



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FALL CONFERENCE 2021

Oct 19, 2021

Joseph Pizzo

Reading & Writing Aloud in the Middle

Let's enjoy some fun ways to read and write aloud in our middle level classrooms. From poetry to persuasions, the meanings of our works become clearer when they are shared aloud. Bring your devices and your best lesson ideas for showcasing and networking.

Maria Montroni-Currais

Standards Based Literacy

Standards based instruction focuses on elevating what students can do with their understanding. How can we shift from task-based/traditional instruction to instruction based on comprehension and ability? We'll start by unpacking the standards to identify the function, and create learning targets that steer students towards mastery.

Brianne Siderio

Seesaw Basic for Teachers

In this beginner session for Seesaw you will learn how to use essential Seesaw tools to create engaging learning experiences that make thinking and learning visible.

Learning Outcomes for Teachers:

- 1) Activate your account
- 2) How to view student work
- 3) Approve post
- 4) How to post to Class Journal
- 5) Find, save, modify and assign activities
- 6) Activity creation basics
- 7) Add engaging templates with video, screencasts and links
- 8) Create drag and drop templates
- 9) Assign Activities to select students and schedule Activities for later

How to get the most out of the session:

- Make sure you have a Seesaw teacher account and practice logging in (you do not need a student account for this session)

- If possible, bring two devices to the webinar so you can join the training on one device and explore Seesaw on the other

Oct 20, 2021

Danielle Corrao

Food Truck Festivals, Break Outs, Museums: Designing Interactive Literature Projects

Description: This session focuses on new ideas for demonstrating knowledge of literature involving collaboration and communication among students, teachers, and other members of the school. During the session, the presenter will discuss designing interactive projects such as food truck festivals, Break Out boxes, Mythology museums, and film festivals based on classroom novels and nonfiction texts.

Heather Lieberman

Choosing and Using Mentor Texts in the K-2 Classroom

Participants will learn how to choose high quality, diverse mentor texts and how to use them in every content area in the K-2 classroom.

Melissa Loftus and Lori Sappington

Melissa and Lori Love Knowledge Building!

The Science of Reading tends to focus heavily on word recognition, but we don't want to forget about the importance of language comprehension! The science behind reading shows just how important a person's background knowledge is to their comprehension of what they read. Melissa and Lori will discuss what they have learned about building knowledge from their own experience, their discussions on their podcast, and other expertise from the field.

Oct 21, 2021

Lindsay Barna

Tapping into Adolescent Development with Book Clubs

Middle school students are going through countless changes as they develop into adulthood; and it's important to utilize instructional strategies that address the unique developmental period of adolescence. Book Clubs capitalize on the specific socioemotional changes happening during adolescence by tapping into adolescents' desire for peer interaction and need for autonomy. They create engaged, life-long readers who learn from and empathize with various perspectives. Educators will leave with an understanding of how adolescents specifically benefit from this model as well as the various set-up and management strategies needed to get book clubs up and running in their classrooms!

Donna Maccaroni

When Positive Language Leads, Learning Will Follow

The words we use matter. In today's culture of incessant verbiage, teachers and parents must battle with student peers, television and social media to gain access to our children. Now more than ever it is imperative to be impeccable with our words. When educators are particular and intentional with their words, students feel safe and can be ready to learn. This session will focus on best practices for asking

provoking questions, making effective suggestions and delivering clear feedback that will encourage students to find purpose through reading and writing.

Janice Alvarez

Building Bridges: Using Mentor Texts to Integrate SEL and Culturally Responsive Teaching within the Classroom

This workshop will allow participants an opportunity to explore a variety of culturally relevant , current, and inclusive mentor texts to use within their classrooms to leverage lesson plans around to ensure that SEL and culturally responsive best practices are incorporated within their literacy lessons. Participants will walk away with knowledge of how to select mentor text, build digital libraries, and form lesson plans that apply all three major components of a highly effective SEL, inclusive literacy lesson plan that is engaging, authentic, and motivating.