

# MAMSE 2010

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## Opening Keynote:

Debbie Silver

400 people attending

How many people Facebook? - Not a lot of hands.

Book of Records: (Guinness book style) Poster – used to get kids involved.

Taught as Ms. Pace

#MAMSE

Jeff LaRoux has retired.

The Teacher

Concerning a teacher's influence, I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It's my personal approach that creates the climate. It's my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or deescalated and a child humanized or dehumanized.

– Haim Ginott

Crucial that teachers are placed with the right kids. Especially in terms of grade levels.

Not putting up with mean spirited teachers.

Lounge lizards.

30 years experience or 1 year of experience for 30 years.

Good teachers need to tell the world what they do. We don't because we get negative feedback for it.

Pay it Forward – Go see the movie.

The kids who most need your love are the least lovable kids.

For a lot of kids, teachers will be the single most important adult in their life.

We must view young people not as empty bottles to be filled, but as candles to be lit.

# Thursday – Session 1

## *Online Learning*

### **A tool for differentiating instruction in a traditional classroom.**

From the student:

Know and trust the students. They may not work at the same pace every day. Some days they may do very little.

How Parents view Online vs Classroom Learning.

Traditional Classroom

- Everyone moves at the same pace.
- Advanced learners could be doing more
- Struggling learners need more time.
- Teacher is available to help ,but stretched too thin.

Online Class:

- Students move at their own pace
- A greater variety of content
- Not all kids are disciplined enough to learn independently.
- Teacher is available, but not necessarily when you need it.

Choose:

Online:

- Parent think child is bored.
- Advanced students
- Independent and motivated students

Traditional

- child needs guidance

Students who are the most motivated and disciplined and who have the most involved and supportive parents may “self track” out of traditional classrooms.

For profit companies are aggressively seeking out those families.

Combining

- Blended learning

Just inside the traditional instruction:

tools:

- Weebly
- Wix
- Google Sites

Examples:

- Homework Calendar

- Online Worksheets
- Online class notes

Mr. Nale.com

Other end (online course:)

Tools:

- Moodle
- Blackboard
- MyiCourse (free)
- Textbook Publishers

Differentiation Benefits:

- Students can work on their own pace, fast or slow.
- Built in assessments can monitor for master before allowing students to progress.
- Students can choose different tasks or activities.

Cool things you can do:

1. Be in two places at once:
  1. Students can pause and rewind a lesson
  2. Students can ask questions in a low risk setting.
  3. Teacher is free to have
  4. Parents have access to the lesson
  5. Students can go back to it again.
2. Show don't Tell
  1. Use Jing to create screencast.
3. Expand opportunities for student choice in activities and sequence.
4. More
  1. Get out of the “what did I miss”
  2. Give parents and kids access to notes.
  3. Make sub plans
  4. Have tests instantly grades and disaggregated.

## Going Outside the Lines

***Debbie Silver***

Kids are very different.

Has the lyric for Different Drummer.

Our lives are shaped by those who love us and those who refuse to love us.

Kids are absolutely starved for undivided adult attention.

When kids are present be present – not behind the desk. Truly be with the kids.

Kids want feedback. They want attention.

Albert Bandura

“self-efficacy”

get kids out of learned helplessness,

Influences

- the choices we make
- the effort we put forth
- How long we will persevere.

If it's too easy, it isn't valued.

The most powerful thing that a teacher can do is to raise the level just beyond where they are.

Zone of Proximal Development by Lev Vygotsky

A student's Zone of Proximal Development is defined as the student's range of ability with or without assistance from a teacher or more capable peer. On one end of the range is the student' ability level without assistance. On the other end of the range is the student's ability level with assistance.

Raise the level of support:

- Visual support

Thinking:

- Jumping on one foot is \_\_\_\_\_
- If I spill on the floor to clean up with a \_\_\_\_\_
- Pepsi is a type of \_\_\_\_\_
- At a green light you \_\_\_\_\_
  
- A scarf is made of \_\_\_\_\_
- A cow drinks \_\_\_\_\_

Answers get lower and less.

Scaffolding comes from Vygotski.

Learning Cycle.

Word walls. Don't put words up until they have been discussed and introduced.

1. You must know the material
2. You must know your kids. Not who you want them to be. Not who you think they are. You must know your kids.
3. ZPD – Know how to make them stretch.

Victims or visionaries.

Stay away from talking snakes. Debbie Silver.

Selective vision and selective hearing.

You don't have to be an entertainer, but you do have to be engaging.

Session 3

## **Reading Support**

Charisse Howell

<http://sites.google.com/a/dexterschools.org/hoelschermamse/>

Created to address the needs of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Yearlong mandatory elective.

A strategic intervention: remediation, Reading Apprenticeship and SSR.

Students attend 5 days a week for 48 minutes.

Students alternate teachers.

Assessment takes place quarterly.

Has ELL component and differentiation.

Language! Is designed to meet the needs of the students in the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Word fluency

Passage Fluency

Effective Feedback:

- precise
- frequent
- immediate
- differential
- positive

Reading Apprenticeship:

Dimension of Classroom Life

- social- safe environment, not a punishment but an opportunity. Classroom norms and expectations.
- personal
- cognitive

Social:

Power of literacy:

- Why is Reading Important? Created a web
- Statistics / Facts:
  - 26 percent of eighth graders read at a basic level
  - 2/3rds of students cannot read proficiently
- Book Talks/ Lit Circles
  - Allows access to ultimate insiders club
  - Gives purpose to reading
  - Offer each student to express his unique perspective
  - values

Personal:

- developing reading survey
- Reading History
- Reading Attitudes
- Developing Metacognition:

- Read
- Draw
- Build
- Solve
- Predict

Use a big empty head to hold the student notes.

- Developing Fluency and stamina.
  - Celebrate progress!
  - Class reading goals.
  - Show relationship between effort and achieving goals.
  - Increased in-class SSR time as year progresses.

Flotsam – Great picture book for visualization.

Knowledge Dimension:

- SSR is the anchor of the program.

Friday

Session 1

## **Awakening Readers with Choice**

Julie Snider & Lauren Straub

Studies confirm that reading drops as kids get older.

All learning is social.

We take kids who are reading less and make it more work.

The lose motivation for reading. We've institutionalized negative attitudes.

We frequently pick books that we think that kids will like without truly engaging them. Sometimes they are books that we like. Sometimes it is just books we think that they should like.

Discussion is rare. Most of the “discussion” is “collaborative seatwork”.

Why literature discussion? Allows kids to gain a different point of view. Allows the students to develop empathy.



Reading falls into 2 categories:

- Effort- Textbooks
- Aesthetic -

Why book clubs?

- You can incorporate all best practices but it is fun.

We used to think that you had to learn to read then read. Now we know that kids need to read in order to learn how to read. We learn to read because there is a purpose and a pleasure in it.

Basil vs Book Club-

Kids in the Book Club do better on the test and long term retention.

Reading Logs Help Prepare for Discussion.

Need lots of modeling.

We need to incorporate interventions into all LA classrooms. What about the other classrooms?

“Half Minute Horrors”

Important to “sell not tell” the books.

Graphic Novels:

Very useful for students to read.

T-Minus the Race to the Moon – historical non-fiction

How to handle kids finishing before Book Club is over.

Book Clubs typically last about a month.

Important to create a book culture.

We train kids not to think but how to get an A.

# Service Learning

Students take leadership roles. They develop the activities.

- Raise money for local charities.
  - Alpha House
  - Humane Society
  - Lion's Club
  - Faith in Action
  - Hospitals
  - Make a Wish
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Special Olympics
  - Elementary schools
  - Local Church events
  - Senior Centers
  - Knights of Columbus
  - Usher local events
  - Salvation Army
  - Food Gatherers
  - American Red Cross
  - Library
  - Fire Department
- Make a partnership (Lions Club)
  - They talk about why they volunteer as adults
  - They want the school connection
- Do a service learning class.
- Dance Marathons
  - Stand on your feet for those who can't stand themselves.
  - They raise a minimum amount of money to participate.
- The kids pick the projects. They keep a list of organizations.
- Gets the kids in front of the community.
- In class, they practice social skills.
- Tie in with Social Studies classes. (eg. Studying famine, did chores for charity – brought in money to donate to address famine.)

- Pin awards to kids with service of 25, 50, 74, 100 & 150 hours of service. Present the pins to the kids at a school board meeting.
- Presidential Awards are also available online. ( 50,75, 100 hours per calendar year).
- The idea is that students will always be part of a community.
- 9 week class. Starts in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Goes for 2 years. (Building is 7-8)
  - New kids every 9 weeks.
  - Creates culture of helping.
  - Custodians participate as well.
- Middle School students need to be needed.
- Kids need to know that not every community service opportunity is for everyone. Some kids may not like working with little kids or old people.
- National Junior Honor's Society
- Mill Creek CS&L website on Dexter Schools.
- Join Middle School Student Council (Michigan Association of Student Councils)
- Exchange Day between schools

## **Securing Parent Involvement (Engagement) in Your School Through Community Agencies**

Dr. Santo Pino

Dena Hook (National Tuber Sclerosis Alliance) [dhook@tsaalliance.org](mailto:dhook@tsaalliance.org)

Dena is a Special Education educator.

Tuber Sclerosis

- a leading cause of autism
- leading cause of many things.
- Tumors that grow on a variety of organs.

Parent Involvement is now Parent Engagement.

Mike Dietz – author about books on Parent Engagement

Traditional Role:

- audience
- tutor
- Program support

### New Participatory Role”

- Co-Learner
- Advocate
- Decision Maker

Include the kids in providing the situations.

### Decision Maker

- Parenting
- Communicating
- Volunteering
- Learning at Home
- Decision Making
- Community Collaboration

What are the obstacles to parent engagement?

- Poverty
- Language
- Time
- Distance
- Comfort level
- Mother's joining the work force
- Impact of TV on Family Time
- Blended families
- Front Porch has moved to Big Fence
- Impact of the 60's Hippies
- Responsibilities to Rights of Individuals
- Center of Influences Shift from families to agencies.
- Hard Economic times shift things to schools
- Schools continue their “Middle Class values”

Community Centers:

- Make the school a welcoming place

- Smile
- Welcome Room
- Refreshments
- Extra Effort to make them welcome.
- Remove barriers:
  - Tall counters – out
  - Provide translators
  - Create welcome room
- Take the school to the community
  - Coffee hours
  - Stump speech
  - Adopt a retirement community

United Way is a good one to work with. They have to address several issues that we can help with.

Make arrangements with ACCESS???

Step 1:

Agency/ Business	Mission	Connection to the problem Scenario	Are Parents connected to the Agency (How?)
School			
Tim Horton's			
Walmart			
OSU Extension			

Step 2:

Agency/ Business	Mission	Connection to the problem Scenario	Are Parents connected to the Agency (How?)
School	Provide an Appropriate education for all children		
Tim Horton's	Increase sales and provide customer satisfaction		
Walmart	Increase sales and provide customer satisfaction		
OSU Extension	Advance knowledge of agriculture, the		

	environment, human health and well-being and communities by creating opportunities for youth.		
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Step 3:

Agency/ Business	Mission	Connection to the problem Scenario	Are Parents connected to the Agency (How?)
School	Provide an Appropriate education for all children	Healthy students are more ready to learn and attend school regularly	
Tim Horton's	Increase sales and provide customer satisfaction	Healthy students have a higher graduation rate and become paying customers.	
Walmart	Increase sales and provide customer satisfaction	Healthy students have a higher graduation rate and become paying customers.	
OSU Extension	Advance knowledge of agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being and communities by creating opportunities for youth.	Meets their mission to advance knowledge...	

Strengthening Families program.

<http://www.strengtheningfamiliesprogram.org/>

Open the doors to bring community members in.

## Integrating Social Studies Literature into the Middle School Classroom

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5 Themes of Geography

See handout for list of books.

Geography & History:

- Hurricanes Earth Mightiest Stories by Patricia Lauber. 1996
- The Librarian Who Measured the Earth. Kathryn Lasky. 1994
- If the World Were a Village, A Book about the World's People. David Smith. 2002 – *Get a team*

*together- each kid could represent a person in the book. Alternately, use dots on the maps.*

- If the United States Were a Village, A Book about the People of the United States. David J. Smith. 2009
- The Great Kapok Tree, A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest. Lynne Cherry. 1990.
- River. Judith Heide Gilliland. 1993.
- A River Ran Wild An Environmental History. Lynne Cherry. 1992
- Where the River Begins. Thomas Locker. 1984.
- Duel! Burr and Hamilton's Deadly War of Words. Fradin. 2008
- Home: The Journey Through America. Thomas Locker. 2000
- My Fellow Americans. Provensen. 1995
- Train to Midnight. Panagopoulos. 1999
- A Faraway home: An Orphan Train Story. Panagopoulos. 2006
- Ellis Island Gateway to the American Dream. Reeves. 1998
- ...If Your Name was Changed at Ellis Island. Levine. 1993
- The Discovery of the Americas from Prehistory Through the Age of Columbus. Maestro. 1991.
- Encounter. Yolen. 1996
- Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo. Filipovic. 2006.
- Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution. Ji-li Jiang. 1997.
- War Games. Couloumibs. 2009

#### Culture:

- Nine O'Clock Lullaby. Singer. 1991
- Everybody Cooks Rice. Dooley. 1991
- Pink Paper Swans. Knoll. 1994
- Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. Coerr. 1979.
- The Silk Route: 7,000 Miles of History. Major. 1995
- Chinese Cinderella. Mah. 1999
- Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China. Louie. 1996.
- The Korean Cinderella. Climo. 1993
- The Egyptian Cinderella. Climo. 1992
- Shadow Spinner. Fletcher. 1999.
- The Conch Bearer. Divakaruni. 2005.
- Day of Ahmed's Secret. Florence Parry, Gillibrand. 1995
- Sold. McCormick. 2008.
- Journey to Jo'burg. Naidoo. 1986
- A Girl Named Disaster. Farmer. 1998
- Esperanza Rising. Munoz. 2002
- The Single Shard. Park. 2003
- When My Name was Keoko. Park. 2004

<http://www.mywonderfulworld.org/>