmer, Program Director for Mentoring and Teacher Leadership: Center for Educator Recruitment Retention and Advancement (CERRA), South Carolina

The arts open up numerous windows for all of our students to succeed. Come sing along and learn some brain compatible strategies for reaching students through movement, rhyme, and song during this interactive session. You will have a chance to create a few of your own!

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning

A18-What Are We Thinking? Closing Achievement Gaps With the Explicit Teaching of Thinking Skills: Location Rm. 336: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Kristina Kyles, President: Clear Path ECF

Just think for a moment. Have you ever wondered what was going through a student's mind when you asked them to *Stop and Think*? This interactive workshop will provide strategies on helping your student access the curriculum through the explicit teaching of thinking skills. It will also showcase ways that the teaching of thinking can help increase achievement for all different types of learners.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Active Teaching & Learning, Indicators of Success

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session A ~ 10:00-11:00 AM

A19-Math Counts for All Learners: Universal Design for Learning and Math: Location, Rm. 338: Recommended for Math Teachers PreK-12

Elizabeth Murray, Sr. Research Scientist: Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)

This workshop will present a brief overview of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) that focuses on its applications in the mathematics classroom. It will include research on why many students struggle with math and provide participants with examples of ways to help students that are freely available through the web.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Student Focus & Support, Challenging Standards & Curriculum

A20-Moodle: Perfect for Hybrid Learning: Location Rm. 340: Recommended for Teachers 3-8

Chris Friberg and Kathy Favazza: Gr. 7/8 Math; Arthur W. Coolidge and Walter S. Parker MS

The Hybrid teaching model is a blend of face to face teaching and digital technology. Moodle is course management software which incorporates the best techniques and advantages of both in a collaborative online environment. It offers many tools in one place including forums, wikis and blogs. Come see how Moodle is implemented in our project-based hybrid mathematics course and check out its potential in other K-12 classrooms.

Standards: Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

A21-Smart Planning with your SMARTBoard: Location, Rm. 315, Computer Lab: Recommended for Paraeducators and Teachers PreK-12

Brian Cormier, Gr. 7/8 Math: Walter S. Parker MS

This will be an interactive workshop aimed at helping the teacher create and catalog daily lessons using the SMARTBoard Notebook software. Teachers will create lesson and activity templates, reusable visuals and icons. These will save time in planning and executing lessons. Teachers will also gain and share their expertise in creating professional looking slides which help maximize student engagement. Finally, we will create demonstration videos using the SMART Recorder.

Standards: Technology Integration, Active Teaching & Learning, Professional Community

A22-Prezi for Beginners: Location, Front Library Computer Lab Rm. 344: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 6-12

Amanda White, 9-12 Special Ed. Teacher: RMHS

Are you looking for a new way to keep your students engaged while you present them your material in class? Or maybe a different way for students to present material for their own projects? Try Prezi – an interactive, free presentation software. This workshop will introduce participants to the Prezi software format and allow users some hands-on time to try out the software.

Standards: Technology Integration, Active Teaching & Learning

A23-Creating Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments to Increase the Success of All Students: Location, Rm. 307: Recommended for PreK-12 Teachers

Sara Fernandes, Reading Public Schools Behavioral Health Coordinator

Join Reading's new Behavioral Health Coordinator in this hands-on workshop where the participants have the floor! Participants will comprehensively map Reading's strengths and challenges in the areas of leadership, professional development, access to resources and services, academic and non-academic strategies, policies and protocols, and collaboration with families. If you are passionate about effective learning and promoting social, emotional and behavioral health for *all students* then your voice needs to be heard here! (*Reading Staff Only, Please*)

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Professional Community, School Organization & Culture, Leadership & Educational Vitality, and School, Family & Community Partnerships.

A24-Art 2.0 and Beyond: Location Rm. 311: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-12

Sarah Doane, Gr. 6-8 Art: Arthur W. Coolidge MS

In today's digital world, there are amazing opportunities to enhance any curriculum through the use of technology. This workshop will focus on a variety of Web 2.0 tools that can be used in the classroom from an art teacher's perspective. Learn how to create flashy videos, showcase student work to a global audience and excite students through digital projects.

Standards: Technology Integration, Active Teaching & Learning

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Session A ~10:00-11:00 AM

A25-Free Education Tools From Microsoft: Location, Rm. 313: Recommended for All

Alfred Thompson, Microsoft Corporation

Microsoft has many free tools that educators can use in the classroom to help make classes more interactive, more visual, more interesting and to make teacher's work easier. From exploring space with the worldwide telescope to interactive presentations with Mouse Mischief and more this talk will present useful tools for many subjects and specialties.

Standards: Technology Integration

A26-Getting to Know the new MA ELA and Mathematics Frameworks (Incorporating the Common Core): Location, Rm. 312: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Dr. Kristan Rodriguez, Director of Curriculum: Georgetown Public Schools; Scott Morrison, Director of Curriculum & Instructional Technology: Manchester Essex Regional School District

This is an introductory presentation of the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for English Language Arts and Literacy and Mathematics which incorporates the Common Core State Standards. This session is designed to familiarize educators with the content, structure, and underlying philosophy of the new PreK-12 standards.

Standards: Challenging Standards & Curriculum

A27-Why Wiki? : Location, Rm. 321: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Christine Steinhauser, Library Media Specialist: Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School

What is a wiki and how can you use it in your classroom? Learn how to use a wiki to manage your class or as a tool for students to collaborate on a group report, compile data, share the results of their research and work from home on group projects. During the first part of the session we will examine different wikis and how they are used in the classroom. The second part of the session will be used to build your own wiki page.

Standards: Technology Integration

A28-Part 1 - Advanced Classroom Strategies for Classroom Educators: Location, Rm. 413; Distance Learning Lab: Recommended for Paraprofessionals & Teachers All Levels (Attend one or both sessions)

Jean Stern, Adjunct Trainer and Consultant; Former Director of Children's Services for the Asperger's Association of New England

Inclusion of children with neurological differences requires that all strategies and supports help the child thrive **in the classroom**. This classroom work is performed by **general educators** and **instructional assistants**. This workshop is designed to provide those educators with information beyond introductory and basic theory. It will cover essential classroom strategies for the success of their neurologically different children.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning, School Organization & Culture, Professional Community and School, Family & Community Partnerships

A29-Online Learning Really Can Make A Difference If Only...: Location, Rm. 207: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 6-12

Romeo Marquis, Executive Director; Deborah Donohue, Ann Morgan and Linda Post, Instructional Technology Specialists: The Learning Curve Consortium

Blogs, Wikis, Blackboard, Moodle – do these things really contribute to increases in student achievement? Is digital content the answer? Is content engagement the answer? The answers might surprise you. Find out what works and what doesn't. Moodle-based teaching and learning can make a considerable difference in how students learn. However, the teacher's Moodle course site must be much more than just another Web site. See an example of exemplary Moodle course site and consider comments from a student.

Standards: Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration, Indicators of Success

A30-The SMART Classroom Tour: Location, Rm. 222: Recommended for All

SMART Technologies, Inc.

SMART products inspire varied, creative, and seamless use of teaching materials. Today's classrooms require a flexible set of tools to inspire classroom experiences and improve student learning outcomes. Please join us for a tour of the latest additions to the SMART Classroom. Discover how we can help you enhance whole-class, small group and individual learning.

Standards: Technology Integration

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session A ~ 10:00-11:00 AM

A31-The Ins and Outs of Cyber Bullying: Location, Rm. 305: Recommended for All

Michael Sassin and Erica Newall, Graduate Assistants; Bridgewater State University; MARC

Cyber Bullying is an enormously important area which is growing in its influence on children. We will be presenting a review of our latest research findings on cyber bullying and the risk factors that could be correlated with an increases likelihood that a child may become a bully or a victim. The survey results will also illustrate the numerous gender differences and trends between survey participants on topics of bullying and cyber bullying.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, School Organization & Culture, Professional Community and School, Family & community Partnerships

A32-Mental Toughness Training for Peak Performance: Location Rm. 510: Recommended for Paraeducators & Teachers PreK-12

Pete Moscariello, Math Department Head: RMHS

Mental Toughness may be defined as “doing one’s best regardless of the circumstances and conditions”. We all need mental toughness to deal with life’s daily challenges in the classroom, on the athletic fields, in performing arts, at work, and in every area of life.

Participants will learn how to: Stay in the Present Moment, Use Positive Self-Talk, Focus on the Process, Not the Outcome, Learn From Adversity, Have Confidence, Use Breathing Techniques, Use Visualization, and Use Goal-Setting

Standards: School Organization & Culture, Leadership & Educational Vitality, Student Focus & Support

A33-Powerful Strategies to Enhance Learning of Gifted and Highly Able Students: Location, Rm. 232: Recommended for Teachers All Levels

Nathan Levy, Author and Educational Consultant

This workshop presents innovative, easy to implement strategies for successfully teaching gifted and highly able students. Practical techniques for increasing the motivation and achievement within this special segment of the population will be presented. Methods to successfully break the cycle of discouragement and perfectionism that many of these students experience are included. Participants will learn creative ideas to assist students meet today’s higher standards. Participants will leave with specific methods they can implement the very next day.

Standards: Student Focus & Support

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session B ~11:15–12:15 PM

B1-Cracking the Native Information Experience: Location, Performing Arts Center: Recommended for All

David Warlick, Director of Landmark Project, North Carolina

For many of our students, change is status quo. They’ve witnessed an emerging new information environment and have participated in shaping its landscape, seamlessly utilizing technologies that define their culture. Their outside-the-classroom experiences are deep, diverse, rich, and compelling – and understanding these experiences may be an important key to achieving more effective and relevant formal learning. What are the qualities of these experiences? What are their contexts? How might we inventively implement them as classroom pedagogies?

Standards: Leadership & Educational Vitality

B2-Welcoming Princess Boys, Rough & Tumble Girls and Other Outliers on the Gender Spectrum: Location, Chorus Rm.: Recommended for Teachers PreK-5

Kim Westheimer, Director: Welcoming Schools: Human Rights Campaign

Do you know students who are teased because they aren’t considered “boy enough” or “girl enough”? Have you heard parents complain because their son likes to wear girls’ accessories at play time or because their daughter has no interest in dolls or dressing up? In this workshop we’ll look at how expectations about gender affect individuals, classrooms and communities using resources from *Welcoming Schools: A guide to help elementary schools embrace family diversity, avoid gender stereotyping and stop bullying*.

Standards: School Organization and Culture; School, Family and Community Partnerships

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session B ~11:15–12:15 PM

B3-Prezi is Precious!: Location, Front Library Lab, Rm. 344: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-12

Sarah Doane, Art 6-8 and Sarah Marchant, Science 6-8: Arthur W. Coolidge MS

Are you tired of Power Point? Are you looking for a little variety in how you give presentations? If so, then Prezi is for you! Prezi is an online program that allows you to make a presentation that MOVES. It zooms in, zooms out, plays videos, and shows photos. In this workshop, we will introduce you to Prezi and then help as you play with the program.

Standards: Technology Integration

B4-Increasing Active Student Responding in the Classroom-Getting the Most Out of Group Instruction: Location, Rm. 209: Recommended for Teachers Gr. PreK - 5

Margery K. Lerner, M.A., BCBA, SEEM Collaborative, Behavior Analyst

This presentation, which will incorporate first hand use of Active Student Responding techniques, will focus on how teachers can take full advantage of the benefits associated with one-to-one instruction in group settings. Increasing Active Student Responding has been demonstrated to increase mastery, accuracy, and fluency in a variety of subject areas, as well as a methodology for reducing disruptive behavior. An extra added benefit is increased student enjoyment in the learning process.

Standards: Active Teaching and Learning; Challenging Standards and Curriculum

B5-Exploring Geometry and Measurement in the Elementary Classroom: Location, Rm. 225: Recommended for Teachers PreK-5

Dr. Christine B. Redford, Wheelock College

Come and explore interactive elementary geometry and measurement that addresses the new Common Core Standards. Manipulatives and games will be used to delve into a variety of geometric and measurement topics that will be easy to implement.

Standards: Challenging Standards and Curriculum

B6-Fluency Presentation and Forum in the Primary Grades: Location, Rm. 234: Recommended for Paraeducators & Teachers Prek-2

Jaime Quinn & Susan Libby, Gr. 2 Teachers, Joshua Eaton ES

In this workshop we will share some of the strategies that we have learned to improve reading fluency. It can be a challenge to motivate children when trying to improve their ability to read text accurately and quickly. We have found some reading fluency activities that encompass both rate of words read per minute, as well as the ability to read with expression. In addition, we will briefly give some games that help improve the ability to recognize sight or trick words. As educators we all know that as children learn to read, the speed at which they read becomes an important measure of fluency. We would also like to encourage you to bring in any materials, or ideas that you might be interested in sharing with the group in the area of reading fluency.

Standards: Challenging Standards and Curriculum & Active Teaching and Learning

B7-Student Focus: Social, Emotional, and Academic Support at Coolidge Middle School: Location, Rm. 235: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 6-8

Christian Huizenga, Wellness & Laura Warren, Language Arts: Arthur W. Coolidge MS

Coolidge Middle School, an award-winning middle school in Reading, MA, successfully maintains academic rigor while supporting students' emotional, social and academic growth. In this presentation, we will highlight some of our successful practices which include a comprehensive transition program, morning advisory, and academic intervention strategies.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, School Organization & Culture

B8-Journey Home Through Journaling: Location, Rm. 309: Recommended for Teacher Gr. 6-8

Donna Martinson, English Teacher and Joan Reeve, SPED TA: Walter S. Parker MS

Studies have been conducted that have found that topic specific journal writing addresses the needs of all types of learners and promotes critical and creative writing skills in even the most reluctant minimalist writers. This workshop will utilize hard copy journals and technological tools to demonstrate how journal writing can help awaken inner voices as students practice self-reflection to increase recall, activate creative problem solving to engender personal growth, and organize assignments to foster planning and time management. This workshop will include handouts with a suggested syllabus, lesson ideas, and tips on how to take one topic and focus on the goal of capturing life's stories through a variety of writing genres, visual literacy assignments, and Photo Story 3 for Windows.

Standards: Active Teaching 7 Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Technology Integration

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session B ~ 11:15–12:15 PM

B9-The Performance of Teaching: Location, Rm. 324: Recommended for All

Jennifer Baskin, Gr. 10/11: RMHS

Many people fear public speaking, but every day, teachers face the daunting task of performing in front of demanding audiences. In this interactive workshop, learn techniques to master elocution, poise, and confidence in front of a crowd; discover how to minimize those sweaty palms and distracting “um’s”. Administrators, Teachers and Paraeducators all welcome.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Professional Community

B10-An Act Relative to Bullying – How This Legislation Impacts Our Schools: Location Rm. 322: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Nina Pomponio, Assistant District Attorney, Middlesex County

Massachusetts has a new bullying bill! This in-service training helps school districts prepare for and implement this mandate. The law is reviewed, with an emphasis on when bullying, which is prohibited but not a crime, becomes criminal. An emphasis on the cyber component of bullying is explored. Additionally, this training outlines when off campus behavior creates a hostile environment at school, infringes on students’ rights and/or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. Suggestions of strategies to prevent bullying and protect targets from aggressors will be given. This in-service training supports Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone’s continuing school safety initiatives.

Standards: School Organization & Culture, School, Family & Community Partnerships

B11-Paraeducators Sharing Best Practices! : Location, Rm. 328: Recommended for All Paraeducators

Erline Trites and Donna Mullen, SPED Paraeducators: J. Warren Killam ES

Special education paraeducators develop, implement, and successfully use strategies and skills to best support our special education student in their classrooms. Join in on a round table discussion to share some of these best practices and strategies with our special education paraeducators. The goal of our discussion is for all participants to leave with new ideas to make the work that we do with special education students more effective.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Professional Community

B12-The Reader’s Chair (four Easy-to-Make, Technology-Infused Projects): Location, Rm. 325: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 6-12

Steve Olivo, Gr. 8 English: Walter S. Parker MS

When looking for new ways to do end-of-the-month book reports, I turned to technology. Come see our podcasts and videos, discover how easy they are to facilitate and create. Learn how to publish them, and brainstorm and share new ideas. Don’t let the title fool you. These projects will work for any subject

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Student Focus & Support, Technology Integration

B13-Get on Your Feet!: Location Rm. 203: Recommended for Teachers PreK-3

Karen Feeney, Principal and Michelle Hopkinson, PE Teacher: Joshua Eaton ES

Do you have an “active classroom”? Do you find students have difficulty staying in one place? Do you wish you had some strategies that could benefit the students that require more “wiggle room”? If you answered yes to any of these questions then get ready to GET ON YOUR FEET! We will provide classroom examples of how to utilize the space in your classroom and how to get your students out of their seats; plus an overview of the importance of incorporating movement into the school day. So please join us and get ready to move!

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Student Focus & Support

B14-Universal Design for Learning: Free Web-Based Scaffolded Reading Environments: Location Rm. 232

Peggy Coyne, Research Scientist: Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)

A demonstration of free Universal Design for Learning (UDL) web-based tools will provide participants with specific examples demonstrating how to embed research-based reading strategies into digital environments in order to provide learners with scaffolded adjustable supports for reading instruction. A brief overview of UDL will explicitly link teacher practices with recent advances in the neurosciences.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Student Focus & Support, Challenging Standards & Curriculum

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session B ~11:15–12:15 PM

B15-Glogster Fun With Foundations: Location, Rm. 345; Library Lab: Recommended for Teachers PreK-2

Christen Del Rossi, Toni-Ann Ruocco; Gr. 1: J. W. Killam ES

Are you looking for a fun way to launch your classroom into the 21st Century? Come join us for a one hour lab experience. We will show you how we have been using Glogster as one way to engage our students and communicate with parents. Be sure to come with a curriculum concept idea in mind that you'd like to develop. Bring your flash drive and digital pictures. Get ready to create! See you there!

Standards: Technology Integration, School Family, & Community Partnerships, Active Teaching & Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum

B16-When Children Grieve: How Educators Can Help: Location, Rm. 305: Recommended for All

David Quemere, LICSW; Manager of Social Services & Bereavement Coordinator: VNA Hospice Care

Educators have a profound impact on a student's life. Children spend a large part of their waking hours with you in the classroom and in extracurricular activities. This discussion is designed to assist educators in recognizing grieving children and teens who may be having a difficult time due to a death in the family or from someone who is dying, identifying what to do for them, how to provide age appropriate interventions, and how to get support for yourself.

Standards: School, Family & Community Partnerships

B17-Flexible Grouping in Math at the Elementary Level: Location Rm. 237: Recommended for Gr. 3-5 Teachers

Jolene Tewksbury, Jo-Anne Garelick, Rick Downes, and Beth Slater, Gr. 4/5 Teachers; Kerry Mullen, Learning Center Teacher and Liz Rogers, Parent: Birch Meadow ES

For the past two years teachers in grades 4/5 have piloted a flexible grouping model, and explain the strategies for grouping students. A packet that includes pre-test samples, parent surveys, and student feedback will be distributed. We hope this workshop will provide a blue print for others interested in implementing this model at their own schools.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum

B18-Wrestling the Gorilla or How to Successfully Integrate Technology into the Learning Center: Location, Rm. 315: Recommended for Teachers 6-12

Dana Zazinski Wendel, Gr. 7/8 SPED Teacher: Arthur W. Coolidge MS

The Learning Center is a special educational environment (pun intended) because it's a content-free classroom with no grades and no specific curriculum that services many students with different disabilities, goals, needs and learning styles. Additionally, it's the one classroom in the school that needs to be able to pre-and re-teach every content area to behavioral disabilities and more. In this workshop, we will explore many 21st Century Classroom tools that can be utilized for student success. From the application of Google Tools to Glogster to the creation of a class Wiki or Blog, we will share ideas that can successfully organize any Learning Center

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Technology Integration

B19-Being Proactive With A Positive Spin! : Location, Rm. 332: Recommended for Teachers Pre-K-5

Julia Paone, SPED Teacher; Jessica Ostuni, School Psychologist; Cathy Giles, Principal: J. Warren Killam ES

This dynamic session will consist of sharing of positive intervention strategies and plans to support and promote respectful behaviors and intrinsic motivation in all elementary students. Join us to hear about effective, easy to manage tips and techniques that will reenergize and refocus all elementary learners even during the most challenging transitions and moments. Presenters will share their experiences and authentic materials!

Standards: Student Focus & Support, School Culture and Organization

B20-Olympians and Ancient Voices: Ideas for Using Mythology in the Classroom: Location, Rm. 236: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-12

Nancy Irons and Danja Mahoney, Latin Teachers: RMHS

Teachers of Roman and Greek mythology and those who use "The Lightning Thief" will benefit from this session. The presenters are high school Latin teachers who will share ideas for costume projects, mythology blogs, and other creative activities that encourage students to bring ancient stories to life. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the pantheon of Roman and Greek gods, their iconography, and the best classroom resources for teaching ancient mythology.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session B: 11:15–12:15 PM

B21-Amazing Things Cells Can Do: Location, Rm. 319: Recommended for Gr. 6-12

Mary Anne Lynn, Gr. 9-12 Science: RMHS

Participate in activities and explore the resources that can supplement your biology units. Bring your cell units alive with a 3-D movie and interactive animations! Online and classroom activities explore organelles, cell communication, size and scale. Free at <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu>.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum

B22-Technology Presentation Projects in the Early Grades: Location, Rm. 321: Recommended for Teachers K-3

Barbara Sheehan, Lisa Norcross, Isabella Jordan; Gr. 2 & Library Media Specialist: Wood End ES

We will show a variety of technological presentation tools that connect kids to the curriculum in creative and exciting ways. The examples presented will include actual projects made by students in our second grade. These digital programs are easily adaptable across curriculum and grades.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

B23-Loving Literacy Through Creative Technology: Location, Rm. 341: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-8

Jennifer Scribner Gr. 4 Language Based Classroom: Birch Meadow ES and Julie Merrill Gr. 6 Language Based Classroom: Walter S. Parker MS

This workshop is designed to introduce and model new ways of using various Web 2.0 tools to motivate and engage struggling readers and writers, as well as assist students in building 21st Century Skills in the area of English Language Arts. Technology tools related to fluency, comprehension, and collaboration among student peers will be presented and discussed. Websites such as Voki, Storybird, and others will be shared.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

B24-It's Podcastic! : Location, Rm. 303: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Nancy Bentley, Gr. 4: Wood End ES

Instead of displaying your students' work on a bulletin board, imagine having your students present their work to people all over the globe. Podcasting will enable your students to share what they are learning with the outside world and receive feedback. As educators we know that students are more motivated when they write for a real purpose and have to present to an authentic audience. Podcasting also gives them an opportunity to practice 21st Century skills including collaborating, creating, and communicating. During this class, you will learn how to make your own podcasts using a free software called Audacity and be given time to practice your newly learned skills.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

B25-iTEC: Integrar la tecnologia en las clases de idiomas/ Integrer la technologie dans les cours de langues: Location, Rm. 231: Recommended for Teachers 9-12

Joanne Alvarez, Foreign Language Department Head: RMHS

Technology and Foreign Languages have much in common; for some, technology is a foreign language. Tech. geeks to technophobes, join us to explore ways to integrate technology into FL classes. We shall discuss and/or demonstrate uses of hardware such as SMARTBoards, digital voice recorders and explore free or inexpensive software programs and apps Like Wordle, film clips, websites and more. Class examples are in Spanish, but all FL teachers are welcome.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

B26-"Three's Company"- Co-teaching and Maximizing the Effectiveness of the Adults in Your Room!: Location, Rm. 311: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Marie Pink, Assistant Principal Arthur W. Coolidge MS; Kim Oliveira, Director Pupil Services; Jessica Lynch, District Special Education Team Chair

Would you like to have more FUN, working smarter/not harder at work that you are already having? Did you know that there are six approaches you can take to co-teach with a colleague? Discover what co-teaching is and IS NOT. Learn how to get started, address problematic concerns, and improve as you move forward. Join us at Three's Company to explore the possibilities.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning, School Organization & Culture

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session B: 11:15–12:15 PM

B27-Fabulous, Free Web Resources for Educators: Location, Rm. 313: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Jan Rhein and Kristie Lambert, Gr. 3: Birch Meadow ES

If you are interested in free web resources that you and your students can use, then this is the workshop for you! You will leave with multiple links that won't cost you a penny! We have a variety of different sites that enhance learning for your students and ones that will make your life a little easier!

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, School, Family & Community Partnerships, Technology Integration

B28-Classroom Management and Classroom Relationships: Location, Rm. 307: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 6-8

Craig Martin, Principal: Arthur W. Coolidge MS

A Proactive Management plan can be essential to effective middle-level instruction. It can also help students make continuous progress. Craig Martin, recipient of the National Middle School Association's Distinguished Educator Award and Principal of Coolidge Middle School in Reading, presents a classroom system based on positive connections with students.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning

B29- Beep! Beep! Back-Up with Backward Design! : Location Rm. 207: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-5

Jessica Bruno, Kate Carlow, Jeff Clemons, Tonia McGuire; Gr. 4: J. Warren Killam ES

Whether you are a new teacher or just looking to brush up on your skills, come join us for a presentation on using the standards-based Backwards Design Model! We will walk you through the process of using Backward Design to improve a unit of study and will share with you how our fourth grade team used Backward Design to improve our current Social Studies unit on Regions of the United States. You will also have time to use the Backward Design template to develop or improve a unit of your choice. Please bring the frameworks that apply to the unit you want to focus on and we will help you get started.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum

B30-SMART Response Family of Products: Location Rm. 222: Recommended for All

SMART Technologies, Inc.

SMART Response interactive response systems integrate seamlessly with SMART Notebook software to provide one application for all your curriculum development, lesson delivery, assessment and evaluation needs. SMART Response helps you keep students interested, involved and participating. Offering several product choices, SMART Response systems meet the needs of any classroom.

Standards: Technology Integration

B31- Part 2 - Advanced Classroom Strategies for Classroom Educators: Location, Rm. 413: Distance Learning Lab: Recommended for Paraprofessionals & Teachers All Levels (You may attend this session without attending Part 1)

Jean Stern, Adjunct Trainer and Consultant; Former Director of Children's Services for the Asperger's Association of New England

Inclusion of children with neurological differences requires that all strategies and supports help the child thrive **in the classroom**. This classroom work is performed by **general educators** and **instructional assistants**. This workshop is designed to provide those educators with information beyond introductory and basic theory. It will cover essential classroom strategies for the success of their neurologically different children.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning, School Organization & Culture, Professional Community and School, Family & Community Partnerships

B32-Mental Toughness Training for Peak Performance: Location Rm. 510: Recommended for Paraeducators & Teachers PreK-12

Pete Moscariello, Math Department Head: RMHS

Mental Toughness may be defined as "doing one's best regardless of the circumstances and conditions". We all need mental toughness to deal with life's daily challenges in the classroom, on the athletic fields, in performing arts, at work, and in every area of life.

Participants will learn how to: Stay in the Present Moment, Use Positive Self-Talk, Focus on the Process, Not the Outcome, Learn From Adversity, Have Confidence, Use Breathing Techniques, Use Visualization, and Use Goal-Setting

Standards: School Organization & Culture, Leadership & Educational Vitality, Student Focus & Support

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference

Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session C ~1:30-2:30 PM

C1-Personal Learning Networks: Location, Performing Arts Center: Recommended for All

David Warlick, Director of Landmark Project, North Carolina

We teach in a time of rapid change, when, for the first time in history, we cannot clearly describe the future for which we are preparing our children. This is one reason why learning has become a critical part of what it is to teach. In this workshop, participants will explore a variety of emerging tools and techniques that educators are using to form and cultivate their Personal Learning Networks — connecting themselves to people and resources that help them do their jobs as a 21st century educator. Learn how to grow your own connections to information and experiences that help you strengthen your expertise and remain an engaged member of your profession.

Standards: Leadership & Educational Vitality

C2-We're Not in the Basement Anymore! Using 21st Century Tools to Maximize Special Education Services: Location, Library Back Lab, Rm. 345: Recommended for Paraeducators and Teachers Gr. 6-12

Brigid Rodin, Gr. 8 Speech/Lang.: Walter S. Parker MS

Have you ever wished that you could have more time with your students? Wished that the skills you practiced could go home with them? You can – and without having to expand your work hours even more. By using various Web 2.0 tools, you can increase access to your students without having to increase the number of hours in a day! This workshop will be broken down into *Why* incorporate 21st Century tools into special education services, *What* those might look like, using specific examples (wikis, podcasts, Edline, Google applications, etc.), and *How* the various resources discussed might be used in one's own practice. There will be time to investigate and play with various options.

Standards: Student Focus & Support

C3-Edmodo is Elementary!: Location, Rm. 319, Comp App: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-5

Jolene Tewksbury, Gr. 4: J. Birch Meadow ES

Come learn the many ways that Edmodo.com, a safe social networking site created by teachers, can be used at the elementary level (grade 4). You will see many examples of how the website has already been used successfully in the classroom and also get the chance to set up your own account!

Standards: Technology Integration, Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Active Teaching & Learning

C4-To Internet...and BEYOND!: Location, Front Library Lab Rm. 344: Recommended for Teachers PreK-5

Mia Gaska, Gr. 4: Wood End ES

Enhance the curriculum by stimulating your students learning with these exciting web tools. This session is designed to introduce you to several school friendly websites, ways to integrate them into your curriculum, as well as giving you the opportunity to sign up and explore the sites for yourself. You will leave this session with web tools that you can use as soon as you return to your classroom!

Standards: Technology Integration, Student Focus & Support

C5-Patterns Galore! Location, Rm. 225: Recommended for Teachers PreK-5

Dr. Christine B. Redford: Wheelock College

Do you want your students to be excited about math? Come and explore many mathematical patterns that surround us in everyday life. Leave with easy ideas to implement in the classroom.

Standards: Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Active Teaching & Learning

C6-How Fast are You Speed Stacking?: Location, Rm. 230: Recommended for Paraeducators and Teachers PreK-8

Chris Copeland, Peter DiSalvatore, and Elise (Tee) O'Brien; PreK-8 Health & Wellness Teachers: Walter S. Parker MS, Wood End and J. Warren Killam ES

Have you seen kids stack cups? It's amazing to race against the clock! Today schools, teachers and parents are focused more that ever on academic achievement. Sport stacking not only promotes physical fitness, but also academic learning. Students that sport stack on a regular basis have shown increases in test scores and levels of concentration. This is achieved by students using both the right and left sides of their brain. When students sport stack they are crossing the "midline" of their bodies and developing new connections in their brains.

Standards: Technology Integration & Professional Community

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference

Friday, April 15th, Session C: 1:30-2:30 PM

C7-New Ways to Teach Perspective Taking for Students on the Autism Spectrum: Location Rm. 303: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Tara Herlihy, Jeanette Leonard, Jennifer Zurcher & Cathy McInerney; DLC Teachers and Speech & Language Pathologists: Alice M. Barrows ES

In the Developmental Learning Center (DLC) we realize that teaching academics to students with Autism Spectrum Disorders is only half the battle because, as bright as they may be in the academic setting, their futures depend on their ability to navigate through life socially. Teaching them the nuances of the social world, however, has consistently been our biggest challenge. Over the past year, we have begun to shift our approach to teaching these complex concepts by integrating the ideas and methods of Relationship Development Intervention (RDI) as well as the theories and practices of Michelle Garcia Winner's Social Thinking curricula into our program. The ideas and principles are simple, but their effects are truly astounding. Come see how we've begun integrating these concepts into our students' days from social skills groups to the lunchroom, to recess, to the classroom. And see why we're so excited about the results.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning

C8-Online Collaborative Conversations Enhance Community: Location Rm. 236: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Elinor Freedman, Principal Reading Memorial High School

The best professional development for learning communities comes from the sharing of best practices and expertise on an ongoing basis. Given hectic schedules and myriad professional obligations, it is sometimes difficult to connect in real time around topics of mutual interest. Hear how a school faculty furthered its professional connections and community through the use of a Ning social network site. Attendees are invited to share their experiences within and beyond school's walls.

Standards: Professional Community

C9-Creating Safe, Healthy and Supportive Learning Environments to Increase the Success of All Students: Location, Rm. 234: Recommended for PreK-12 Teachers

Sara Fernandes, Reading Public Schools Behavioral Health Coordinator

Join Reading's new Behavioral Health Coordinator in this hands-on workshop where the participants have the floor! Participants will comprehensively map Reading's strengths and challenges in the areas of leadership, professional development, access to resources and serviced, academic and non-academic strategies, policies and protocols, and collaboration with families. If you are passionate about effective learning and promoting social, emotional and behavioral health for *all students* then your voice needs to be heard here! (*Reading Staff Only, Please*)

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Professional Community, School Organization & Culture, Leadership & Educational Vitality, and School, Family & Community Partnerships.

C10-A Blog For Every Student: Location: Rm. 305: Recommended for Teachers 6-12

Steve Olivo, Gr. 8 English: Walter S. Parker MS

Using blogs with students can open up a whole new world of possibilities in your classroom. See how 8th grade students at Parker Middle School use blogs to publish their writing and projects, share thoughts and give feedback to other students, and demonstrate growth as a writer and a student. Additionally, learn how to manage your students' blogs, facilitate commenting, showcase exemplary work, and read and grade them efficiently. Bring your questions and imaginations.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

C11-Mentoring With A Twist: Staff and Student Buddies! Location: Rm. 332: Recommended for Teachers PreK-5

Karen Douglass, Jessica Ostuni, Julia Paone and Cathy Giles; Gr. 2 Teacher, School Psychologist and Principal: J. Warren Killam ES

Come on in, pull yourself up a chair...have you ever felt like you don't have time to connect with individual students that are in your school on a consistent basis? Do you want to celebrate each moment with the kids who need it most? We did too and we think we found a great way! Please join us to hear about our newly developed and recently implemented student/teacher mentor program. We have worked together as a staff to create this program and would love to share the collaborative process we worked through in order to develop and implement these supports. Please come prepared to share all of the ways you and your building communities foster relationships and nurture the "whole child".

Standards: Student Focus & Support, School Culture & Organization, Professional Community

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Session C: 1:30-2:30 PM

C12-Extra, Extra, Write All About It...: Location, Rm. 313: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-5

Tonia McGuire, Gr. 4: J. Warren Killam ES

Come along and share ideas for writing. At this interactive presentation and discussion we will look at modeling using mentor texts and student writing. Share ideas for great writing projects, and learn how to make simple books that will entice your students to fill the pages with their own stories. Please bring your own ideas to share, too.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning

C13-Teachers Teaching Teachers...Professional Development That Makes a Difference!: Location, Rm. 314: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-12

Doug Lyons, Leah Cristi, Jane Costa & Meghan Lockwood; Principal and Gr. 6-8 Teachers: Walter S. Parker MS

We at Parker Middle School are learning how to learn with and from one another to improve instruction and engage students. Come join us to hear about how we have developed professional learning structures that have helped us integrate technology into classrooms and have helped students and teachers make their work public. We will also touch on how this process has shaped our culture, responsibility, and shared accountability for student performance

Standards: Professional Community, School Organization & Culture, Leadership & Educational Vitality

C14-Story form Puzzle...It's No Puzzle at All!: Location, Rm. 325: Recommended for Teachers Pre-K-5

Marian Nihan, Jackie Pepper; Gr. 2 & K Teachers: Wood End ES

We will demonstrate the use of the Project Read *Story Form* puzzle as a reading comprehension strategy for elementary school students. Project Read employs a multisensory approach to teaching literacy skill and *Story Form* explicitly teaches the elements of character, setting, problem, solution, and author's message. Learn this easy method and apply the map to stories throughout the year. Participants will receive lessons and materials that can be used immediately in the classroom.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

C15-"Bloom"ing Questions: Children Creating Questions for Children: Exploring Higher Level Thinking Questions Using Bloom's Taxonomy: Location, Rm. 309: Recommended for Teachers PreK-5

Jennifer Carlson, Gr. 3: L.G. Nourse ES; Norton, MA

Watch Bloom's Taxonomy in action! This presentation will show how third grade children can create higher level thinking questions for their peers (& for children at other grade levels) using Bloom's Taxonomy as a guide. They then use SMART Response technology to create a SMART notebook presentation and assessment that utilizes SMART Response clickers. Two third graders will attend to model the process.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Technology Integration, Student Focus & Support

C16-The Power of Discovery Education: Using Images and Video to Enhance Student Work: Location, Rm. 307: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 6-12

Robyn Ferrazzani, Library/Media Specialist: Walter S. Parker MS

Discovery Education is a valuable resource that the Reading School System generously supports. This show and tell workshop will demonstrate how to take this powerful database and use it to empower students to create unique projects. Come and learn how to enhance your assignments by asking students to embed copyright friendly images and video clips from Discovery Education into their projects. They will even be able to cite their sources with ease.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

C17-Creative Science: A 21st Century Approach: Location, Rm. 340: Recommended for Teachers 6-9 (+/-)

Sarah Marchant, Gr. 8 Science: Arthur W. Coolidge MS

What 21st Century skills do our students need in order to succeed in the future? How can we best prepare them for this future in our classes? This workshop will focus on one teacher's effort to create a middle school science curriculum that uses project-based learning, creative problem solving, and Web 2.0 tools to engage student learning and sharing. Various student project types and technology tools will be presented. Attendees are invited to share their own teaching experiences as well as to try the technology tools on their own laptops.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Challenging Standards & Curriculum, Technology Integration

Reading Public Schools Blue Ribbon Institute and Staff Sharing Conference
Friday, April 15th, Concurrent Workshop Session C ~ 1:30-2:30 PM

C18-Let Jing Ring!: Location, Rm. 334: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-8

Kristie Lambert and Jan Rhein, Gr. 3: Birch Meadow ES

Learn how to use Jing in the elementary classroom! Jing is a screenshot and a screencasting tool that is great for both teachers and students! Provide your students with screencasts of daily lessons or tutorials. Have your students teach other students how to create book recommendations or how to solve math problems!

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration

C19-Is Special Education the Right Service?: Location, Rm. 235: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Pam Girouard, Sarah Lanzo; K-12 SPED District Administrators, Reading Public Schools

This presentation will outline the process of determining whether or not a struggling student is eligible for special education services. Topics of discussion will include, but are not limited to, the referral process, components of a thorough evaluation, eligibility determination, and disability categories

Standards: Student Focus & Support; Professional Community; School, Family & Community Partnerships, Indicators of Success

C20-Linking Learners to Literacy: Location, Rm. 336: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 3-8

Julie Merrill, Gr. 6, Language Based Classroom (LLD): Walter S. Parker MS and Jennifer Scribner, LLD: Birch Meadow ES

This presentation is for anyone hoping to improve students' literacy skills. Focusing on struggling readers, this workshop will highlight technology and Web 2.0 tools that help build fluency, comprehension, writing skills and a love of literacy. You will see examples of how Audacity, Glogster, Flip Cameras, and more have been incorporated into the curriculum in a language-based classroom. The presentation will include adaptations to meet the needs of both elementary and middle school students.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Technology Integration, Student Focus & Support

C-21-23 Ways to Bully-Proof Your School: Chorus Rm.: Recommended for Paraeducators & Teachers PreK-12

Peggy Schleicher, M.ED: Schools With Heart; Trainer/Consultant

There is more going on in school today than the *ABC's* and *1,2,3's*. Bullying is negatively impacting learning and healthy social-emotional development. Massachusetts law requires school-based intervention. This fast-paced, timely workshop presents research-driven, best-practice strategies that will assist schools in bullying prevention and intervention. Attend this session for twenty-three ideas that will help to bully-proof your school and classroom

Standards: School Organization & Culture, Student Focus & Support

C22-Art is Poetry, Poetry is Art: Location, Rm. 341: Recommended for Teachers 6-12

Michelle Goodnow: Gr. 10/11 English: RMHS

This workshop will focus on the use of artistic media to inspire the writing of poetry. We will model how paintings, sculptures and music can be used in the English classroom to assist in the creation of our own poetry, as well as aid in our interpretations of the poetry we present to our students.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning

C23-SMART Classroom Suite™ /Create-Teach-Learn-Assess: Location, Rm. 222: Recommended for Teachers K-12

SMART Technologies, Inc.

SMART Classroom Suite™ interactive learning software combines four of SMART's powerful educational software applications to support teachers and students through the key stages of teaching and learning. From lesson creation and delivery to student assessment, the suite enhances teaching and accelerates student learning in computer-enabled classrooms. (This session is Windows only)

Standards: Technology Integration

C24-Team Process – Unraveling the Mystery: Location, Rm. 338: Recommended for All

Colleen Dolan, Executive Director, Northshore Education Consortium

This workshop will help participants to understand the three components of special education Team Process: Eligibility Determination, IEP development, and Placement. We will discuss components of the Individualized Education Program and appropriate content. Hints on meaningful participation in Team meetings will be offered.

Standards: Student Focus & Support, School, Family and Community Partnerships.

C25-Why Weebly? : Location, Rm. 315: Recommended for Teachers PreK-12

Jennifer Emmett, Melissa Fleishman and Beth Slater, Gr. 5 Teachers: Birch Meadow ES

Why Weebly? Weebly is a one-stop shop with simple predefined components for creating and maintaining a website...and it's free to join! Join us as we share the ease of using a Weebly, as well as explore a few of its uses in education. We will help to get you started, but the possibilities are endless!!

Standards: Technology Integration, Active Teaching & Learning

C26-Adventure Programming Cross Curriculum Workshop: Location, Field House: Recommended for Paraeducators & PreK-12 Teachers

Charlie Williams, Trainer: WingSpeed Adventures; Tom Zaya, Wellness Dept. Head: Reading Memorial HS

Participants will explore ways to use adventure programming activities in a classroom setting as well as the gymnasium. Group members will progress through a sequence of activities and utilize adventure programming strategies, techniques and activities. These activities will include ice breakers, group initiatives and communication skills. Come prepared for activity and fun.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Student Focus & Support

C-27-Kindling a Connection: Location, Rm. 324: Recommended for Teachers Gr. 9-12

Jennifer Baskin, Gr. 10/12 English, RMHS

Some critics claim electronic readers are revolutionizing the way people approach books. In this workshop, learn and share techniques for using a Kindle to teach literature whether or not students have access to the same equipment. The discussion will also present the merits of different types of eReaders and tablet PCs for evaluation for classroom use.

Standards: Active Teaching & Learning, Professional Community, Student Focus & Support, Technology Integration

Thank you to the following for their contributions...

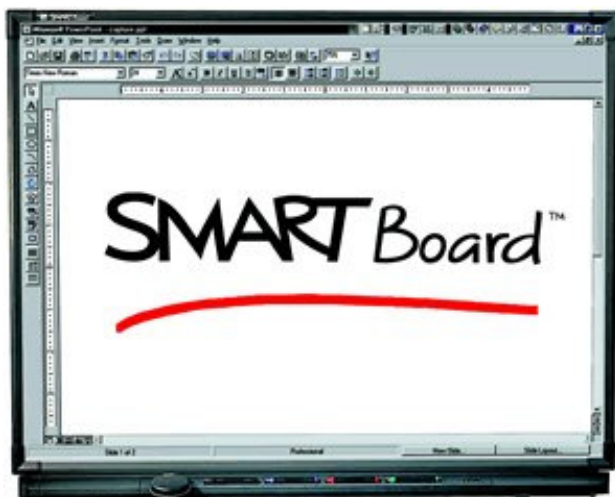
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in Room 222
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during lunch and breaks.

We would like to thank the following people for their efforts in making this conference a success...

Mary Ellen Begonis, Administrative Assistant for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Brittany Bauman, Music Teacher, Killam and Wood End Schools
David Bunten, Music Teacher, Reading Memorial High School
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Karen Callan, Principal, Barrows Elementary School
Elizabeth Conway, Human Resources Administrator
Kathy Dailey, Visual Arts Teacher, Reading Memorial High School
Lauren Dahm, Administrative Assistant, Central Office
Richard Davidson, Principal, Wood End Elementary School
Diane Davis, Visual Arts Teacher, Parker Middle School
Donna Dawson, Visual Arts Teacher, Killam and Joshua Eaton Elementary Schools
Patty de Garavilla, Assistant Superintendent
Mary DeLai, Director of Finance and Operations
Jenny DiMuzio, Music Teacher, Coolidge Middle School
Sarah Doane, Visual Arts Teacher, Coolidge Middle School
Geri Donahue, District Food Service Secretary
Michael Donahue, District Technician
William Endslow, Fine Arts Department Chair, Reading Memorial High School
Linda Engelson, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
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Elinor Freedman, Principal, Reading Memorial High School
Susan Gilbert, Visual Art Teacher, Reading Memorial High School
Cathy Giles, Principal, Killam Elementary School
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Kristin Killian-Music Teacher, Reading Memorial High School
Bonnie Lane, District Technician
Veronique Latimer, Visual Arts Teacher, Reading Memorial High School
Doug Lyons, Principal, Walter S. Parker Middle School
Craig Martin, Principal, Arthur W. Coolidge Middle School
Alicia McKenney, Music Teacher, Joshua Eaton and Birch Meadow Elementary Schools
LizandroMendoza, District Technician
Lori Miller, Administrative Assistant, Central Office
Kristin Morello, Director of Food Services
Al Mosier, Music Teacher, Wood End and Birch Meadow Elementary Schools
Joe Mulligan, Music Teacher, RMHS and Coolidge
Cathy O'Connell, Assistant Principal, Parker Middle School
Kim Oliveira, Director of Pupil Services
Christina Papanikolaou, Visual Arts Teacher, Birch Meadow and Wood End Elementary Schools
Meg Powers, Technology Integration Specialist, Parker Middle School
Patricia Puglisi, Assistant Principal, Reading Memorial High School
Michael Radvany, Visual Arts Teacher, Reading Memorial High School
Amy Ropple, Visual Arts Teacher, Parker Middle School
Reading Public Schools Cafeteria Staff
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Paula Santarpio, Administrative Assistant, Central Office
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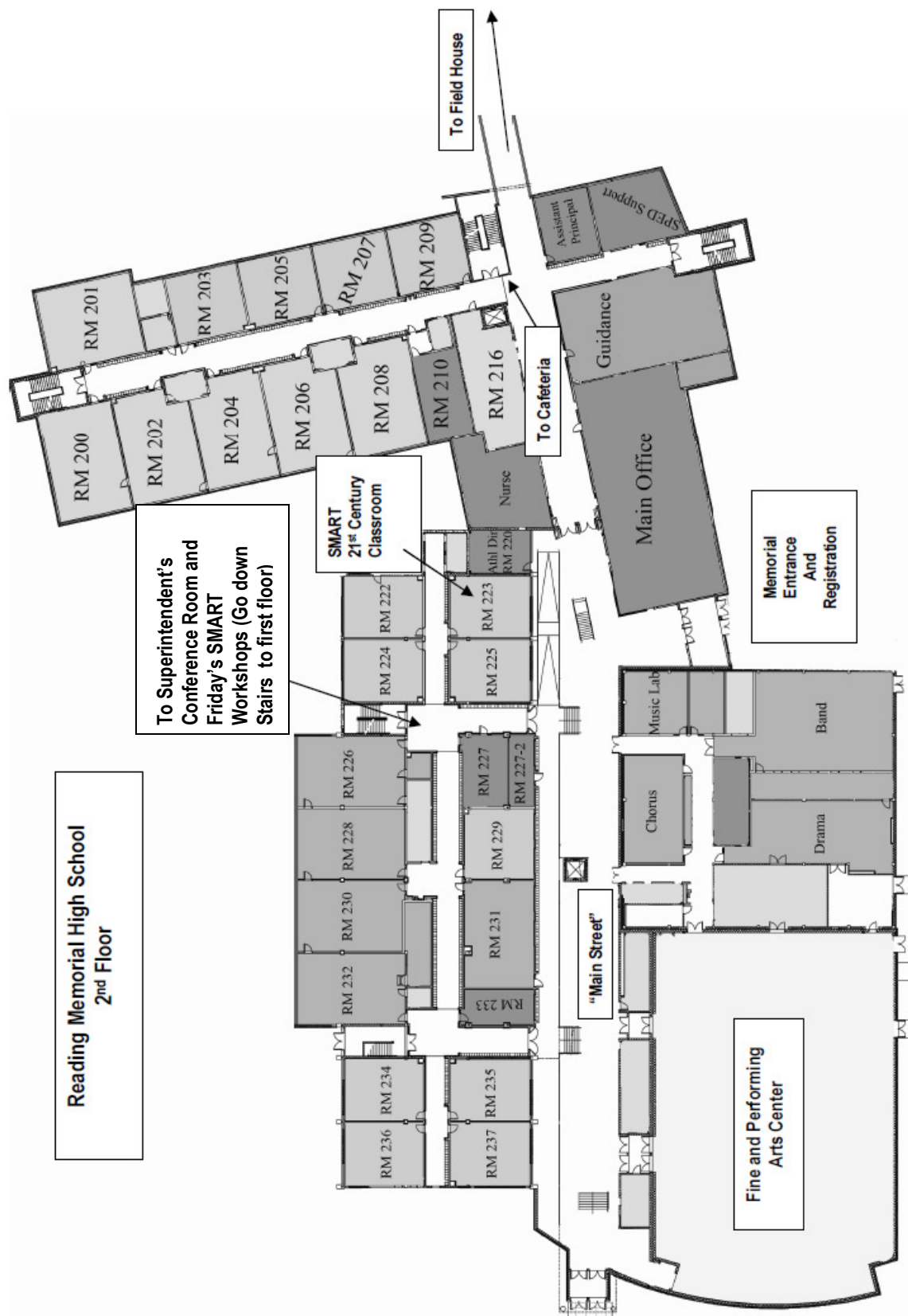
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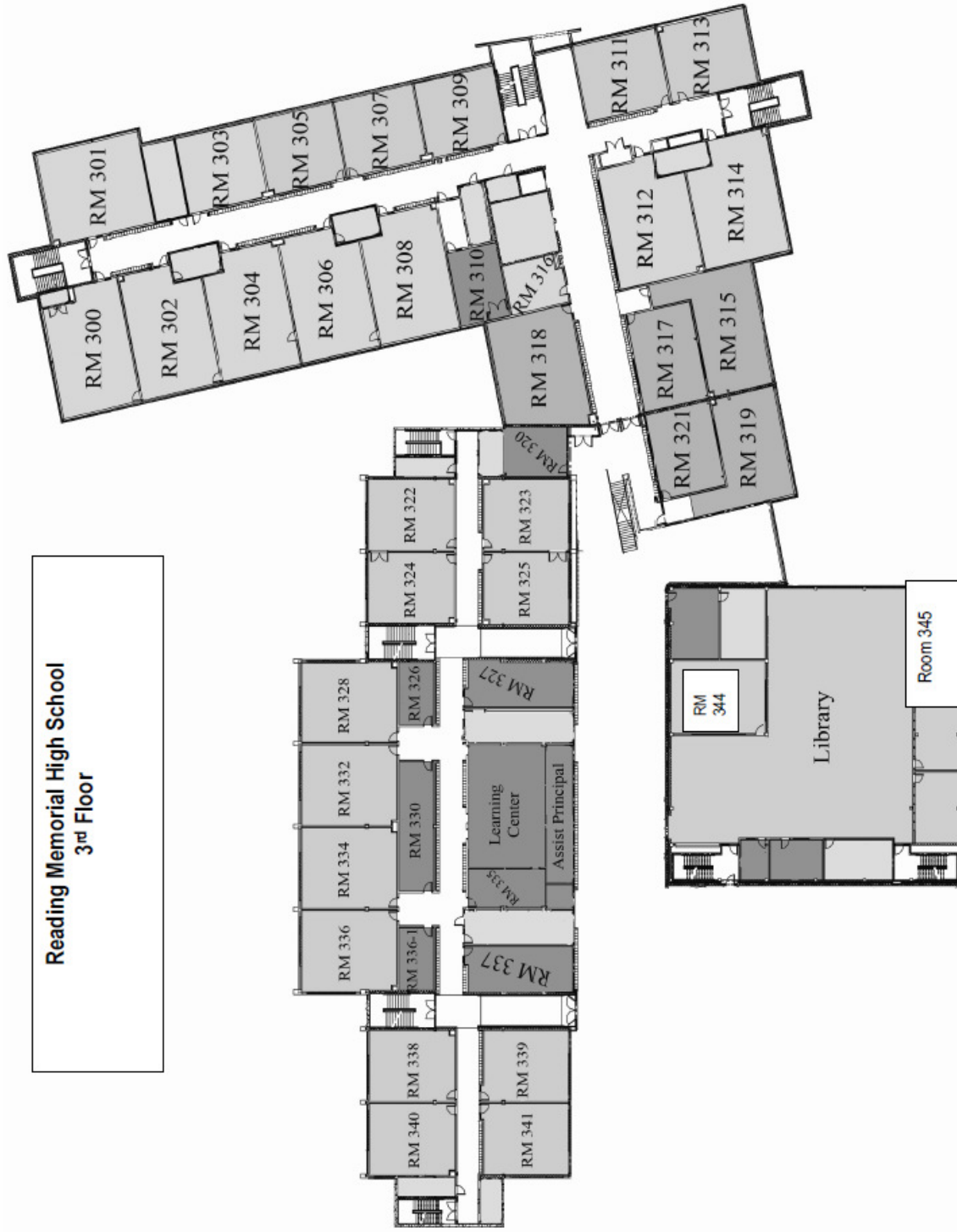
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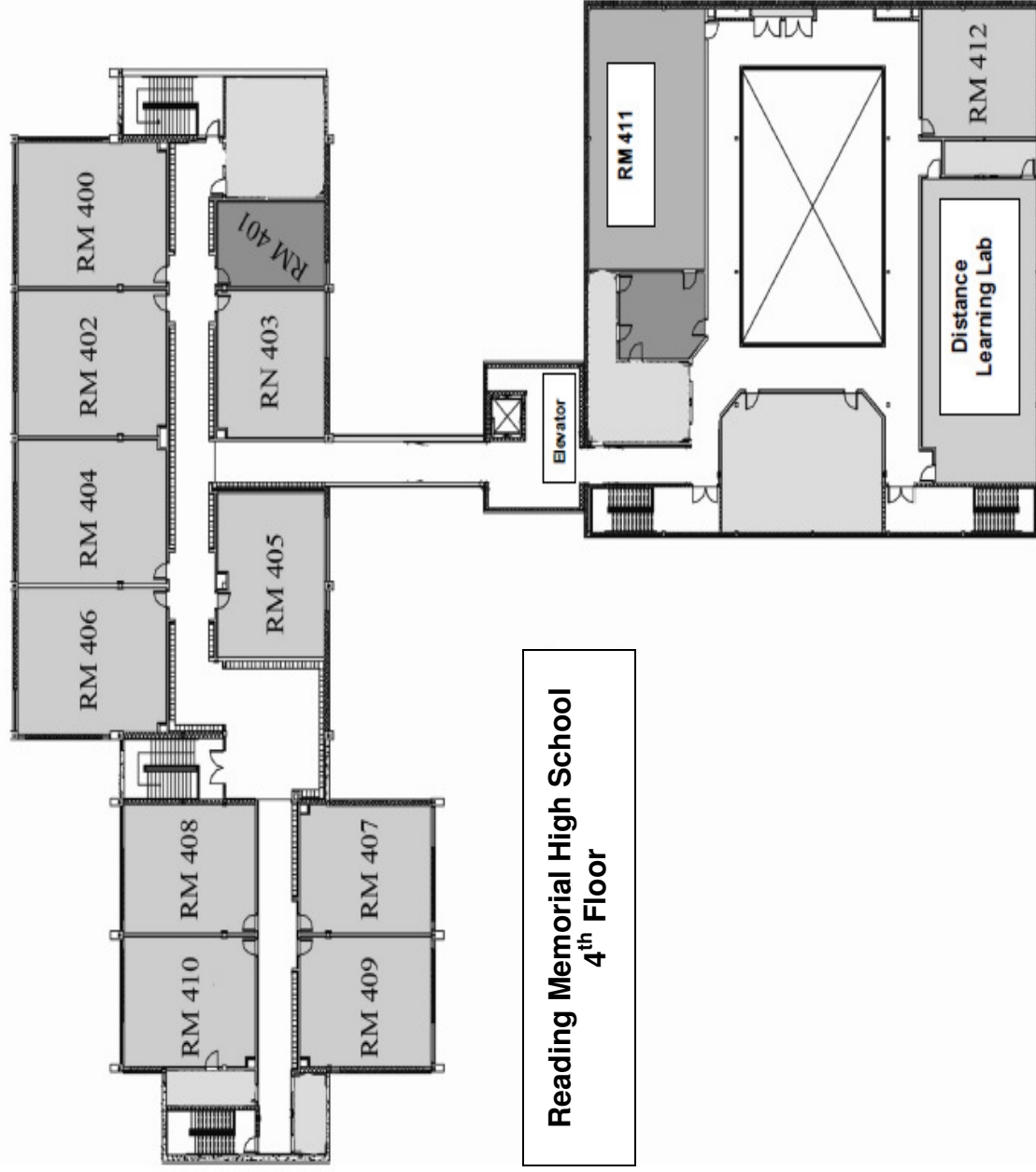
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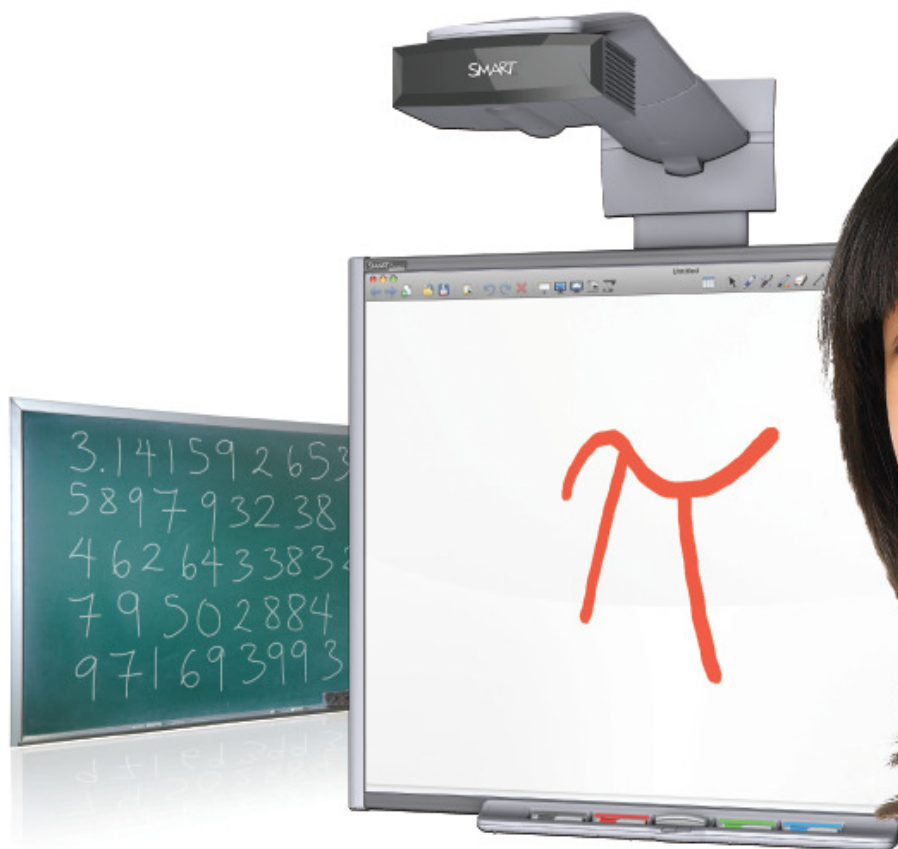
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