



August 2023 Digital Newsletter



Gearing Up For Back to School!

Join Us on Thursday,
August 24th!

Welcome Back!

This summer we have enjoyed working with teachers and leaders throughout our Summer Book Studies. If you were not able to join us this summer, we will be offering all four book studies On-Demand this fall!

We invite you to check out our first on-demand book study [HERE](#).

We are excited to share with you our NEW FALL PD on topics such as classroom rules and expectations, SEL, parent engagement, small group instruction, centers, choice boards, standards-based learning, and much more! Click on the flyers throughout this newsletter to learn more!

~ The Upstate PDRC Team



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR NYS RELIGIOUS & INDEPENDENT EDUCATORS **NEW!**

Hosted by the Upstate Professional Development Center

CO-CREATING CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND RULES WITH STUDENTS

Presented by Aleece Behr
August 24, 2023, 4pm-5pm

In this session, participants will learn tangible strategies to introduce and engage students in co-creating classroom expectations and rules.

Learn strategies for including students' voices and consider elements that contribute to a positive and supportive classroom climate.

This is intended to be a general session that will be helpful for all grade levels. Ideas will be shared for both elementary and secondary grades.

Click [HERE](#) or Scan Below to Register

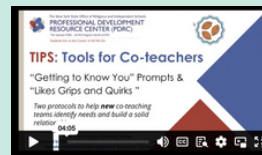
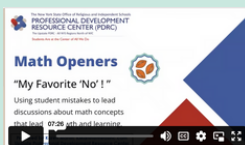
The New York State Office of Religious and Independent Schools
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE CENTER (PDRC)
The Upstate PDRC - All NYS Regions North of NYC

Questions? Contact Aleece Behr: aleece@nysed.gov



Looking for some quick ideas to get the school year started?

Check out our **Seed Videos**



Visit Our Website Here!



The New York State Office of Religious and Independent Schools
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Students Are at the Center of All We Do

Coming in September!

Date & Time	Course Title
Sept. 7, 4-5pm	<i>Teacher Learning Network: Procedures & Expectations</i>
Sept. 21, 4-5pm	<i>Teacher Learning Network: Lesson Planning</i>
Sept. 26, 4-5pm	<i>Small Group Instruction Series Part 1: Flexible Grouping Strategies</i>
Sept. 27, 4-5pm	<i>Infusing SEL into your Everyday Classroom</i>
Sept. 28, 4-5pm	<i>Classroom Arrangement & Routines: Structuring Space & Movement for Learning</i>

Register HERE

Click HERE
for these
BOY Resource
Links!

Back-to-School Resources

Building Strong Relationships in the Classroom

- [15 Brilliant Examples of Teacher Introduction Letters to Parents](#)
- [4 Ways to Build Relationships With Students Whose Backgrounds Differ From Yours](#)
- [The First 5 Days of the School Year: The Key to Success](#)
- [A 4-Part System for Getting to Know Your Students | Cult of Pedagogy](#)
- [4 Key Relationships to Nurture in Your Middle or High School Classroom](#)
- [How Tone of Voice Shapes Your Classroom Culture](#)
- [5 Low-Stakes Activities to Help Teens Open Up](#)
- [Building a Belonging Classroom](#)

Cultivating Positive & Supportive Mindsets

- [7 Things Teachers Say to Create a Supportive Classroom](#)
- [Mindset: Detachment, Surrender, Overcompensation](#)
- [The Benefits of Guiding Students to Develop Good Habits](#)
- [8 Ways to Bolster Executive Function in Teens & Tweens](#)
- [Using Curiosity as a Way to Defuse Power Struggles](#)
- [Powerful, Evidence-Backed Ways to Connect with Students in the First Week of School](#)
- [Helping Struggling Students Build a Growth Mindset](#)
- [Building Classroom Community Through Daily Dedications](#)

Visit Our Website Here!



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NEW

NOW AVAILABLE Book Study On-Demand

Explore strategies for ensuring an accessible curriculum for every student in your class with our book study of Carol Ann Tomlinson's ***How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms***— available now and at your own pace!

Click the flyer to learn more!



Book Study Now On-Demand
How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms
By Carol Ann Tomlinson

Where most books about differentiation focus on strategies, this book helps teachers shift their mindset and practice around differentiated instruction. This book is full of practical strategies but also helps teachers understand how to align decisions about differentiation with curricular goals and assessments to support student needs.

Here's what participants are saying...
"This course was very user friendly and informative."
"This was my first book study, and it was a great experience."
"This was a great book study that is really important for anyone who is teaching and wants to meet the needs of their students."
"This course was excellent! I looked forward to each session. I would take another course with Diana (Upstate PDRC) in a heartbeat! I am so glad I took this class."

Participants in this course will:

- briefly explore the foundations of differentiation;
- learn a decision making model to ensure that grade level curriculum is accessible to all students;
- look at actual lessons, units, and classrooms with differentiated instruction in action;
- explore content relevant for both elementary and secondary classroom...
- nearly all subject areas; and
- problem solve and reflect to understand how to infuse differentiation into everyday classroom practice.

Read the book with a colleague!

[Learn More Here](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE CENTER (PDRC) | MI MEASUREMENT INCORPORATED

Teacher Learning Network

COMING SOON

Teacher Learning Network

Join us!

Teachers, are you looking for new ideas? Join our Teacher Learning Network! Each session will focus on a topic where participants will explore strategies and resources that are easy to implement. Participants are encouraged to bring an open mind and ideas to share related to the session's focus. Join as many sessions as you'd like! Register once and you are registered for the whole series! Facilitated by Rebecca Shea

Register Now! Scan or Click

September 7, 2023
Procedures & Expectations

September 21, 2023
Lesson Planning

October 5, 2023
Parent Communication/Conferences

October 12, 2023
Student Portfolios & Goal Setting

November 2, 2023
Classroom Discussions

November 30, 2023
Scaffolding Instruction

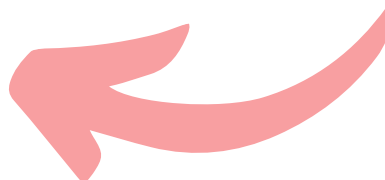
December 5, 2023
Feedback Strategies

Questions?
Rebecca Shea
Upstate PDRC Director
rshea@measinc.com

MI MEASUREMENT INCORPORATED

Join us for our first TLN session on September 7th
Procedures & Expectations

Click the flyer to learn more!



Visit Our Website Here!



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UPSTATE PDRC FOR RELIGIOUS & INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

FALL PD AT A GLANCE



Classroom Culture

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Co-Creating Classroom Rules & Expectations with Students

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Infusing SEL Into Your Everyday Classroom

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Classroom Arrangement & Routines: Structuring Space & Movement for Learning

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Strategies for Building Strong & Productive Relationships for Learning

Instructional Practices

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Standards-Based Learning: Unpacking Standards into Learning Levels

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Standards-Based Instruction: Differentiating for Deeper Learning

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Standards-Based Learning: Assessments Using Leveled Learning

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Student Choice Boards: Tools for Getting Started

Small Group Instruction

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Flexible Grouping Strategies

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Peer to Peer Collaborative Learning

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Learning Centers & Station Teaching

Teacher Learning Network

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Procedures & Expectations

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Lesson Planning

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Parent Communication/Conferences

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Student Portfolios & Goal Setting

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Classroom Discussions

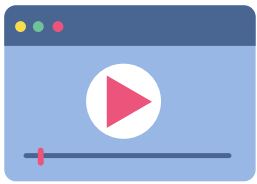
Thursday, November 30, 2023

Scaffolding Instruction

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Feedback Strategies





Looking for PD on your own time?

We've got you covered with On-Demand!

Beginning-of-the-Year Topics

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

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

Writing Practices

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

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

Click HERE
to Check Out
these & More

40 On-Demand
Courses Available!

Visit Our Website Here!



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NEW

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR NYS
RELIGIOUS & INDEPENDENT EDUCATORS
Classroom Culture Series



INFUSING SEL INTO YOUR EVERYDAY CLASSROOM

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 4-5pm

This session will focus on understanding some of the common barriers to engaging in SEL and how to overcome them. Attendees will learn about the benefits of SEL and most importantly leave with actionable steps to begin infusing SEL into daily classroom activities and routines. Resources will be shared to engage in future activities and learning. *Led by Aleece Behr*

**CLASSROOM ARRANGEMENT & ROUTINES:
STRUCTURING SPACE & MOVEMENT FOR LEARNING**

Thursday, September 28, 2023, 4-5 pm

Effective classroom structures promote learning. Teachers can have the best lesson in the world, but if students cannot navigate the classroom, anticipate the flow of the class, or have an understanding of what to do when they will not learn nearly as much as they could.

In this session, participants will:

- explore ways to minimize commotion in the classroom;
- examine how arrangement and routines impact student engagement and learning;
- contemplate ways organizational planning for the physical space can improve the class flow;
- gain suggestions for traffic patterns, student interactions, and minimized distractions to learning.

Led by Chris Karle

STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING STRONG & PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS FOR LEARNING

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 4-5 pm

Relationships matter for student learning. Students who feel comfortable, safe, and connected are often more willing to try and work harder in the classroom. Additionally, post-COVID and in our digital age, many students struggle with in-person relationships: teacher to student and peer-to-peer. Participants will learn strategies to build classroom relationships that will improve student motivation, learning, and engagement.

Led by Chris Karle



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The Upstate Professional Development Resource Center
Small-Group Instruction Series



About the Series

When done well, small group work enhances individual development, equity in instruction, academic and social-emotional growth, and builds community. In this series, participants are invited to explore three topics related to small-group instruction. Participants are not required to attend all three sessions in the series. Although the content is connected, each session can stand alone.
Intended for K-12 teachers

Tuesday, September 26, 2023
Flexible Grouping Strategies

In the first session, participants will explore the purpose and benefits of flexible grouping. Learn how to plan for and implement flexible grouping throughout the year, including how to prepare students to work in small groups. Learn strategies for configuring small groups that give all students access to the curriculum through meaningful interaction with their peers.

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Peer to Peer Collaborative Learning

In the second session, participants will learn three strategies for promoting peer-to-peer and collaborative learning: Peer Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS), Classwide Peer Tutoring (CWPT), and Reciprocal Peer Tutoring (RPT). Go beyond matching your strongest students with your struggling students, and learn strategies to ensure that all students have opportunities to contribute to and receive support from their small group interactions.

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Learning Centers & Station Teaching

As a differentiation strategy, station teaching or learning centers provide teachers with a multitude of ways to promote independence, ensure equity in instruction, support academic and social-emotional growth, build community, and make learning fun. The key to success is knowing how to plan and manage centers effectively and efficiently. Discover how to make the most of small group learning, explore 3 models of station teaching, and learn planning & managing time-saving tips. Explore how learning centers can make your classroom less teacher-directed while meeting the academic and social-emotional needs of your students.

Series Led by:
Diana Scarscelletta Straut

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Small Group Instruction Series

NEW

Click To Learn More!

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR NYS
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Standards-Based Instruction Series:
Leveled Learning for Progress & Proficiency



About the Series

"One Size Fits All" is a phrase that we are all familiar with but may find challenging to avoid when designing instruction. All educators want what is best for their students: understanding, independence, success, and perseverance. 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.

Join us to:

- develop a better understanding of standards-based learning;
- explore how to take initial steps toward creating leveled tasks based on a standard.

This series will be led 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.

October 18, 2023, 4-5 pm

In the first session, we will work through evidence-based practices to unpack standards, identify "levels", and share assessment practices to begin making your classroom a place for aligned and effective learning.

Unpacking Standards into Learning Levels

Differentiating for Deeper Learning

October 25, 2023, 4-5 pm

In the second session, we will examine how evidence-based practices are the first step (or at least helpful) toward transitioning into a standards-based learning environment to begin differentiating on a deeper level for your students' learning needs.

November 1, 2023, 4-5 pm

In the third session, we will discuss formative vs. summative assessments and build off the previous two sessions; unpacking standards into learning levels, creating learning tasks, and designing assessments based on the learning standard.

Assessments for Leveled Learning

Led By:
Karen Martin

Register Now!
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Standards-Based Instruction Series

Visit Our Website Here!



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Students Are at the Center of All We Do

Save the Date: RISE 2023



Starts 8am Wednesday, November 15
End @ 12:30pm Thursday, November 16



Albany Marriott Hotel,
189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205

Click
on the
flyer
to learn
more!

*Leaders,
Have you signed up for the
RISE Conference? If not, we
hope you consider joining us!*

**Check Out Our
RISE Webpage**

HERE

**Learn More
& Connect
to NYSCIRS'
Registration Page!**

Visit Our Website Here!

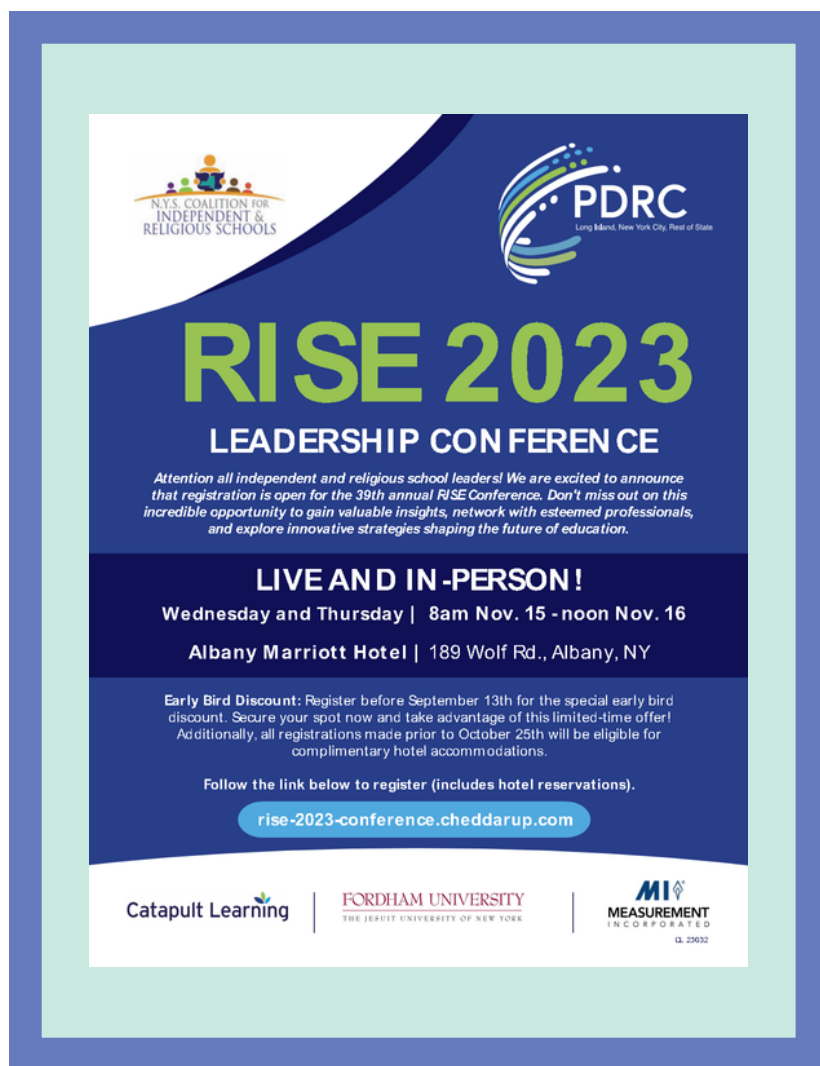


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The flyer for RISE 2023 Leadership Conference features a dark blue background with a white and green wave graphic. At the top left is the logo for the N.Y.S. Coalition for Independent & Religious Schools, and at the top right is the PDRC logo (Long Island, New York City, Rest of State). The main title 'RISE 2023' is in large green letters, with 'LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE' below it. A paragraph of text reads: 'Attention all independent and religious school leaders! We are excited to announce that registration is open for the 39th annual RISE Conference. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to gain valuable insights, network with esteemed professionals, and explore innovative strategies shaping the future of education.' Below this, it says 'LIVE AND IN-PERSON!' followed by 'Wednesday and Thursday | 8am Nov. 15 - noon Nov. 16' and 'Albany Marriott Hotel | 189 Wolf Rd., Albany, NY'. An 'Early Bird Discount' section states: 'Register before September 13th for the special early bird discount. Secure your spot now and take advantage of this limited-time offer! Additionally, all registrations made prior to October 25th will be eligible for complimentary hotel accommodations.' A registration link is provided: 'Follow the link below to register (includes hotel reservations). rise-2023-conference.cheddarup.com'. At the bottom are logos for Catapult Learning, Fordham University (The Jesuit University of New York), and MI Measurement Incorporated (© 2022).