

November/December 2023 Digital Newsletter

Welcome to the November/December Newsletter!

In this newsletter we do a little bit of *looking back*, sharing some of the exciting takeaways from the RISE conference held November 15-16, and some *looking ahead* to let you know what PD offerings will launch in January and to help you return from winter break refreshed and inspired.

RISE 2023



The **RISE conference was a great success**, with diverse speakers and attendees sharing insights and experiences from a wide representation of religious and independent schools. Some of the **key takeaways** were: the importance of embracing **innovation** (including AI!), cultivating healthy **relationships**, building effective **teams**, **thinking creatively**, and **communicating effectively** in order to best manage the changing needs of religious and independent schools. Some of the resources from these presentations are available below. We will add more as they become available (including the keynote recording on AI). The full program lists all speakers and topics; we encourage you to reach out to specific leaders who presented at RISE to learn more.

[CLICK HERE](#)

We have some exciting professional development opportunities launching in January, based on the feedback you've provided about your needs. We've enlisted the expertise of our RISE presenters who will offer a "**RISE Extension Series**" where they go deeper into the ideas from RISE to help you turn ideas into practice. We also have several **new interactive courses** and **expanded on-demand content** to ensure that you have a variety of formats available to meet your professional development needs. **Check out our new offerings below and mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you in these sessions!**

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Click below to see a full listing of Professional Development beginning in January!

Elevating Conversations to Drive Instruction

With Dr. Noelle Beale, Regional Superintendent, Catholic Schools of Westchester in the Archdiocese of NY

Join us!

One key to improving student learning outcomes is to elevate the conversation between teachers and instructional coaches. This series will help you examine how to use data to focus conversations that help teachers align their practice with their instructional goals. Learn practical strategies from fellow principals and coaches who have implemented this framework.

January 24, 2024 9:30-10:30 am	February 13, 2024 9:30-10:30 am	March 5, 2024 9:30-10:30 am
 Observation & Assessment Data with Danielson	 Next Steps: Digging into Implementation	 Principal Panel: Success Stories and Overcoming Challenges

Questions? Contact Rebecca Shea, Upstate PDRS Director rshea@measinc.com

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Integrated Curriculum: Leverage Teacher Collaboration & Solve Common Challenges

With Mr. Josh Kaplan, Director at the Randolph School

Join us!

Learn how an integrated curriculum improves teacher collaboration, efficiency, retention, and instructional quality. This series will help you get started within your school's current context, leveraging the people you already have to establish a workable plan toward a more integrated curriculum. Join us to explore practical implementation tips and ways to assess the impact of these changes.

January 23, 2024 4:00-5:00 pm	February 6, 2024 4:00-5:00pm	February 27, 2024 4:00-5:00 pm
 Making Connections: Enhancing Program Function with Integrated Curriculum	 Practical Implementation at Work: Hits and Misses of Moving to an Integrated Curriculum	 Checking In: Assessing What You Tried and Next Steps

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Strategies to Support Student Learning Gaps: Multi-Age Classes and Creative Scheduling

With Patti Vitale, Head of School and Nicole Fatato & Sara Knaggs, Multi-age Classroom Teachers from The Brown School

Join us!

Growing gaps in student achievement have forced schools to re-evaluate the use of time and staff expertise. Join us for a four-part exploration of how The Brown School redesigned their schedule to bring teachers together in multi-age classrooms to provide increased support for students. Hear from the Head of School about the logistics of reimagining the school schedule and classroom configurations, and learn from the classroom teachers about collaborating to provide targeted instruction, build community, and increase students' progress toward grade-level outcomes.

January 18, 2024 4-5 pm	March 6, 2024 4-5 pm	March 13, 2024 4-5 pm	March 20, 2024 4-5 pm
 The Move to Multi-age: Logistics and More	 Multi-age Classrooms: Why? and the Benefits Behind this Model	 Multi-age Classrooms: Preplanning and Taking the First Steps	 Multi-age Classrooms: In Practice and Delivery

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Support for Struggling Readers

Data, Lessons & Progress

With the Upstate PDRS

Join us!

Learn how to plan for successful and engaged reading instruction in your classroom with your current group of students. We will explore the science of reading and how to use certain facets to inform teaching through lesson design and delivery. Discuss and pose questions related to the issues you face in supporting your students who struggle to read. Turn the science of reading into practical instructional strategies to successfully reach all of your students!

January 10, 2024 4:00-5:00 pm	Jan 31 (K-2) Feb 7 (3-6) 4:00-5:00 pm	February 28 4:00-5:00 pm
 Gathering Baseline Data and What To Do With It	 Creating Engaged Science-Based Reading Lessons	 Monitoring Student Progress in Reading

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Art Educator Network

Facilitated by Diana Straut with Visual Arts Educators from across NYS

Join us!

The Art Educator Network provides a forum for art professionals in NYS religious and independent schools to connect and collaborate. Each session will focus on a current topic in art education, with time for open-ended discussion and resource sharing.

Whether you are a seasoned art teacher or a new educator just starting out, the Art Educator Network is a valuable resource for advancing your classroom practice. Join us to connect with other art professionals, share ideas and resources, and stay up-to-date on the latest developments in art education.

February 8, 2024 4-5 pm	March 14, 2024 4-5 pm	April 18, 2024 4-5 pm	May 16, 2024 4-5 pm
 Using AI in Art Instruction	 Inter-Disciplinary Connections	 To be determined with group input	 To be determined with group input

Questions? Contact Rebecca Shea, Upstate PDRS Director rshea@measinc.com

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Coaching Conversations with Student Work at the Core

With Rebecca Shea

Join us!

Are you a coach or mentor for other teachers but need help facilitating meaningful discussions to support student learning through instructional practice? Come join us for a plan-do-study-act series where participants will learn a protocol for examining student work (plan), implement it with one teacher (do), and come back to share what they learned about supporting teachers and ultimately student work (study & act). No experience with coaching teachers is required but participants will need to be able to work with one teacher for this PD/SA cycle. This could be any colleague who is willing to partner with you to learn more about how to support both student learning and teacher practice.

March 12, 2024 4:00-5:00 pm	March 27, 2024 4:00-5:00 pm
 Plan & Do: Learn & Use Student Work Protocol	 Study & Act: Share Your Learning

Questions? Contact Rebecca Shea, Upstate PDRS Director rshea@measinc.com

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Assessment and Grading in Differentiated Classrooms

Text-based Discussions with Diana Straut

Join us!

Are you moving to a more differentiated classroom and wondering how that might impact your grading practices? Join us to explore how to align assessment and grading in differentiated classrooms. Participants will read brief essays (5-70 pages) by various practitioners in the field, then come together to reflect on how to connect the ideas to their own classroom practice. This series is designed for teachers or leaders who are interested in refining their grading systems to make them more equitable and beneficial for teachers, students, and their families.

March 26, 2024 4:00-5:00 pm	April 16, 2024 4:00-5:00 pm	May 1, 2024 4:00-5:00 pm
 Selected Reading: A Call to Action for Equitable Grading by Joe Feldman	 Selected Reading: Grading and Differentiation: Paradox or Good Practice? by Carol Ann Tomlinson	 Selected Reading: The Right Way to do Re-Dos by Rick Wormell

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Click the image below to check out our Spring PD webpage!

Spring 2024 Sessions

COMING SOON
From The Upstate PDRS

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Standards-Based Learning 3-Part Series: Now On-Demand!

Standards-Based Learning provides transparency to your students, their families, and your administration in order to communicate clearly what students have learned and need to practice. In this series, participants will consider how to implement standards-based learning through the lens of a secondary math-content teacher; however, the concept of leveled learning is applicable to teachers in all content areas and grades.

Course 1 **Unpacking Standards into Learning Levels**

**Identifying Levels to Differentiate for
Deeper Learning**

Course 2

Course 3 **Assessments for Leveled Learning**

Click the course titles to learn more!



Book Study Now On-Demand
*Standards-Based Learning in Action:
Moving from Theory to Practice*
By Tom Schimmer, Garnet Hillman,
& Mandy Stalets

Thinking about exploring the concepts of standards-based (or standards-referenced) learning and assessment? Well, look no further! We can help guide you in your search to refine your current strategies in standards-based learning or help you explore your first steps in the journey. This book offers a comprehensive look at what standards-based learning looks like in action, from creating formative assessments, to using data to inform instruction, and transitioning to standards-based grading systems. Read and join the discussion!

Here's what participants who read the book said they'd take into their classroom practice right away . . .

"Having students help unpack the learning standards into levels."
"Doing more peer and self-assessments."
"Providing levels for summative assessments."
"Checklists for teachers will be helpful."
"Formative assessments, unpacking standards, and creating proficiency scales."

Participants in this course will learn:

- Step-by-step guidance, and an exploration into the culture of standards-based education.
- Research-based strategies and resources you can implement right away.
- Strategies to support the communication of these practices for your entire educational community (including parents and students).

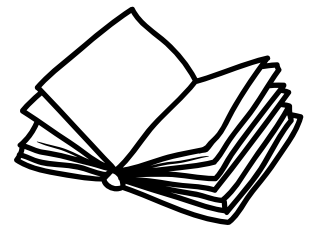
Read the book with a colleague!

[Learn More Here](#)

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Standards-Based Learning

*Unpacking Standards Into Learning Levels
Levels to Differentiate for Deeper Learning
Assessments for Leveled Learning*

Writing Practices

*Aligning Instruction: Unpacking Writing Standards
Designing Checklists to Support Student Writing
Using Mentor Texts to Improve Student Writing*

Mentoring Series

*The Basics
Customize for Your School
Resources & Implementation*

Math Practices

*Meaningful Math Play From The First Day
Fluency & Number Sense: Practices to Promote a Growth Mindset
Math Makeovers: Making Math Problems More Engaging
Turn Your Classroom Into a Mathematical Playground*

Onboarding Series

*Systems & Structures
Curriculum & Instructional Supports
Ongoing Support*

New & Novice Teacher Academy Series

*1: Classroom Climate & Managing the Learning Environment
2: Creating a Student-Centered Classroom
3: Delivering High-Quality Learning Experiences for ALL Students
4: Assessment for Learning
5: Reflective Practice & Professional Growth*

Inclusive Teaching Practices

*Accountable Talk to Increase Engagement
Differentiation Made Easier
Collaboration & Co-Teaching to Support All Learners
Essential Assessment Practices
Promoting Student Independence with Prompt
Hierarchies & Natural Support*



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Reflect, Refresh, and Reboot

We're fast approaching the 'messy middle' of the school year.

It's quite normal to find that some routines have become lackluster and students might be struggling with academics, friendships, holiday highs and lows, or any number of issues.

The mid-year break can provide an opportunity to reflect on what's working and identify places where you want to 'change it up' in the new year. Here are some resources to help you make mid-year adjustments and greet the new year (and your students!) refreshed and inspired.

[Mid-Year Reset: 4 Ways to Hit the Reset Button and Reclaim your Class \(and Life!\)](#)

[10 Tips for Teachers to Avoid Mid-Year Burnout](#)

[January Classroom Reset](#)

[The Power of a Mid-Year Reboot](#)

[7 Tips for Teachers to Reset During the Mid-Semester Break](#)

[Tips and Tools for a Mid-Year Behavior Reset](#)



Video Series on Classroom Management



Check out this 7-part series of videos on Classroom Management from the NY Center for School Safety! Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

A series of 7 videos presenting strategies for creating a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for all students.

- Video 1 - [What's Your Style](#)
- Video 2 - [Form Healthy Habits](#)
- Video 3 - [In Our Classroom](#)
- Video 4 - [Importance of Relationships](#)
- Video 5 - [Function Based Thinking](#)
- Video 6 - [Phases of Acting Out Behavior](#)
- Video 7 - [Best Practices in Classroom Management](#)

Additional Video Resources:

[The Teacher Clarity Playbook](#)
[Structuring The Learning Journey](#)
[60-Second Strategy: Talk Detectives](#)

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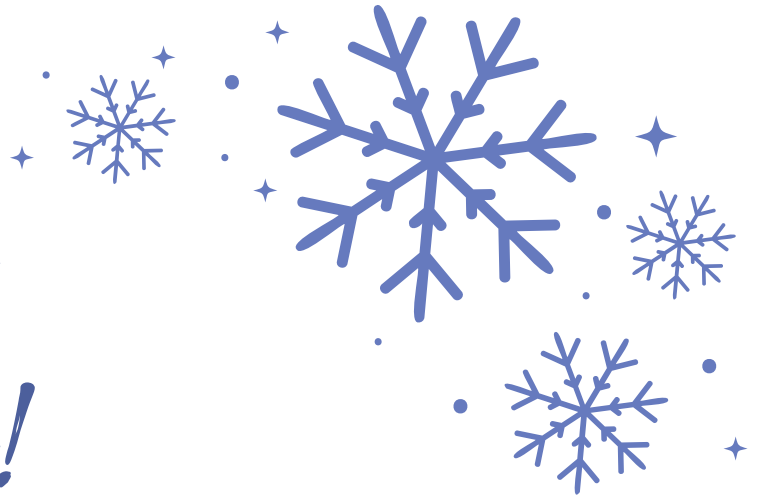
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Happy Holidays

from
The Upstate
PDRC Team!



However you celebrate this season, we hope that you enjoy a much-deserved, relaxing break and that you know how important you are to us and to your students. We send our sincere thanks for all that you do!



Rebecca, Diana, Dawn, and Upstate PDRC Team

Our goal is to provide valuable and accessible learning opportunities for teachers and leaders in NYS religious and independent schools, at all stages of their careers. Reach out to Rebecca Shea at rshea@measinc.com to let us know how we can support your professional needs.

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