



## Welcome to the AIMS 39th Annual S.T.A.R.S. Re-Connect Conference

Thursday, December 6, 2018  
National Louis University – Lisle Campus  
850 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532

Welcome to the AIMS Network 39th Annual S.T.A.R.S. Re-Connect Conference. Please join the group for a continental breakfast and registration in Room 145. Registration begins at 8:00. We would like to encourage you to network both in person and virtually throughout the day. Please use the #aimsnetwork throughout the conference.

### Day Overview

Time	Activity
8:30-9:00	Welcome from AIMS Executive Director: John Viano
9:00-9:15	AIMS Board of Directors
9:15-9:45	All Group Session: Rae Hughart
9:55-10:45	Break Out Session One
10:55-11:45	Break Out Session Two
11:50-12:30	Lunch and Networking Opportunities
12:40-1:30	Break Out Session Three
1:40-2:30	Unconference: Open Discussion Sessions
2:40-3:00	Closing Comments and CPDUs

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	Presentation Sessions Room 201	Presentation Sessions Room 228	Presentation Sessions Room 230
Session 1 9:55-10:45	Personalized Learning in the ELA Classroom	Spark Your Curriculum	SEL in the Middle
Session 2 10:55-11:45	The Power of Peers: Designing Inclusive Practices that develop skills, relationships and address standards	Let's Get Googly	Disability Awareness and Supports for Students in the Inclusive Classroom
Session 3 12:40-1:30	Our Journey to Skills Based Reporting	Whatever it Takes...Using Data to Drive Our Instruction	Exploring Collaboration and Engagement through Drama
Session 4 Unconference 1:40-2:30	Grading	Personalized Learning	Inclusion and Special Education Service Delivery

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**All-Group Session with Special Guest Rae Hughart: 9:15-9:45**

Rae Hughart is a Middle Level Math Educator in Illinois and the Director of Training & Development for [Progressive Mastery Learning, LLC](#).

Rae created and continues to train educators on how to partner with local businesses to design dynamic, impactful, effective, and connected content by designing themed units dedicated to community engagement. Utilizing data supported best practice techniques and stakeholder ownership, Rae's Teach Further Model for innovative lesson design transforms classroom learning into student focused, real world internship - showing the impact of teaching beyond the four walls of a classroom and altering a community into an authentic resource for developing leaders.



In 2017, Rae was inducted into The Illinois State University Hall of Fame for her innovative educational impact through the Teach Further Model. Additionally, Rae serves on several Educational Boards including the Association of Illinois Middle Schools (AIMS).

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**Session 1: 9:55-10:45**

<b>Personalized Learning in the ELA Classroom</b>	<b>Jessica Weibler and Katelynn Giordano</b>
Room 201	Kaneland Harter Middle School. Sugar Grove, IL

Take your ELA class to the next level by incorporating more student choice and voice to increase engagement. Involve your students in the learning process from the start of instruction through summative assessment and reflection. Participants will learn strategies to encourage student ownership. Resources, student testimonials, and tools/materials will be shared with all who attend.

Katelynn is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts teacher in Kaneland school district. This is her 5<sup>th</sup> year teaching after graduating from Bradley University. She recently completed her Master's in Curriculum & Instruction from Northern Illinois University. She is the author of Curriculum Coffee, a blog that covers a wide variety of topics for educators. You can follow her on Twitter @Mrs\_Giordano or on Instagram @curriculumcoffee

Jessica is a sixth grade English Language Arts teacher at Kaneland Harter Middle School. This is her 5<sup>th</sup> year teaching after graduating from the Middle Level program at Illinois State University. She will be completing her masters from Northern Illinois University in Literacy Education this December. Connect on Twitter: @missweibler

<b>Spark Your Curriculum</b>	<b>Melissa Rosen</b>
Room 228	Highland Middle School. Libertyville, IL

Ignite learning in your classroom using Adobe Spark. Learn how to create beautiful digital designs and images, stunning websites, and seamlessly tell digital stories. Explore this free tool and create a digital document, a website, or a short movie. Leave this session ready to share your creations and teach your students to make their own.

Melissa Rosen has been teaching for 15 years. She is currently teaching 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Technology at Highland Middle School in Libertyville, IL. Her current classes include a basic technology skills class, S.T.E.A.M., Audio and Video Production, Robotics and Animation and Design. Melissa runs 6-8th grade technology club and student council. She has presented at multiple technology conferences throughout the Midwest including ICE, NICE, IETC, MCOATT, and at Michigan State University. You can visit her website at <http://rosentech.weebly.com>

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SEL in the Middle

Chrissy Harrold, Allison Stephens and Luis Correa

Room 230

Jack London Middle School

This session will focus on the development of a year-long SEL Scope and Sequence addressing all SEL Standards. Participants will gain an understanding of how SEL Standards can yield monthly themes to drive the development of a Scope and Sequence. Presenters will share the journey of collaboration to make the Scope and Sequence an evolving guide based on the changing needs of students.

Jack London Middle School is located in Wheeling, IL and has recently gained its third Re-Designation as a School to Watch. We are in our third year of implementing our Advisory Scope and Sequence that was created by our own staff based on the SEL standards and the latest research. Our Scope and Sequence continues to evolve as we engage in the reflection process and the changing needs of our student population.

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**Session 2: 10:50-11:45**

<p>The Power of Peers: Designing Inclusive Practices that develop skills, relationships and address standards</p>	<p>Anthony Baier, Sandy Krantz, Renee Christiansen, Madison Wilken, Willem VanLoon, Luke Reimer, Lauren Callahan, Grace Pavnica</p>
<p>Room 201</p>	<p>Rotolo Middle School Batavia, IL</p>

Adolescents are highly motivated by social experiences - How do we harness this and use the Power of Peers to address the complex needs of students in inclusive settings. Rotolo Middle School is doing just that through their PE Buddies Program pairing students with complex needs with typically developing peers. Come hear how the team is working to address standards and individualized learning needs all while kids have a ton of fun!

Anthony Baier – Instructional Learning Program Teacher at Rotolo Middle School and administrative intern. Anthony has a passion for fostering inclusive opportunities for all students and building opportunities for partnerships between students of all abilities. Mr. Baier has been working in the field of special education in a variety of roles for the past 12 years.

Sandy Krantz – Physical Education Teacher and facilitator of the PE Buddies Program at Rotolo Middle School. Sandy has taught at Rotolo Middle School for 25 years and focuses on social emotional development through physical activity and personal connection.

Renee Christiansen – Social Worker at Rotolo Middle School who is always looking for ways to have students practice skills across their day at Rotolo and capitalizes on using peers to support social emotional skill development. Renee has been practicing for 17 years in the field of school social work.

Madison Wilken – 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at RMS who loves to sing, is into fashion and a friend to all!

Willem VanLoon – 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at RMS who enjoys performing, has the most contagious laugh and brings joy to all those around him!

Luke Reimer- 8th grade student is a member of the Rotolo football team. Luke joined the PAG PE group to gain leadership skills and help out students.

Lauren Callahan- 8th grade student who is following her grandpa’s footsteps who runs a special needs camp. Loves to help other students.

Grace Pavnica- 8th grade student who has a brother in special education. Wants to learn leadership skills and help others.

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<b>Let's Get Googly</b>	<b>Caren Kimbarovsky</b>
Room 228	Highland Middle School Libertyville, IL

Many of us use Google apps every day. However, we sometimes don't realize that there are tools and methods at our fingertips that wow us. For example, when you are creating or writing in a Google App, do you constantly open a new tab to research or find an image? Do you want to see how to create graphic organizers in Google Docs? Did you know that you could suggest changes in Google Docs? Do you know how to create columns in Google Docs? Do you want to create graphs easily in sheets? Do you want a fun way to show students places around the world? We will explore some of these questions and more. You will leave ready to use them tomorrow.

Caren Kimbarovsky is a Technology Literacy Coach at Libertyville District 70 with over sixteen years of tech experience and a total of twenty-six years of teaching experience. She has implemented technology in all subject areas, K-8, and helped develop a Technology Framework. She is a Google Educator and Tech4Learning Innovative Educator. Caren is passionate about promoting learning with technology and enjoys sharing her experiences including with her three kids and husband.

<b>Disability Awareness and Supports for Students in the Inclusive Classroom</b>	<b>Deb Faermark</b>
Room 230	National Louis University/University of Illinois-Chicago

In today's classrooms, students with disabilities are included in the general education classroom for most of the school day in many schools. A unique disability awareness simulation will be presented that will help students with disabilities' peers to understand their classmates unique learning needs. Throughout the simulation, classroom supports will also be provided that will help classroom teachers understand the importance of modifications and accommodations for students with disabilities and how to effectively support all students in the classroom.

A doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Deb Faermark's research focuses on exploring the supports administrators provide to co-teachers in inclusive classrooms. She is exploring how administrators provide professional development opportunities in co-teaching, collaboration opportunities for administrators, and supports for providing feedback to co-teachers. Her aim is to improve co-teaching practices and in turn improve student outcomes. Faermark has been an Adjunct professor and University Supervisor at National Louis University for eight years in the Special Education Department. Prior to teaching in higher education, she was an elementary general education teacher and middle school special education teacher.

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**Session 3: 12:40-1:30**

<b>Our Journey on the Road to Skills-Based Reporting</b>	<b>Dee Dee Stine, Tami Guerts, Jake Steve</b>
Room 201	Olympia Middle School Stanford, IL

Educational research shows that standards-based grading can lead to significant student gains. But, as teachers, how can we accommodate the increased time commitments required to provide quick and effective feedback? How can we restructure our classroom methods to empower student learning and collect meaningful data. In this session, educators from Olympia Middle School will reflect on the similar struggles they encountered on the journey to standards-based grading and share tips, tricks, and insights gained throughout the process.

Olympia Middle School was recently recognized as a Horizon School to Watch. With its paradigm-shifting method of skills-based reporting, OMS is revolutionizing student learning and feedback in a way that separates behavior from academic skill while empowering students to own their learning. A central Illinois school that utilizes current research and partners with neighboring universities, OMS is a unique blend of rural communities and progressive educational reform efforts.

<b>Whatever It Takes...Using Data to Drive Our Instruction!</b>	<b>Tracy Fuentes, Michael Godlewski, Dina Albert, Nelson Campos</b>
Room 228	Miguel Juarez Middle School Waukegan, IL

Have you ever wondered about how you are going to meet the needs of your students when they are below grade level? This is where using data to drive your instruction and creating our concept of core/flex classroom groupings come into hand. In this session, we are going to talk about how we create our ELA and Math groupings as well as using data within our classroom in order to drive our instruction. Student portfolios and SMART goals will be covered. You will leave this session feeling motivated to go and do “whatever it takes” in your own teaching and learning.

Miguel Juarez is a middle school located in Waukegan, Illinois. We serve about 824 students, where the majority of our Hispanic with African American being the second largest ethnic group. We are a data driven school, which uses data constantly in order to drive instruction. We do “whatever it takes” in order to improve our teaching to fit the needs of all our students!

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Exploring Collaboration and Engagement Through  
Drama

Shelby Burton

Room 230

Highland Middle School Libertyville, IL

This session will focus on how to create collaborative classroom activities and assessments that will engage students by integrating theater into curriculum. Participants can expect an interactive workshop that will get them to think differently about their own curriculum. No matter what subject area you teach participants will take away tools and ideas that they can use in their instruction and curriculum development.

Shelby Burton has been teaching students all grade levels for 15 years. She currently teaches 6th , 7th and 8th grade Drama at Highland Middle School. In addition to her teaching career, Shelby is a professional improviser who has trained at The Second City and performs at many theaters in the Chicago area. She is also the Director of Outreach and Education at Bughouse Theater, whose program won the Illinois Theater Association's Award of Excellence for Theater for the Youth in 2016. She enjoys teaching others about using theater in their classrooms as a collaborative learning tool.

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