



NEWSLETTER

October 1976

Volume I

Number 1

From The President

Middle Grade Students Are Our Only Business

In these days of innovations, exemplary programs, "back to basics," you exclaim "here comes another 'cure all' for education!" However, the North Carolina League of Middle/Junior High Schools is an organization sincerely dedicated to continuing curriculum improvement for the "kids in the middle." As president of the League I feel a great responsibility to relay to you that this organization is not a fly-by-night group. It is a newly formed group of forward thinking educators - a cross-section of educators from public school personnel to higher education to community service agencies - anyone interested in students ages 10-14.

This grass roots movement began because an increasing number of institutions recognized the need for moving toward curricular improvements in the middle grades. Some major goals include:

To serve as a clearinghouse for exchange of ideas and materials;

To facilitate continuing curricular improvement;

To assist in developing plans for evaluating middle/junior high schools;

To secure and maintain support of groups interested in educational improvement;

To represent middle/junior high school youth in professional and public discussion of programs and problems.

Membership into the League is open on an institutional basis to any agency or school serving students age 10-14. Upon affiliation with the League, all members of the individual institution become members at no additional expense.

The League of Middle/Junior High Schools was officially organized on February 13 in Greensboro by a cross-section group of educators most of whom had attended the National Middle School Association meeting held in Atlanta a few months earlier.

An Article of Association and Bylaws was adopted, a Board of Directors was chosen, a League Expediter was appointed by the Board, and plans were set in motion for the First Annual State Conference which was held in Burlington on May 13-14.

The League has received endorsement from Dr. A. Craig Phillips, Division of ASCD and Principal of the NCAE, Superintendent of the Council of the Northwest Regional Education Center and the National Middle School Association of which North Carolina became the eighth member. To date, the NC League has 83 member institutions.

Many terms and concepts are being given "lip service" in education today. Being a realist, I am committed to real improvement in curriculum. Improvements are not made by persons who wait for change. Change and improvements come from one's willingness to give of oneself to the betterment of education. That ONE IS US. I personally can make a small contribution to the field of education, but you and I together can make a significant contribution to education in North Carolina - specifically to the middle grades programs. I look forward to being of service to each of you, and I am especially anxious to meet with many of you in the months to come.

Quality education of the middle grade student is our business - our only business!

North Carolina Affiliates With National

The North Carolina League of Middle/Junior High Schools has received official notification of affiliation with the National Middle School Association. The Texas, New England, and North Carolina Leagues were accepted at the April meeting of the National Board of Directors. The state associations of Missouri, Maryland, and Georgia became affiliated at the September Board of Directors Meeting.

This most significant action allows North Carolina Educators to have an influence on middle grades education at the national level. Affiliation allows an ex officio member to be on the National Board with full voting rights beginning November, 1978. Dr. Ken McEwin has represented the

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First Annual Conference Is A Success

The First Annual Conference of the North Carolina League of Middle/Junior High Schools was held May 13-14, 1976 at the Hilton Inn, Burlington, N. C. The Burlington City System and the Alamance County System were hosts for the conference.

Dr. William Alexander, University of Florida, and Ms. Dolly McMaster, Plymouth Michigan Schools, were the major speakers. Dr. Alexander, a renowned authority on middle school education, spoke on "Trends and Issues in the Education of Transescents." Ms. McMaster, a lead teacher at West Middle School and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Middle School Association, spoke on "Kids Are Teachers Too." Both speakers were excellent and their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Too numerous to mention individually are the many participants who added greatly to the conference by presenting informative mini-sessions. Sixteen different mini-sessions were given, were well attended, and were of high quality.

School visitations were conducted at Broadview Middle School and Southern Middle School. These visitations offered educators opportunities to view real situations in action. The League wishes to extend their appreciation to the faculties of the host school systems and to the principals Bob Gordon and Dr. Betty Bowman.

Many special guests were present. Dr. Robert Nelson, Superintendent of Alamance County Schools, Dr. Frank Profit, Superintendent of Burlington City Schools, Dr. Jerome Melton, Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction, SDPI, Dr. George Kahdy, Assistant State Superintendent for Instructional Services, and many other distinguished guests were present to offer their support.

If you were not among the fortunate group that attended this historic occasion, please mark your calendar to attend the Second Annual Conference March 3-4 in Winston-Salem. The young adolescents of North Carolina need your support.

North Carolina League Becomes A Reality

The N. C. League of Middle/Junior High Schools had its beginnings almost one year ago in Atlanta, Georgia during the National Middle School Association Conference. Official organization of the North Carolina League of Middle/Junior High Schools was completed in February, 1976. Several purposes were adopted for the League at this time. The primary function of the League is to help and promote the development of middle/junior high schools and the middle school concept in North Carolina.

Endorsement of the League has come from Dr. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; the Board of Directors of ASCD; Stanley Dall, Director of the Division of Principals, NCAE; the Superintendents Council of the Northwest Regional Education Center; the National Middle School Association.

While membership in the League is open to institutions only, all personnel within the member institution are entitled to the benefits of the League. Benefits include assistance in curriculum and instructional improvements, a quarterly newsletter, research assistance in developing new ideas and programs and access to the field services files for consultant services, films and slides, speakers and staff development helps for in-service.

Your interest and concern for "kids in the middle" is strong and lasting. Will you take five minutes to complete the membership form, write a \$25.00 check and send your membership in? You will benefit, your staff and parents will benefit, but your students will benefit most. Your membership will be good through June, 1977.

APPLICATION

North Carolina League of Middle/Junior High Schools

Name: _____ Name of Institution: _____

Institution Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Type of Institution: School Agency: Other
(type)

Ages of children served by institution: (circle the ages you serve)

0-5 6-10 11-15 16-21

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for one year membership in the N.C. League of Middle/Junior High Schools (July 1-to-June 30)

Please send additional information

(Make checks payable to N.C. League of Middle/Junior High Schools)

Conference Planned For March 3-4

The Second Annual Conference of the North Carolina League of Middle/Junior High Schools will be held at the Hyatt House in Winston-Salem on March 3rd and 4th. The school selected for visitation is Wiley Junior High School, Wiley School is known for its many educational innovations developed under the leadership of Mr. Jay Wise, Principal.

Major speakers are Dr. John Lounsbury and Ms. Nancy Doda. Dr. Lounsbury, nationally known author, educator, consultant, and authority on education at the Middle/Junior High School levels, is currently Dean of Education, Georgia College, Mill-
edgeville, Georgia. Ms. Doda, an outstanding lead teacher at Lincoln Middle School, Alachua County, Florida, is much in demand as a consultant and currently writes a column "Teacher to Teacher" in the "Middle School Journal."

Attending as special guest at the Conference will be Robert Malinka, Director of the National Middle School Resource and Certification Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. Mr. Malinka is a nationally known consultant and President-Elect of the National Middle School Association.

Please mark your calendar now!

Charter Flight Planned

The League has arranged a charter flight to St. Louis for the National Conference. Information follows:

- Leave Charlotte November 17, 3:20 p.m.
- Arrive St. Louis 5:55 p.m.
- Leave St. Louis November 20, 6:20 p.m.
- Arrive Charlotte 9:45 p.m.

Send Check for \$104.00 To:

Top Travel Service, Inc.
1406 South 59 Court
Cicero, Ill. 60650

Research Participants Are Asked To Contact Dr. Lawrence

Persons in middle/junior high school systems who are interested in research topics and would like to become involved are invited to call or write the chairperson of the Research Task Force, Dr. Joyce Lawrence, in the College of Learning and Human Development at Appalachian State University.

The direction of the Task Force during this beginning year is flexible and suggestions are welcome.

One goal which has been identified is that of a directory service developed through a continuing survey which enables valuable information to be incorporated into the records through the years. This may include items such as the grades included in North Carolina Middle Schools, the size of the schools, the instructional organization, the kind of scheduling being done, and so forth.

Affiliates

League at the National Board of Directors Meetings this year.

All educators are encouraged to join the National Middle School Association using the form included in the "Newsletter." One-year memberships begin January 1, 1977. The benefits include four issues of the "Middle School Journal," the "Newsletter," information on the National Conference, and other services. Membership in this group unites people with a common goal -- "the welfare and education of early adolescents." Your membership and assistance is needed! Please join and contribute your expertise.



NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

N.M.S.A.
P. O. BOX 988
FAIRBORN, OHIO 46324

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name	Title - Position	
	()	
Address	Phone	
City	State	Zip

DUES: \$15 per calendar year, payable to National Middle School Association

Includes All Association Publications

"Arching The Gap" Is Theme

The National Middle School Association Annual Conference "Arching the Gap" will be held November 18-20, 1976 at Stouffer's Riverfront Towers, St. Louis, Missouri. Major speakers will be Dr. Gordon Vars, Professor of Education, Kent State University ("Focus on Parent and

Teacher"), Dr. Donald Eichhorn, Assistant Superintendent, Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania ("Focus on the Student"), and Dr. Mel Heller, Professor of Education ("Who's In Charge. . . Principal, Teacher or Student?"). Participants may select from over 48 sessions involving more than 100 educators from across the country. School visitations will also be available on Thursday afternoon November 18 and Friday morning November 19.

REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
1976 Annual Conference

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SCHOOL _____ POSITION _____

NMSA MEMBER _____ NON MEMBER _____

REGISTRATION FEE (includes two lunches and a dinner):

\$40.00 before October 15, 1976

\$50.00 after October 15, 1976

Add \$2.50 for each school visit desired.

I WISH TO VISIT A MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Thursday afternoon _____ Friday morning _____

(An additional charge of \$2.50 for transportation for each visit must be included with the registration fee.)

TOUR FOR NON-REGISTRANTS:

Make _____ reservations at

\$7.50 each in my name.

My check is enclosed.

ENCLOSE CHECKS AND MAKE PAYABLE TO:

NMSA Annual Conference

MAIL TO:

Annual Conference Registration
National Middle School Association
1110 South Glenwood Lane
Kirkwood, Missouri 63122

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

MY FLIGHT WILL ARRIVE: Day _____ A.M. or P.M. _____

Hotel information and a complete program will be mailed with registration confirmation.

A special pre-conference workshop entitled "Practical Approaches to Middle/Junior High School Counseling" sponsored by the American School Counselors Association will be held November 17, 7:00-10:00 p. m. and Thursday, November 18, 8:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon. For registration information, write ASCA Middle School Workshop, 12679 Grandin Lane, Bridgeton, Missouri 63044.

To register for the National Middle School Conference, please fill out the form printed in this "Newsletter."

Standing Committees Are Listed

Conference Chairman - Jerry Fee
Curriculum / Instruction - Rebecca Stevens
Field Services - Janella Hollar
Fiscal - Wayne Dillon
Membership - Barry Rice
Publications - Chuck Parker
Research - Joyce Lawrence
Survey/Needs Assessment - Bill Wiener
Newsletter - Ken McEwin
Annual Project - Jerry Fee

Manuscripts Are Solicited

The editor respectfully requests you to submit manuscripts, book reviews, ideas that have proven successful for you, news items, or other information you would like to see published in the next "Newsletter." Materials submitted will be included in the "Newsletter" based upon their appropriateness and available space. Manuscripts and other materials should be as brief as possible. Please send information — this is YOUR "Newsletter."

Newsletter Personnel

Ken McEwin	Editor
Julia Thomason	Assistant Editor
Pat Williams	Typist
John Johnson	Graphic Arts

Printing services done by students at Wilkes Vocational Center, Wilkes County, North Carolina.

National Resource Center Lists Materials

The National Middle School Resource Center, which is located in the Indianapolis Public Schools Education Center, 120 E. Walnut Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204, may be called an information bureau, but it is more than that. It is an office designed to assist educators and other interested persons in learning more about the Intermediate or Middle School, relating this knowledge to their own particular situations regarding desired changes, and proceeding with this knowledge toward a conversion from the existing education pattern.

Robert Malinka, director of the center, conceived and submitted a plan for the center, and in 1970 the proposal was approved. A federal funded project of ESEA, Title III, and operating on a full time basis, the center houses files of materials available to interested individuals either in copied form or on a loan basis. Specific topics include curriculum, facilities, guidance, philosophy, scheduling, staffing, student activities, the grouping of students and many other major areas of interest. Materials are available, free of charge, by requesting them in letter form or by phone call to (317) 266-4611.

Middle School Research & Resource Center Checklist of Materials:

I am able to send to the center

I would like to receive

1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
2. BIBLIOGRAPHY
3. CERTIFICATION PATTERNS
4. CURRICULUM: GENERAL
SPECIFIC AREA (Name of Area:)
5. EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS
6. ELECTIVE COURSES
7. EVALUATION (STUDENT, TEACHER, PROGRAM)
8. FLOOR PLANS, FACILITIES
9. GROUPING OF STUDENTS
10. GUIDANCE PROGRAM (TESTING)
11. HANDBOOKS (STUDENT, TEACHER)

12. INDEPENDENT STUDY
13. INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
14. INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS
15. LEARNING ACTIVITIES PACKETS PHILOSOPHY
16. PHILOSOPHY
17. PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION
18. SCHEDULES
19. SPECIAL EDUCATION
20. STAFFING PERSONNEL POLICIES
21. STUDENT ACTIVITIES PROGRAMS
22. TEAM TEACHING PROGRAM
23. VOCATIONAL & CAREER EDUCATION

Thoughts On Grading

By Don Wells, Principal
Carolina Friends School
Durham, North Carolina
Reprinted with permission of the Author from
WE AND THEE
A Carolina Friends School-Parent Council Publication

"... if I ordered a general to change himself into a sea bird, and the general did not obey me, that would not be the fault of the general. It would be my fault."

THE LITTLE PRINCE

According to recent reports by the National Education Association, fully 78% of our schools continue to use age as the overriding consideration when bunching children in groups for learning. Yet, if one were to survey a group of persons covering a span of any twelve years of chronological age and attempt to group them in smaller bunches in which they would learn best, the LEAST desirable method one could choose would be to bunch by age. This is supported by the fact that research on the development of children clearly depicts learning stages (e. g. Erikson or Piaget) that vary on either end by more than three years. This variance is particularly true of those stages associated with the middle-aged child. We therefore know that when we describe a child who is twelve years old as a "seventh grader," this tells us little more than that the child has lived

for twelve years and has been placed with a group of children who have lived for the same number of years. (It also, by the way, tells us something about whether the school is structured for the benefit of the children or the administration.)

Whereas grading children can be justified on the basis of administrative convenience, it can be opposed on virtually every other ground. Consider the case of the seventh grader mentioned above. The insidious effect of grading that child stems from the tacitly assumed and overtly practiced belief that being a seventh grader presupposes that such a child SHOULD be able to do certain things (change himself into a sea bird), and further that if he CANNOT, we punish

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Needs Survey Provides Topics

The results of a needs survey recently conducted among League members have been tabulated. Members were asked to assign priority* to a variety of activities in the following six areas: Publications, Curriculum and Instruction, Field Services, Research, Membership, and Conferences. Listed below under each topic are the three activities which received the highest ratings of importance in each category.

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletter to be published quarterly
Position papers concerning all aspects of Middle/Junior High Schools
General publicity such as newspaper articles and mass media presentations about the League and exemplary school based activities

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Identifying ideas in the area of curriculum/instruction pertinent to Middle/Junior High School
Studying the Middle School concept and its implications
Studying the organizational structure of Middle/Junior High School

FIELD SERVICES

Providing staff development services to member and non-member organizations
Providing input to Southern Association and state agencies for Middle/Junior High School concept
Providing assistance in planning Middle/Junior High School facilities

RESEARCH

Encouraging and assisting organizations in the application for funds from federal, state and private sources
Disseminating the results of Middle/Junior High School research
Identifying funding sources (federal, state, private foundations)

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal of present members in the League
Identifying and recruiting new members in the state
Increase individual membership in the national association

CONFERENCES

Organize and hold a state-wide annual meeting
Sponsor workshops and seminars at various times throughout the state
Sponsor study institutes at various times throughout the state

- * 1 - Very Important Activity; should be provided immediately
- 2 - Important Activity; should be provided by the end of the year
- 3 - Fairly Important Activity; should be provided within two years
- 4 - Not Too Important an Activity; should be provided within the next five years
- 5 - Not Important at All; a good goal, our time could be better spent

Those activities which were assigned the highest overall ratings by the 200 responding members were (1) identifying ideas in the area of curriculum/instruction pertinent to Middle/Junior High Schools; (2) encouraging and assisting organizations in the application for (research) funds from federal, state and private sources; (3) studying the Middle School concept and its implications; (4) organize and hold a state-wide meeting; and (5) renewal of present members in the League.

League Expresses Thanks

The League's thanks go to the following for their part in making the 1976 League Conference successful.

The Delmar Company - Charlotte
Wine & Cheese

Bender School Supply, Inc.
Coffee

Stone School Supply
Coffee

Flythe School Equipment, Inc. - Raleigh
Hospitality Suite

him ("You fail"). Or, that if developmentally a child CAN do what another CANNOT, we reward that developmental fact ("You pass"). The message that is communicated to our children in a graded structure is simply: "Stop acting your age." The conclusion drawn by children is: "Stop being myself."

Finally, what is most disturbing is that professional educators still do it, despite the overwhelming evidence that grading for effective education does not, cannot, and should not work. (I have even heard it defined as the best way of grouping.) Might we admit that such grading may be the "best way" from the administrative point of view, second only to having a school with no students? And might we also note: having no students is infinitely more conscionable.

Presenters Sought For Conference

If you would be interested in presenting one or more one-hour seminar sessions at the Second Annual Conference of the North Carolina League of Middle/Junior High Schools to be held in Winston-Salem, March 3-4, please complete this form and return it by December 15, 1976

to: Mr. Jerry Fee, Conference Coordinator, 201 W. Main Street, Wilkesboro, North Carolina 28697 (919/667-1121). Approved presenters will receive additional information. Please plan on sharing some of your successes from your school or agency so that others may benefit.

1. Presenter's Name(s) and Address(es)

2. Telephone Numbers: Home

School

3. School/Agency Name and Address

4. Title of Presentation

5. Description of Presentation; Please attach additional sheets if necessary.

6. Equipment and special facilities needed

7. Are you aware of anyone who could make a significant contribution to the conference program? If so, please give us their name, address and area of expertise.

Systems To Submit Applications To Host 1978 Conference

The Board of Directors of the North Carolina League of Middle/Junior High Schools respectfully requests that systems interested in hosting the 1978 Conference submit their requests by February 1, 1976. Criteria to be considered when determining the desirability of a particular site will be fur-

nished upon request. If interested, contact Dr. Ken McEwin, League Expediter, Department of Elementary Education, Edwin Duncan Hall, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina 28608.

North Carolina League Members

*CHARTER MEMBERS

A. C. Reynolds Middle School*	Asheville	Salem Junior High School*	Morganton
A. G. Cox Grammar School*	Winterville	Sampson Middle School	Clinton
Almance County Schools*	Graham	Saw Mills School*	Granite Falls
Alexander Central High School*	Taylorsville	Scotland County Schools*	Laurinburg
Alexander County Schools*	Taylorsville	Southern Middle School*	Graham
Alexander-Graham Junior High School*	Fayetteville	South View Junior High School*	Hope Mills
Altamahaw-Ossipee*	Elon College	State Department of Public Instruction*	Raleigh
Anne Chesnut High School*	Fayetteville	Stedman Junior High School*	Stedman
Appalachian State University*	Boone	Sun Valley Middle School*	Mathews
Armstrong Junior High*	Fayetteville	Tillemont School*	Wilmington
Asheville City Schools	Asheville	Turrentine Middle School*	Burlington
Ayden Grammar School*	Ayden	Tuttle Middle School*	Newton
Blackburn Middle School*	Newton	Turo Junior High School	Lexington
Broadview Middle School*	Burlington	Venable School*	Asheville
Brogden Junior High School	Durham	Washington County Union School*	Roper
Caldwell County Schools*	Lenoir	Washington Drive Junior High*	Fayetteville
Camden Middle School*	Camden	Washington Park School*	Laurinburg
Candor Middle School	Candor	Welcome Middle School*	Greenville
Catawba County Schools*	Newton	West Middle School*	Taylorsville
Catawba Middle School*	Catawba	Westover Junior High School*	Fayetteville
C. B. Eller School*	Elkin	Wilkesboro Elementary School*	Wilkesboro
C. C. Wright Elementary School*	Noeth Wilkesboro	Wilkes County Schools*	Wilkesboro
Clinton City Schools*	Clinton	Woodlawn Middle School*	Mebane
Cumberland County Schools*	Fayetteville		
Davidson Board of Education	Lexington		
Douglas Byrd Junior High School*	Fayetteville		
E. B. Aycock Junior High*	Greenville		
East Newton School	Newton		
Elkin City Schools*	Elkin		
Gamewell-Collette	Fayetteville		
Gamewell-Collettsville High School*	Lenoir		
Gibson Junior High School*	Gibson		
Graham Middle School*	Graham		
Granite Falls High School*	Granite Falls		
Hardin Park School*	Boone		
Harry M. Arndt Middle School*	Hickory		
Hope Mills Junior High School*	Hope Mills		
Horace Sisk Junior High School*	Fayetteville		
Hudson High School*	Hudson		
I. Ellis Johnson School*	Laurinburg		
Irdell County School*	Statesville		
J. S. Spivey Junior High School*	Fayetteville		
Ledford Junior High School*	Thomasville		
Leland Middle School	Leland		
Lenoir Middle School*	Lenoir		
Lenoir Rhyne College*	Hickory		
Lewis Chapel Junior High School*	Fayetteville		
Maney Hill Junior High School*	Fayetteville		
Millers Creek Elementary School*	Millers Creek		
Moore County Schools*	Carthage		
Moravian Falls School*	Moravian Falls		
Northwest Junior High School	Winston-Salem		
North Wilkesboro Elementary School*	North Wilkesboro		
Pine Forest Junior High*	Fayetteville		
Pitt County Schools*	Greenville		
Ranson Junior High School*	Charlotte		
Reidsville Junior High School*	Reidsville		
Reidsville Middle School*	Reidsville		
Roaring River Elementary School*	Roaring River		
Robert B. Glenn Junior High School	Kernersville		

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