LMSA 2001 SPRING CONFERENCE
EXCELLENCE IN THE MIDDLE

The annual LMSA Spring Conference will be held Thursday, April 5 through Saturday, April 7 at the Landmark Hotel in Metairie, Louisiana. The theme for this year's conference is "Excellence in the Middle". The conference will focus on promoting academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, and social equity for middle level students.

Registration will begin Thursday, April 5. Exhibits will be open and a reception and mixer will be held Thursday evening. A Welcoming Session will be held Friday morning and break-out sessions will be conducted Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7.

Featured speaker for the conference will be Chad Foster. One of the most sought after speakers in the world of student motivation, Foster is the author of Teenagers: Preparing for the Real World. Other presenters for the conference include Fran Salyers, NMSA past president; Linda Robinson, NMSA Board Member; and Barbara Hunter-Cox and Ruthie Smith Stevenson from the Foundation of the MidSouth. Over 40 breakout sessions are scheduled to be given by middle school educators and higher education professors from across Louisiana.

The LMSA Luncheon will be held Friday, April 6. A keynote address, entertainment by middle school groups from the New Orleans area, and the announcement of the winners of the 2001 LMSA Award for Excellence will highlight the event.

The conference will conclude Saturday at noon with the annual LMSA business meeting.

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A Message from Your President

We have all settled in for a new semester. I don't know about all of you, but we're now into another countdown. This time it's for Mardi Gras! We love it!

The conference is coming up in April and we will have many interesting speakers for you to hear. However, that's not the most important part of the conference. I guess what means the most to some of us is the time we spend sharing: stories, experiences, techniques, and best of all, ourselves. That is what makes conference time really worthwhile.

There will be new faces this year because some of our colleagues from the Monroe area will be attending for the first time. They are a part of the Foundation of the Mid-South or MS² as we like to call them.

Come on down to Ole 'N' Orleenas for a good time in April.

See you in my hometown.

Marion
For Your Information

LMSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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For membership payments or questions contact:
Sue Landry
P.O. Box 136
Luling, LA 70070
Phone: 504-783-6636
Fax: 504-783-6638

For questions or comments about how LMSA can better serve your school, parish or state, contact:
LMSA Executive Consultant
James A. Taylor, Ph.D
4925 Elysian Fields
New Orleans, LA 70122-4008
Phone: 504-288-7206
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Email: j.a.taylor@worldnet.att.net

To submit articles or announcements for LMSA newsletter, contact:
Connie Melder
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TEC Building NSU
Natchitoches, LA 71497
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Fax: 318-352-7721

Middle School Online Update
By Sharon Laycock

A year ago, the Online Middle School Staff Development Initiative launched a twenty-six workshop series designed to promote middle school staff development. The three areas of focus for this series were middle school concepts, technology integration, and accountability. This site has continued to grow with the addition of new workshops just last month.

The first new workshop is Characteristics of Middle School Students by Cherry McNease. The main focus of this workshop is to acquire knowledge and understanding of the unique characteristics of middle school children.

The second new workshop is Meeting the Math Standards for the LEAP by Charlotte Ducote. This workshop will explore the effect of the new standards in the Middle School Classroom and will integrate applicable software to meet these standards. These modules will serve to enhance the instruction of all middle school teachers in Louisiana. Check the site for yourself at http://www.education.nsula.edu/msol.

Find great ideas for middle level education at www.msol.org
Forshag named Louisiana Teacher of the Year

Eval J. Landry Middle School teacher, Barbara Forshag was named Louisiana Teacher of the Year by the Louisiana Department of Education. Selected as overall winner from a pool of 24 finalists, Forshag has now advanced to the National Teacher of the Year competition.

Forshag, a long time member and contributor to LMSA, has a twenty-two year career in middle level education and has long been involved with Junior Beta Club.

At Landry Middle School, Forshag specializes in language arts and English. She has been director of the school’s reading lab and HOSTS program for language arts for the last three years. She and 75 other mentors work to bring sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students who test in the bottom 35 percent in reading skills up to their grade level.

Forshag says the most important part of teaching, especially at the middle school level, is to let students know that you care about them as people.

“The motto in my classroom is ‘it’s cool to be kind,’” said Forshag. “I’ve got to convince those kids that I do care about their personal lives, their intellects, all of them. When that happens, good things happen in the classroom.”

State teachers of the year are selected based on criteria such as teaching skills and dedication: plans to continue in the profession; respect of student, parents and coworkers; community leadership; contributions to school groups, affiliations with educational organizations; and possession of a superior ability to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.

Louisiana Middle School Teacher of the Year & Louisiana Middle School Principal of the Year

Iberia Middle School in New Iberia is the home to both the Louisiana Middle School Principal and the Louisiana Middle School Teacher for the year 2000. Randy Harvison, principal at Iberia Middle School for the past seven years, received his honor from NASSP. Harvison is a past president of LMSA and has served on the LMSA Board for fourteen years.

Tim Rosamond was named Louisiana Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Louisiana Department of Education at a ceremony in Baton Rouge in November. He was one of 24 finalists from the state’s eight regions. Rosamond teaches seventh grade math at Iberia Middle School.

LMSA Members Attain National Board Certification

Two LMSA members were among 28 Louisiana teachers who attained National Board Certification in the year 2000. Patty Borskey Blaize of St. Charles Parish and Stacy T. Gunter of Rapides Parish met rigorous standards to achieve national certification this year, placing them among America’s elite educators.

Blaize provides gifted services at Eual J. Landry Middle School and Carver Elementary in addition to teaching Spanish at Landry. Gunter teaches language arts at Alexandria Junior High School.

National Board Certification is a voluntary process achieved through a performance-based assessment that takes nearly a year to complete.

Through the process, teachers document their knowledge of subject matter, provide evidence that they know how to teach their subjects to students, and demonstrate ability to manage and measure student learning.

Congratulations to Patty Blaize and Stacy Gunter on achieving this prestigious recognition!
Chad Foster to Present Keynote Speech at LMSA Luncheon

Chad Foster will be the featured speaker at the 2001 LMSA Spring Conference. The author and motivational speaker, will present the keynote address Friday, April 6 at the LMSA Luncheon. Foster will also be signing copies of his book, *Teenagers-Preparing for the Real World,* which will be given to conference attendees.

Originally from Lafayette, but now residing in Atlanta, Foster entered the business world in Louisiana at age 19, parlaying an unsuccessful attempt at professional tennis into a business servicing tennis courts. Eventually Chad expanded his recreational surfing vision by converting millions of pounds of recycled tire rubber into a soft, safe playground surface. That product, SAF, provides a safe play environment at thousands of McDonald playgrounds and at DisneyWorld.

At age 33, Foster took an indefinite sabbatical and traveled across America as Tour Director with Special Olympics International. The following year, Foster set out on a two-year cross-country fact finding trip. His travels and research convinced him that young people in America were receiving an incomplete education and were not being fully prepared for their inevitable entry into the real world.

His concern for young people prompted Foster to write his best-selling book, *Teenagers-Preparing for the Real World.* The book is most convincing in its purpose to promote dreams, goals, communication skills, integrity, and community service in the lives of young people. His book has been developed into an integrated curriculum that has been incorporated by 3,500 schools nationwide. This project-based curriculum exposes the valuable message of his book to over 500,000 students each year.

In 1997, Foster was tapped by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to serve as world-wide web expert for the "Straight Talk About Schools" program on the internet. He is now one of America’s most sought after speakers in the area of student motivation. His audiences include more than 100,000 students and educators each year.

Foster serves as an advisor to the Heart of America Foundation, a national organization created to encourage America's youth to participate in community service and to do for others less fortunate. Chad is also the host of his own television show, *Fly Fishing America,* which can be seen on ESPN.

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**EXCELLENCE IN THE MIDDLE**

**2001 LMSA SPRING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, April 6**

5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.  Registration and Exhibits
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.  Reception/Mixer/Networking (cash bar)

**Friday, April 6**

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  Registration and Exhibits
7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m.  Continental Breakfast/Networking
8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.  WELCOME Session
9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Breakout Session #1
10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Breakout Session #2
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Luncheon/LMSA Awards
1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  Keynote Speaker-Chad Foster
2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m.  Breakout Session #3
4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  Breakout Session #4

**Saturday, April 7**

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  Registration and Exhibits
8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m.  Continental Breakfast/Networking
8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.  Breakout Session #6
9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Breakout Session #7
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Breakout Session #8
12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m. LMSA Annual Business Meeting

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**LMSA AWARDS LUNCHEON TO BE HELD FRIDAY, APRIL 6**

The 2001 LMSA Luncheon will be held Friday, April 6, at the Landmark Hotel in Metairie. A highlight of the luncheon will be the presentation of the LMSA Award of Excellence to deserving middle level educators. Chad Foster will give the keynote address and entertainment will be provided by New Orleans area middle school students.

Cost for the luncheon is $15.00 and payment must be made in advance of the conference.

Please join other LMSA members to be motivated and entertained and to recognize and to congratulate the recipients of the 2001 Award of Excellence.
LMSA 2001 Spring Conference Breakout Sessions

- Teenagers -Preparing for the Real World by Chad Foster
- Building Interdisciplinary Teams That Work
- Boosting Teacher Morale
- Observing Rings in Science
- Writing in the Content Area
- The Middle School - High School Connection
- Using Curricular Mapping
- Using Effective Teaching Strategies
- School Leadership
- Turning Points 2000
- Marco Polo Internet Content
- A Little Techno Magic
- New American Lecture for Middle School Social Studies
- The Writing Process
- Technology Management
- School Improvement Without Frustration
- Currently Speaking: CNNfyi.com
- Power It Up With Power Point
- Designing Effective Staff Development
- Louisiana Voices: An Educator’s Guide
- Swap Shop—Teacher Exchange of Ideas
- Stepping Out in the Middle
- Get the Kids Involved: TIPS
- Hats Off to Drama
- LEAD Tech for Administrators
- LEAPing Language Arts
- Online Master of Education Program
- Minding Your P's and Q's
- A New Look at Middle School Discipline
- Using Accelerated Math and AR Literacy Tests
- School Leadership—The Role
- Math Made Fun
- “London Bridge is Falling Down“
- I Can Do Standards and Middle School Too
- National Board Teacher Certification
- Middle School Online Staff Development
- Score With SCORE
- Integrating Social Studies and Math
- Dancing Circles in the Reading Classroom
- Cooperative Learning: A Winning Team
- Creating An Emotionally Safe Classroom
- Making the Math and Webquest Connection
- and more

3rd Annual LMSA Swap Shop
Teacher Exchange of Ideas That Work

Body:
Outline the lesson stating materials, objectives, grouping, and time needed for completion. Give any specific instructions or tips for being successful. Sketches and pictures are helpful when explaining grouping or showing a finished product.

Have a lesson, idea, or project that is a sure-fire way to jump start a class? Write it up and share it with your colleagues at the 3rd Annual LMSA Swap Shop. Follow the guidelines and bring a minimum of 125 copies to the LMSA conference in Metairie. You will receive a ticket that will allow you to “shop” the Exchange Room for copies of all ideas submitted. Bring your copies to the registration desk during the conference.

Exchange Room times will be posted at the conference.

Format:
Name
School
Grade Level
Subject / or Interdisciplinary

Closure:
Please indicate the source of the idea if it is not an original one. You may wish to give your email address in case the user has questions or would like to discuss ways to adapt your idea.
L M S A
Spring Conference Registration
Landmark Hotel-Metairie
2601 Severn Avenue - Metairie, Louisiana 70007
(504) 888-9500  (800) 277-7575  Fax: (504) 885-8474

Preferred Info for Name Badge:  (please print)
Name: ___________________________________ Title: ______________________________

School/Parish/Organization: ______________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: __________________________________________________________________

E-Mail: _________________________________________________________________________

Pre-conference Registration rate apply before March 24, 2001

☐ $45.00 Pre-conference Registration  LMSA Individual Member

☐ $45.00 Pre-conference Registration  LMSA Institutional Member (two people may each register

at the LMSA individual member rate when representing a school/organization that is a current Institutional

Member of LMSA. Please indicate the name of the school or system that is an Institutional Member:

☐ $35.00 Presenter (must have submitted an approved presentation application and be a current member of

LMSA )

☐ $65.00 Pre-conference Registration— Non-Member

☐ $15.00 Luncheon Ticket  ( Friday, April 6 )

Luncheon tickets must be purchased in advance

Onsite Registration

$55.00— LMSA Member

$75.00— Non-Member

Group rates: 20 or more persons from one school/ 100 persons or more from one district can register at

LMSA member rate. Contact Sue Landry 504-783-6636 for more information.

LMSA Membership payment may be made at this time. Membership payment made with registration

will qualify registrants for Member rate.

☐ $20.00 LMSA Individual Membership  ☐ New  ☐ Renewal

☐ $30.00 LMSA Institutional Membership

☐ $10.00 Undergraduate College Student/ Retiree Membership

For Landmark Hotel Reservations call 504-888-9500 or 800-277-7575 by March 4, 2001
Send Conference Registration and payment by March 24, 2001 to:

Sue Landry
P.O. Box 136
Luling, LA 70070-0136

Total payment to LMSA: $ __________________
Date: ________________

Make checks payable to “Louisiana Middle School Association”
LOUISIANA MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL
-INDIVIDUAL-

Please print all information:

NAME

BUSINESS INFORMATION:

School/Agency
Title

Department
Sec'y/Assistant

Street Address
P.O. Box

City
Parish
State
Zip

HOME INFORMATION (if preferred):

Street Address
P.O. Box

City
Parish
State
Zip

REMITTANCE:
Check the appropriate membership category. Make your check or money order payable to
Louisiana Middle School Association. Return this form with your payment to:

Louisiana Middle School Association
P.O. Box 136, Luling, LA 70070-0136

-EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION-

Please print all information:

CONTACT PERSONS (Please name two):

Please check one:

□ New Member
□ Renewal

Name
Title

Name
Title

Name of Educational Institution

Street Address
P.O. Box

City
Parish
State
Zip

Phone
Ext

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e-mail

Web page

Please make check for $30.00 payable to Louisiana Middle School Association. Return this form with your check to:
Louisiana Middle School Association
P.O. Box 136, Luling, LA 70070-0136
Spring Conference
April 5-7, 2001
Landmark Hotel
Metairie, Louisiana

Landmark Hotel
Metairie
(New Orleans 1-10 & Causeway)
2001 Severn Avenue
Metairie, LA 7007
(504) 888-9500  (800) 277-7575
(504) 885-8474 Fax

Reservation Cut-Off
March 4, 2001
Standard $ 89.00  Deluxe $ 89.00
Double/Double, King & Non Smoking Available

Dates for Meeting:
Arrival: April 5, 2001
Departure: April 7, 2001
Please call today for reservations

Method of Payment:
American Express, Visa, MasterCard, Discover
Diner's, Carte Blanche, Check / Money Order

The Landmark Hotel-Metairie regrets that it cannot hold your reservation
after 4 p.m. on the day of arrival without one of the above. Credit card
guarantees and deposits will be refunded only if cancellation notification
is given by 4 p.m. on the day of arrival.