

**Creativity and Innovation
Democratic, Courageous, Collaborative
Leadership**



Jill Spencer

jillspencer51@gmail.com

Chris Toy

Christoy.net@gmail.com



BRIGHT FUTURES CORE PRACTICES

5. All middle level students experience learning opportunities that emphasize creativity and innovation.

6. School leaders, using a collaborative and democratic leadership model, focus on establishing an environment that supports the learning needs of young adolescents.



Outcomes for this session:

Participants will

- understand how and why teaching and learning across the middle school curriculum should be infused with creativity and innovative thinking.
- explore ways democratic, courageous, and collaborative leadership can establish an environment that supports the learning needs of young adolescents.



Let's introduce ourselves!

**Please use the chat box to
introduce yourselves:**

first name, last name,

school name

your role.



Some Thoughts on Creativity and Innovation

From Jim Hunt

Former Governor of North Carolina

[Huffington Post](#)

“A creative mindset is in increasingly high demand {by employers}...”

Creative thinking fuels innovation...



Some Thoughts on Creativity and Innovation

It is not enough to just rely on fine arts classes to infuse creativity into our students, although they are critical.

We must also find ways to incorporate creativity across a broad range of disciplines, using traditional subjects to impart essential skills like collaboration, problem-solving and effective communications.



Some Thoughts on Creativity and Innovation

**We need students to see unlikely connections,
and develop solutions to complex problems.
Answers are not enough, students should be
encouraged to ask questions and explore
alternatives to the norm.”**

Jim Hunt

Former Governor of North Carolina

[Huffington Post](#)



Questions, Questions, Questions!

A Questioning Tool Kit

**Essential Questions, Organizing Questions, Probing Questions,
Elaborating Questions and Others**

<http://fromnowon.org/nov97/toolkit.html>

The Question Box

Everything you want to know about

Essential Questions!

<http://questioning.org/mar05/essential.html>



Maine Learning Results

Guiding Principle C: A creative and practical problem solver who:

- 1. Observes and evaluates situations to define problems;**
- 2. Frames questions, makes predictions, and designs data/information collection and analysis strategies;**
- 3. Identifies patterns, trends, and relationships that apply to solutions;**
- 4. Generates a variety of solutions, builds a case for a best response and critically evaluates the effectiveness of the response;**
- 5. Sees opportunities, finds resources, and seeks results;**
- 6. Uses information and technology to solve problems; and**
- 7. Perseveres in challenging situations;**



Creativity, MLR, and Bright Futures

Maine Learning Results: Guiding Principle C:

Generates a variety of solutions, builds a case for a best response and critically evaluates the effectiveness of the response.

Visual and Performing Arts section of the MLR's Standard C:

Grade Span 6-8: Students describe and apply creative-thinking skills that are part of the creative problem-solving process.

Bright Futures Core Practice #5

All middle level students experience learning opportunities that emphasize creativity and innovation.



The Partnership for 21st Century Skills

Creativity and Innovation

Think Creatively

- * Use a wide range of idea creation techniques (such as brainstorming)
- * Create new and worthwhile ideas (both incremental and radical concepts)
- * Elaborate, refine, analyze and evaluate their own ideas in order to improve and maximize creative efforts



Work Creatively with Others

- * Develop, implement and communicate new ideas to others effectively
- * Be open and responsive to new and diverse perspectives; incorporate group input and feedback into the work
- * Demonstrate originality and inventiveness in work and understand the real world limits to adopting new ideas
- * View failure as an opportunity to learn; understand that creativity and innovation is a long-term, cyclical process of small successes and frequent mistakes



Implement Innovations

*** Act on creative ideas to make a tangible and useful contribution to the field in which the innovation will occur**



Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

- Reason Effectively**
- Use Systems Thinking**
- Make Judgments and Decisions**
- Solve Problems**



**“My contention is that
creativity now is as
important in education as
literacy, and we should treat
it with the same status.”**

Sir Ken Robinson

http://www.ted.com/speakers/sir_ken_robinson.html



Encouraging Creativity

[Thoughts from Marvin Bartel, Art Teacher](#)

<http://www.goshen.edu/art/ed/creativitykillers.html>

Give informative feedback.

Allow students to practice after demonstrating or modeling.

Praise expressive original work.

Provide a focus within freedom of choice.

Ask open questions instead of just giving suggestions. *How might you...*



QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Tammy Ranger, Skowhegan Area Middle School

- **Civil Rights Museum**
- **Breakfast Book Clubs**
- **Writing for real audiences using different media (digital stories, Class CD, picture books)**



What's happening in your school?

Please feel free to share in the chat box.

Or...If you would like to speak to the group,
“raise your hand” and we'll recognize you.

Just press *6 to unmute your phone!



Bath Middle School's Maine Memory Networks Project

<http://bath.mainememory.net/page/935/display.html>



Why Leadership?

"It's so important. We should have spent more time on it in the beginning. We learned quickly that leadership has to be there."

Jeff Mao 2008
On leadership lessons from MLTI



The Role of Leadership

- ✓ Middle Level Visionary and Advocate
- ✓ Leads by Example and Modeling
- ✓ Engaged and Involved Team Member
- ✓ Supporter/Protector of Early Adopters
- ✓ Provider of Resources for Middle Level Practices



Bill Zima

Assistant Principal

Massabesic Middle School

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Leaders are people who...

**“inspire others to dream more, learn more, do
more and become more”**

John Quincy Adams

**“Leaders in schools exist everywhere from
teachers to students to administrators. They
need to be recognized and tapped.”**

Bill Zima



MMS Leadership Team uses the expertise of teachers

- The curriculum standards are unpacked by our teachers and not simply adopted or dictated.
- Team leaders are a critical piece in the decision making process in our school.

Healthy Teams

- Created a schedule that had a daily personal prep and a team prep.
- Gave teams more autonomy to deal with students following our Student Behavior Resolution Matrix.



**Be the change you want to see
in the world.**

Mahatma Gandhi



Modeling Matters

Example isn't another way to teach, it is the only way to ... the main means of influencing others; it is the only means.

Albert Einstein



On Courageous Leadership

Courage is the power to let go of the familiar.

Raymond Lindquist

Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway.

John Wayne



If You Were Courageous...

....and knew you could not fail, what concrete action would you take at your school or in your classroom to improve learning for all middle level students?

Please respond in the chat box!



Evaluation

Evaluation/Contact Hour

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XLPJS68>

Please take a few minutes to fill in our evaluation. You will receive a certificate for 1 contact hour. It will be mailed to you.

Thanks!

Next Webcast: Tuesday, April 6

School Climate & Organizational Structures