

# In the Middle

## Letter from the President

### Inside this issue:

- Letter from the President **1**
- AAMLE Professional Development Conference **2,3**
- Dates to Remember **2**
- Membership Update **3**
- TAP Award **3**
- “Get to Know Us” **4**

The state of Middle Level Education in Arkansas is strong as ever! Looking forward, I hope to continue the progress of the past and make our organization more effective and more recognized across the education community of Arkansas. Middle level education is important and deserves the full attention from education professionals around the state. As a leader of our cause, it will be my mission to further the advancement of the young adolescent and to improve every aspect of the middle level experience of every student and teacher in Arkansas.

A paradigm shift in education is quickly approaching. Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are being implemented for middle school in 2013-2014. Teachers and students will be working with new vigorous standards of mathematics and literacy. Our conference this spring will have many offerings that will connect the CCSS to the classroom not just offering a big picture of the changes. We will offer sessions that will bring into focus how the standards will be taught. We plan to bring in teacher leaders from across

the state to lead presentations that are implementing CCSS in their classrooms this year. In addition to mathematics and literacy standards of CCSS, technology will be a large part of the pedagogy of many lessons. We also plan to have many sessions that will show you how to integrate technology and curriculum into the new CCSS.

I encourage you to attend the upcoming AAMLE conference “Getting to “Common” Core. . . . One Bite at a Time . . . .” to be held May 7 & 8, 2012 at Hot Springs Convention Center. The call for presentations is on the AAMLE website located at [aamle.org](http://aamle.org). Please add our website to your favorites and look for upcoming emails from us reminding you of new events.

Thank you for your support of middle level education in Arkansas,

Karli Saracini  
AAMLE President



# APPLICATION DEADLINES For AAMLE Awards

Shannon Wright

Administrator That Make A Difference

Teams That Make A Difference

December 15, 2011

*The AALME is dedicated to promoting successful educational experiences for middle level students.*



1817 Magnolia Lane  
Paragould, AR 72450

## Did You Know You Could be a School to Watch?

October 5, 2011

*Deadline for application to be postmarked and submitted*

October 12, 2011

*Deadline for re-designation application to be postmarked and submitted.*

December, 2011

*STW Team school visits (week of December 5th)*

February, 2012

*Selected schools announced and celebrations planned .*

June, 2012

*National STW Conference - Arlington, VA*

## Common Core Implementation: Three-Year Plan

Arkansas has begun the transition to the national Common Core curriculum standards, AAMLE has a three-year plan which will provide a state-wide forum for sharing information and best practices called **Getting to the Core...One Bite at a Time**. This three-year plan will provide essential tools and resources for educators in grades 3-8 to address critical areas of study, to ensure grade-level progression of learning, and to support a stronger emphasis on media and technology integration.

### Common Core Implementation: Year 1

The first Focus Conference called **Implementing Common Core**, will be May 6-8,

**2012, at the Hot Springs Convention Center in Little Rock**. This conference will provide information from the national award-winning schools & expert presenters will share 2012-13 first year pilot and strategies and pilot projects field testing of the PARCC that they have used to prepare assessments, sample literacy for implementation of the and math assessment tasks Common Core Curriculum and resources to help schools Frameworks and the 2012-13 be prepared for the 2014-15 pilot/field testing of the full implementation of the PARCC assessments. Included PARCC national assessments will be the final draft of PARCC quarterly content frameworks, model instructional units, sample assessment tasks and professional development modules.

### Common Core Implementation: Year 2

The second Focus Conference called **Assessing the Common Core Curriculum**, will be May 5-7, 2013, at the Statehouse This conference will provide information from the 24 PARCC states first year's full implementation of the new

### Common Core Implementation: Year 3

The third Focus Conference called **Fine Tuning the Common Core Curriculum**, will be May 4-6, 2014, at the Hot Springs Convention Center.

## Common Core Implementation: Three-Year Plan cont.

assessments, sample model lessons for all content areas, and resources that can be used to teach common core themes and align curriculum.

*A name change for NMSA... Association for Middle Level Education AMLE A rose by any other name...*The National Middle School Association has changed their name to better reflect the terminology used in the field and to emphasize that the organization supports those

who work with kids in grades 5–9, regardless of the grade configurations of the schools that house them. The new name, the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE), aligns well with the Arkansas Association of Middle Level Educators AAMLE, which is celebrating its 22nd year of supporting middle-level education in our state. The AMLE national organization will focus on the same mission and will continue to serve the field of

middle level education as they have for nearly 40 years. By changing their name to the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE), they feel that they will be able to reach more educators and provide more opportunities for learning, for networking, and for making a difference for the young adolescents that we all serve.

Conference Committee

Getting to “Common” Core.....



One Bite at a Time.....

AAMLE Professional Development Conference  
Hot Springs Convention Center  
May 6-8, 2012

## Teacher Advancement Program Award

A TAP School of Promise Award from the Milken Family Funded Teacher Advancement Model to improve Teacher and Student performance, has selected Lincoln Middle School in Lincoln, AR as its 2011 recipient. The School of Promise is given to only those schools that have demonstrated accomplishment in the early stages of TAP implementation. The only other school receiving a TAP School of Promise Award was Glendale Elementary School in Arizona.

Beverly Davenport



## Membership Update

Membership is open to all educators, pre-service teachers, parents and other concerned persons who are interested in the successful education of all middle level students.

Members have access to newsletters, journals and discounts to the AAMLE conferences.

Interested persons may join at anytime as membership runs from con-

ference registration to the following conference registration.

You can find more information on membership on our webpage.

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

## GET TO KNOW THE NEW MEMBERS



Diane Montgomery

Brookland Public School

Northwest Regional Rep.

"I am looking forward to learning more about common core through PD offered by AAMLE and supporting educators as we work together on the new adventure."



Emily Yourk, NBCT

Danville Middle School

Exhibitor Coordinator

"I am ready to incorporate the new common core standards in my 6th grade classroom. I feel these standards will provide appropriate benchmarks for all of my students."



Rhona Sanderlin

Drew Central Middle School

Southwest Representative

"Common Core will create unity among our teachers working toward a common goal."



Shayne Taylor

Helen Tyson Middle School  
Assistant Principle

Northwest Regional Rep.

"I'm excited to see common core for many reasons, but most of all for the chance to cover fewer topics in more depth. I'm excited that the staff at Helen Tyson M.S. are working vigorously to implement these new standards."



**Cabot Middle School North was named the 2011 Shannon Wright "Middle School of the Year". Tanya Spillane is the Principal.**



**Mr. Eddie Tipton, Principal of Central Middle School in Van Buren, was named the "Administrator That Makes a Difference" for 2011.**