

## **Using Teams to Improve Students' Learning at the Middle Level**

### **Dates of Course**

This course is set to run: TBD

### **Course Description**

If you've ever been asked "how can you teach middle school kids?" then this course is for you. In this course participants will learn how to use teams to increase student learning through increased motivation, communication and consistency. Research will be done to support the use of teams in schools and participants will develop a plan for their own team as well as the program they will work under. Rules for behavior, parent support and student interest will also be discussed. After finishing this course, participants will be ready to present the team concept to others and propose the use of teams in their building.

### **Course Objectives**

1. Educators will be able to access and open attachments for the purpose of viewing
2. Educators will be able to successfully define a team and its purpose
3. Educators will be able to discuss with classmates the word "team"
4. Educators will be able to look at background research in order to create a team program that will work within their existing work environment
5. Educators will be able to discuss their needs with others
6. Educators will be able to develop a program proposal to meet their district's needs
7. Educators will be able to share the proposal with the class to gain comments and ideas
8. Educators will be able to develop a successful incentive program to increase student motivation in their classroom
9. Educators will be able to initiate a parent involvement plan in order to better suit district needs

### **NYS Standards Addressed**

ELA 1, 4

MST 2,5, 7

HE

Character Education

### **Contact Information**

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### **Prerequisite Skills/Requirement**

1. Students should know how to use Microsoft Word, Power Point and Windows Media Player
2. Students need to access the internet and use e-mail
3. Students will need a microphone and in order to access Wimba and Elluminate

4. Students are required to attend one synchronized Elluminate session at a time to be determined by the group
5. Students will need to attend an agreed upon on line session with other students
6. There will be at least one required synchronous meeting for the course. Time and date to be determined.

### **Road Map**

See separate document

### **Policies**

1. All assignments must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Late assignments should be posted in the White Rabbit thread. All late assignments will loose time credit. Late assignments will not be accepted after one week of due date.
2. All students are required to log in three times a week in order to check for assignments, read comments or add an assignment.
3. In order to receive full in-service credit participants must participate in discussions, complete required assignments at a satisfactory level and post comments as required.
4. All posts will address the assignments given. Unsolicited opinions regarding ongoing practices and politics will not be welcome. In addition, all critiques will include one positive comment followed by one negative remark.
5. Group assignments will be graded with 2 parts: the instructors grade + peer/group evaluation. All group members are expected to contribute equally and openly.
6. All participants must have access to Microsoft Word and Power Point.
7. Participation is based on completed assignments and logon activity.
8. All posted questions will be answered within 24 hours of posting. Please feel free to contact me directly if a quicker response is required.
9. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in immediate loss of credit.

### **Recommendation of in-service credit**

1. Completion of all assignments at a satisfactory level.
2. Participation in on-line discussion and reading activities.
3. Appropriate time logged in to the on-line classroom.