



New York State  
Middle School  
Association



*Supporting Middle-Level  
Teachers and Leaders in their  
Race to the Top*



32nd Annual NYSMSA  
Conference Preview &  
Call for Presenters

October 18-20, 2012  
Cheektowaga, New York



## *You are Cordially Invited...*

The 32nd Annual New York State Middle School Association Conference will be held at Cheektowaga Middle School and the Millennium Hotel on October 18-20, 2012. Located at the gateway to Buffalo and Niagara Falls, Cheektowaga is a central hub, within a 20 minute drive to the Buffalo–Niagara Airport, as well as Interstate 90. It will be a breeze to shuffle off to Buffalo for some of the most highly-effective and affordable professional development for middle-level educators in New York State.

Come be part of the action and discover what Western New York has to offer. This year, we are offering new conference components, guaranteed to support educators and schools in their “race to the top.”

Be part of the sharing! We are looking for presenters willing to share their expertise on effective, developmentally- responsive educational strategies for middle-level teachers, teacher leaders, and administrators.

Looking forward to seeing you in Buffalo,



Monica Kwiatkowski, Region 9 Director NYSMSA  
[Kwiat@nysmsa.org](mailto:Kwiat@nysmsa.org)



## **Three Days of Exceptional RttT-Aligned Professional Development for Middle-Level Practitioners**

**Thursday, October 18, 2012**

**Millennium Hotel**

Middle-Level School Visitations throughout WNY  
Five-Hour Pre-Conference Workshops Annual  
Cocktail Reception  
Awards Banquet with Keynote Address



**Friday, October 19, 2012**

**Cheektowaga Middle/High School**

Main Conference and Trade Exhibit

Feature Presentations

**Implementation Labs**

Practitioner Workshops

Full Trade Exhibit with loads of giveaways



**Saturday, October 20, 2012**

**Breakfast of Champions**

**Millennium Hotel**

***What Every Middle-Level Teacher Needs to Know***

Mock Interviews, The Essential Elements, and helpful hints for finding the job, getting the job, and keeping the job in a middle school.





**Full-day Pre-Conference Workshops**  
Thursday, October 18, 2012 9:00 am—3:00 PM  
Millennium Hotel, Cheektowaga

**\$140 Registration Fee (lunch included)**

Select one of the following pre-conference workshops and receive a full day of professional development aligned with **Race to the Top** and NYS' **Regents Reform Agenda**.

**RttT Focus**

**Developing A Middle-Level Team Centered around Data Inquiry**

Jennifer Borgioli, Learning Center Initiatives, Ltd.



Building, supporting and sustaining an effective data team requires strategic planning, organization, and a means to negotiate the tension between high quality, middle-level instruction and data-driven pressure from external and internal sources. This session will explore strategies and tools to support middle-level educators in data teams, who have recognized the need to strengthen their teams. It is also suitable for high functioning data teams interested in expanding to include educators who traditionally see themselves as “data shy” or beg off on data work because they are “not good with numbers”. The work is framed around two Essential Questions: *Is there a best way for middle schools to support the use of data? Can we reduce learning to a number?* and two supporting Guiding Questions: *What does good data do? How can a small group from a middle school support the best use of data?*

A former m-l special education teacher, Jennifer’s work with Learner-Centered Initiatives, Ltd. focuses on assessment and data analysis. Her programs are designed to help participants create meaning out of numbers, implementing an inquiry cycle that includes the data from standardized tests and district and classroom data. Jennifer also assists districts in designing comprehensive assessment systems, paying special attention to ensuring reliability and validity. Published in the fields of data; special, gifted and middle-level education; and a Fellow in Communities for Learning, Jennifer is currently working on her Ph. D. in Special Education.

For more information: <http://www.lciltld.org/consultants/jennifer-borgioli>

**Common Core Focus**

**Using the Common Core to Empower Writers Who Make a Difference in the World**

Angela Stockman, WNY Education Associates

All people are born writers. Often, it is the act of writing that enables us to advocate for our needs, raise our voices against injustice, learn from one another, and change our world. Middle-level teachers are often the first to help young writers recognize and own this potential. Many embrace this responsibility and use the challenges that arise from their work with their students to fuel their own learning. They maximize powerful practices to create writers who use their words to make a difference in the world. Other teachers strain against each new dilemma that arises. They treat cognitive dissonance, *the driving force of all authentic learning*, as an insurmountable wall. This depletes their potential and eventually, burns them out. Too often, teachers find themselves sacrificing passion and vision to the demands of each new mandate and set of standards that come along. Instead of helping middle-level learners become writers, they train students to become task masters. "I'd love to engage kids in a different kind of writing experience," many tell me, "but I need to get them ready for the test." It doesn't have to be this way.



Angela Stockman, a local writer, literacy coach, and professional developer, spent the first twelve years of her career as a middle school English teacher. Over the last eight years, she has helped hundreds of teachers across NYS investigate best practices for writing instruction, design engaging curricula, and use varied kinds of assessment to guide instruction. Her enthusiasm for writing and teaching inspired her to establish the WNY Young Writers' Studio, a professional learning community comprised of young people and teachers that exists outside of the school system. Those who join Studio invest themselves in the study and creation of great writing and deepen their practice as professionals.

Join Angela to explore practical strategies that will support:

- The establishment of vision as the guiding force for all teaching and writing;
- The creation of a community of writers inside of your middle-level classroom;
- Effective instruction relevant to the writer's process and writer's craft;
- Implementation of the CCLS and Instructional Shifts in service to your vision and the middle-level writers within your community.

For more information: <http://www.angelastockman.com>, <http://www.wnyws.org>



**Full-day Pre-Conference Workshops**  
Thursday, October 18, 2012 9:00 am—3:00 PM  
Millennium Hotel, Cheektowaga

**Integrating the NYS Common Core Literacy Standards into Middle-Level Science, Social Studies, and Technical Subject Classes**

Linda Ruest, Williamsville CSD Instructional Specialist  
NYSMSA Past President and Conference Director



Implementation of the NYS Common Core Learning Standards requires teachers in all subjects to be “teachers of literacy.” Questions surface and challenges arise as teachers make the necessary shifts in curricular decisions and classroom instruction, including:

- close, careful reading of complex informational text,
- engagement in rigorous text-dependent conversations,
- writing text-dependent arguments and other expository pieces,
- academic vocabulary enrichment that provides student access to complex texts.



In this hands-on, interactive, workshop, participants will:

- Explore the issues of content-area literacy, implementation of the literacy standards, text selection, and developmental responsiveness to the needs and characteristics of middle-level students;
- Engage in classroom discussion protocols that result in student learning;
- Experience effective strategies that can be easily implemented and result in literate m-l students.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the intersection of the Common Core Literacy Standards and NYS' *Essential Elements of Standards-Focused Middle Level Schools and Programs*.



**RTI the Middle-Level Way: Maximizing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Strategies with Struggling Middle-Level Students**

Vivian Demers-Jagoda

Why are our students struggling? When traditional methods don't work, WHAT WILL WORK?.

This workshop will be divided into 3 sections to use the best of the best research available for classroom use.

1. **ASSESSING:** Why are students struggling? This workshop will provide participants with simple assessment tools for discovering:
  - Learning styles (visual, auditory, physical)
  - Multiple intelligences
  - Brain dominance with perceptual strengths. Dominance dimension to be discovered: laterality (left and right hemispheres), focusing (back and frontal lobes) and centering (upper and lower body) along with eye, ear and hand dominance and their effect with cross lateral integration.
2. **RESPONDING:** Since research shows that struggling students tend to be visual/physical, body kinesthetic, and right brain dominance with non-cross lateral preferences, how can we differentiated their learning. Classroom samples will be produced that are subject content specific to middle school standards.
3. **MEMORY REHEARSAL STRATEGIES:** Understanding that up to 70% of what we learn and teach may be forgotten in 24 hours, there can be no learning without memory. Explore how student memories are RECORDED; identify RETRIEVAL strategies; and practice REHEARSAL strategies. Ask the question “How will you remember this?” of our students and have an answer to MODEL for them.



**About the Presenter:**

Vivian Demers-Jagoda was an educator at Orchard Park MS for over 30 years. She was a **NYS Teacher of the Year** finalist in 1997 and received a Senate Award for her innovation in teaching practices. She has served on the **NYS Professional Standards and Practices Board for SED**, chairing the Professional Practices Committee. She was a presenter at NYSMSA conferences across the State, NYS Teachers Centers Annual Retreat, the National Differentiated Learning Conference, and ASCD's conference in New Orleans. Vivian is a staff developer for National Middle School Association and authored *Study Skills Study Spots* and 24 CD programs for classroom teachers in *Learning Fundamentals*. Contact Vivian at [vdemjag@netscape.net](mailto:vdemjag@netscape.net) **Note: This is Vivian's final workshop. All samples, black line masters, and materials will be distributed at the end of the day, as Vivian is cleaning out her classroom supplies. Come for the freebies!**



# Scheduled Conference Highlights and Feature Presentations

Friday, October 19, 2012

## General Assembly Keynote Presentation by Dr. Harvey Silver



### ***The Strategic Teacher: How to Select the Right Research-Based Strategy for Every Lesson***

Bringing together 35 years of research on effective instruction and 30 years of experience in helping schools address student diversity, this session provides educators with the tools needed to help all students meet today's rigorous standards. Participants will learn how to identify and address the individual learning styles of their students; develop a repertoire of effective, research-based strategies to actively engage all learners; and design meaningful units and assessments that are differentiated and standards-based.

Dr. Harvey Silver, a former teacher and administrator at the elementary through graduate levels, has served as consultant and trainer for ASCD, as well as a host of schools and districts worldwide. Harvey is co-creator of the *Learning Style Inventory for Students* and author of *So Each May Learn* and *Teaching Styles & Strategies*. He is the creator of a movement toward student alignment in a standards-based world.

Dr. Silver is a co-founder of **Silver Strong & Associates** which offers the most personalized, hands-on approach to professional development in education. **Thoughtful Education Press**, also founded by educational pioneers Harvey Silver and Richard Strong, is one of the fastest growing names in educational publishing. It is well-known for taking the best research on learning and translating it into powerful teaching practice.

Dr. Silver will be presenting two additional feature presentations during the day on Friday:

- **So Each May Learn—A Thoughtful Approach to RTI**
- **The 8 C's of Engagement: Strategies for Motivating All of Your Students**

For more information: <http://www.thoughtfulclassroom.com/>.



## ***Sweethearts and Heroes: Gain a Healthier Perspective on Bullying***

Jason Spector and Thomas Murphy, Co-Founders, Sweethearts and Heroes

Sweethearts and Heroes is an anti-bullying organization that inspires kids with the heroic powers necessary to fight bullying. This presentation is aimed at adjusting perspectives on bullying. Tom Murphy and Jason Spector (Co-Founders of Sweethearts and Heroes) point out that virtually everyone, young and old, has a bullying story, and along with those stories come literally hundreds of different perspectives on what bullying actually is and how it should be handled. Sweethearts and Heroes has presented to over 4500 students this past year, talking to students, teachers, coaches, parents and even bus drivers. We are making a difference! Consider attending this one of a kind presentation and gain some healthy perspective on bullying. We promise it won't be boring!! Our presentations do three very powerful things:

1. We adjust perspectives—you can't address a problem until you can identify it and understand how to approach it.
2. We create a higher sense of awareness and caring in people, tapping into their inner sweetheart.
3. We inspire our audience to put that awareness and caring into heroic action.



## ***NYS Common Core Standards for Math—An Intensive Session for Middle-Level Math Teachers***

Mary Morris, Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES

This feature presentation session will explore the Common Core Instructional Shifts and how they can impact your teaching. We will use the *Priorities in Common Core Standards for Mathematical Content* to identify the focus areas at each grade level and discuss the *Progressions for the Common Core Math Standards* resources to expand your knowledge of appropriate math instruction, curriculum, and assessment design.

Mary is a Staff Specialist for Professional Development, Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES, with a focus on math coaching, curriculum alignment, and data-driven instruction.



# Scheduled Conference Highlights and Feature Presentations

Friday, October 19, 2012

## Additional Scheduled Feature Presentations

*Teaching to the Common Core -  
Using Interim Assessments to Plan Your Instruction*  
with Mary Morris

Following the model from *Driven by Data - A Practical Guide to Improve Instruction*, by Paul Bamrick-Santoyo, we will explore the building blocks for creating effective assessments to drive instruction that is aligned to the Common Core Standards. Topics will include assessment design, unit and lesson planning, formative assessments, data analysis and responding to struggling students.

*“Data-Shy Anonymous”*  
with Jennifer Borgioli

For teachers who think they’re not data savvy...or want to be more data savvy ...or they could attend for a “friend.”

*Improving Craft by Engaging Writers in Inquiry*  
with Angela Stockman

*Coaching Writers to Request and Provide High Quality Feedback*  
Angela Stockman



*A Feature Presentation on each of the Instructional Shifts in Literacy*

*A Feature Presentation on the Instructional Shifts in Mathematics*

*And NEW FOR 2012...*



Facilitated **Implementation Labs**, following feature presentations, where groups of teachers can work together to plan for implementation of the strategies they have learned. This is the gift of time, collaboration, and support that our middle-level teachers need!



Continental breakfast and lunch are included for all conference participants.



*For up-to-the-minute conference details visit*

[www.nysmsa.org](http://www.nysmsa.org)



## CALL FOR PRESENTERS

As part of the **2012 NYSMSA Annual Conference**, 1-hour practitioner workshops will be scheduled throughout the day on **Friday, October 19, 2012**. Individuals or groups of individuals are invited to submit a Call for Presenters application on any topic related to effective middle-level education. Apply via email, USPS, fax, or online at [www.nysmsa.org](http://www.nysmsa.org)



**Please note:** All workshop presenters **MUST** be registered for the conference. Registration fees cannot be waived.

***Application deadline—June 1, 2012.***

***Please note:*** All workshop presenters **MUST** be registered for the conference. Registration fees cannot be waived.

***Deadline for all applicants is June 1, 2012.***

Name of primary presenter:	
Position:	
Co-Presenter (s) if applicable:	
School/organization name:	
School/organization address:	
Email addresses of all presenters: (If primary presenter please give 2)	
Phone:	

### Check all that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you hold a current NYSMSA membership?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you a trade exhibitor?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you bringing any middle-level students with you?

**(Please note:** Trade exhibitors **may not** promote their products during workshops; they may only promote developmentally-appropriate instructional practices, using their products as models.)

***Please address all completed applications and questions to:***

**Monica Kwiatkowski**  
**c/o Cuba-Rushford Middle School**  
**5476 Route 305N Cuba, New York 14727**

**Phone: (585) 968-2650**  
**FAX (585) 968-2651**  
**e-mail: [kwiat@nysmsa.org](mailto:kwiat@nysmsa.org)**

***Application Deadline: June 1, 2012***



<b>Title of Proposed Presentation</b>	
<b>Abstract (for inclusion of the program please limit to 50 words or less)</b>	

Please check the ONE *Essential Element of Standards-Focused Middle-Level Schools and Programs* that your presentation most directly addresses (for greater detail about the Essential Elements, go to [nysmsa.org](http://nysmsa.org))

	A <b>philosophy and mission</b> that reflect the intellectual and developmental needs and characteristics of young adolescents (youth 10-14 years of age).
	An <b>educational program</b> that is comprehensive, challenging, purposeful, integrated, relevant, and stan-
	An <b>organization and structure</b> that support both academic excellence and personal development.
	<b>Classroom instruction</b> appropriate to the needs and characteristics of young adolescents provided by skilled and knowledgeable teachers. <i>This includes instructional technology.</i>
	Strong <b>educational leadership</b> and a building administration that encourage, facilitate, and sustain involvement, participation, and partnerships.
	A <b>network of academic and personal support</b> available for all students.
	<b>Professional learning and staff development</b> for all staff that is ongoing, planned, purposeful, and collaboratively developed.

**Technology Requirements:** Presenters **must** bring their own laptop, unless otherwise noted. If internet access is required, presenters will use district issued computer and will provide the web site address the presenter requires. Please check all that apply and any special notes here:

	Digital / LCD projector
	SmartBoard
	Promethean Board
	Speakers
	Internet (list websites her
	Other

**Focus Area:** Please circle any that apply or note your focus area here: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Common Core</b>	<b>RTI</b>	<b>Guidance</b>	<b>Advisory</b>	<b>STEM</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>ELA</b>	<b>The Arts</b>
<b>Foreign Language</b>	<b>Students with Ex-ceptionalities</b>	<b>Leadership</b>	<b>Teaming</b>	<b>APPR</b>
<b>College and Career Readiness</b>	<b>Family and Con-sumer Science</b>	<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Other</b>

