

# 2024 Winter Conference Program

Welcome to the 2024 Winter Conference and to the Minneapolis Marriott City Center Hotel. We are pleased to present you with a program of outstanding professional topics and an opportunity for you to spend some quality time with friends and network colleagues. Click [here](#) for a downloadable Program Schedule.

## Wednesday, January 24

### 5:00 PM

#### General Session One – Ballrooms 3 & 4 – 4th Floor

Presiding: **Tom Brenner**, MASSP President, Principal, Cloquet Middle School

#### Address: *Unity in Our Schools*

**Chris Singleton**, *Author/Speaker*

Although some talks of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging seem to bring about divisiveness, Chris shares very important truths in a non-pugnacious way. He will explain the differences between listening to argue your point vs listening to understand perspectives. His heart warming story of how love conquers hate will leave the audience inspired to be the change that they wish to see in the world.

### 6:30 PM

#### General Session Two: Recognition Banquet - Ballrooms 1 & 2 - 4th Floor

Presiding: **Tom Brenner**, MASSP President, Principal, Cloquet Middle School

Medallion Hunt Introduction sponsored by *KJ Branding*

Welcome: **Bob Driver**, MASSP Executive Director

National Welcome: **Ronn Nozoe**, NASSP CEO

**Mary Pat Cumming**, NASSP Board of Directors, The FAIR School for Arts, Minneapolis

MASSP Office Professional of the Year Award Presentation:

**Grace Kubesh**, Administrative Assistant, Mora High School

**Brent Nelson**, Principal, Mora High School

Sponsored by *Jostens Sales Representatives*

Student Award Presentations:

**Trisha Bemboom**, MASSP Coordinator of Student Activities

**Carys Summers**, MASC President, Orono High School

**Kendall Sebasky**, MAHS President, Mound Westonka High School

Announcement: 2024 MN Principals of the Year & 2023/2024 MN Assistant Principal of the Year

Music Provided By: **The Angry Baker Brass Band**, Washburn High School, Minneapolis

Principal: Emily Palmer, Director: Timothy Martin

## Thursday, January 25

### 7:00 AM

Coffee Available - Ballrooms 3 & 4 - 4th Floor

### 7:30 AM

Breakfast Buffet - Ballrooms 3 & 4 - 4th Floor

### 8:30 AM

General Session Three - Ballrooms 1 & 2 - 4th Floor

Presiding: **Jennie Kelly**, MASSP President-Elect, Principal, STMA Middle School East

**Address: *You Cannot Achieve 100% Success with an 80% Culture***

**Dr. Robyn Jackson**, Educator

We all SAY we believe that every child can succeed but do we really? Does our staff? Do our students? Unfortunately, the answer is often no. Every year, we accept that some students won't make it and we settle for "good enough." But what is "good enough" doing to your staff's capacity to take on more challenges and ownership of the work? What message is it sending to your students? And, what is it doing to your own motivation? The good news is that there is a better way. In this keynote presentation, discover 4 things you can do right now before the end of the school year to build a 100% culture where every staff member develops the belief and capacity to help 100% of your students achieve success.

### 10:30 - 11:25 AM & 11:30 AM - 12:25 PM

#### Concurrent Sessions

#### 1. **Addressing Racial Harm: From Surviving to Thriving** - Elk Lake - 4th Floor

**Arika Mareck** - Director of Equity and Inclusion, Eastern Carver County Schools

**Erin Rathke** - Assistant Superintendent, Director of Teaching and Learning, Eastern Carver County Schools

**Celi Haga** - Director of Community Relations and Communications, Eastern Carver County Schools

Participants will gain insight on various ways to address racial harm from district, school, and student perspectives. Participants will receive communication strategies and will leave with insights to create a racial harm protocol. Intended outcomes: Learn how to create a Racial Harm Protocol for your own district, gain knowledge of communication strategies to increase transparency, collaborate with peers to do better for all students and families of color, and become more aware of tools and resources to decrease incidents of racial harm.

#### 2. **Away for the Day - No Personal Technology** - Pine/Cedar Lake - 4th Floor

**Naida Grussing-Neitzel** - Principal, Plymouth Middle School

Robbinsdale Area Secondary Schools have adopted a practice of no personal technology during the school day. At our middle schools, our practice is away for the day. This means that students are allowed their personal technology from the start of school to the end of the school day including during passing time and lunch. This presentation will showcase how we set up this practice, what we've learned and highlight how it has impacted our students.

**3. GETTING RESULTS! Alternative to Suspension, Non-Expulsionary Discipline and Restorative Practices - *Spring Park Bay - 8th Floor***

**Angi McAndrews** - Principal, Kellogg Middle School, Rochester

**Teri Linander** - Assistant Principal, Kellogg Middle School, Rochester

In the face of ineffective discipline practices, we have implemented a variety of non-exclusionary practices to keep kids in school while increasing student sense of belonging, creating opportunities for reflection on behavior impact, developing empathy, fortifying student and staff relationships through restorative practices and ultimately reducing recidivism rates. We will share about our CARE program and Time & Space room, including data to support our successes and adjustments we have made along the way.

**4. Instructional Materials and Library Materials Policies - *Deer Lake - 4th Floor***

**Terry Morrow** - Director, Legal and Policy Services, Minnesota School Board Association

To assist school leaders seeking guidance on key educational matters, we will examine MSBA model policies on textbooks/instructional materials and on library materials. This discussion will include consideration of criteria and procedures for selecting and for reviewing materials.

**5. Leading with the Heart: Cultivating Mental Health and Wellbeing in Leadership - *Lafayette Bay - 8th Floor***

**Jason Paurus** - Principal, Rogers High School

**Kevin Jost** - Assistant Principal, Rogers High School

Are you tired of feeling stressed out and overwhelmed? Do you struggle to find balance between your work life and personal life? If so, you're not alone. Many people, especially those in leadership positions, find it difficult to maintain their overall health and well-being.

That's where the *2Principals* come in. Kevin and Jason, two experienced leaders in education, are dedicated to helping everyday leaders learn practical ways to reduce stress, improve mental health, and live a more balanced and fulfilled life.

So if you're ready to get out of your head and into your heart, join the *2Principals* community. A better you makes for a better today – and it all starts with YOU

**6. MSHSL Winter Update - *Wayzata Bay - 8th Floor* 11:30 Session Only**

**Erich Martens** - Executive Director, Minnesota State High School League

The MSHSL has over 500 high schools and serves over 130,000 students across the state. This session will focus on the newest information from the League and provides an opportunity to dialogue about many of the issues in front of the League at this time. Your input on various topics will be helpful as we set direction forward in the League. Discussion is always a priority in these sessions, therefore attendees are encouraged to bring questions and concerns from their schools, conferences and regions.

## 7. **Namaste! Ways to Find Inner Peace During your Day!** - *Birch/Maple Lake - 4th Floor*

**Mary Pat Cumming** - Principal, The FAIR School for Arts, Minneapolis

**John Bezek** - Principal, Prior Lake High School

Need to find some Namaste during your work day? Do you find yourself running at high anxiety or on alert? In this session, participants will learn current research and strategies on finding inner calm amidst your busy work as a school leader. Plan to stretch your mind and body as we guide participants through breathing and gentle movements aimed at centering your brain to be ready to better serve yourself and your school community.

## 8. **The Power of a Relationship: How one Student Reconnected this Principal to his Why** - *Excelsior Bay - 8th Floor*

**Dave Helke** - Principal, Eagle Ridge Middle School, Burnsville

Dave and a special student will share their simple story, one of human connection. Their relationship reignited his passion and inspired him to be a better principal by reconnecting to his why. Discover your why and learn what it means to lead and learn from the heart. Learn how to be a social-emotional leader and create an adaptive, authentic, empathetic, and supportive culture in your school that doesn't give up on a kid, but empowers them on their journey to success.

## 9. **TRA - Planning for Retirement** - *Wayzata Bay - 8th Floor 10:30 Session Only*

**Jane Suhr** - Retirement Services Specialist Senior

The *Planning for Retirement* presentation is tailored to those members within two to five years of retirement to provide information about the retirement process. The presentation will explain how your benefit is calculated, the choices you make about your benefits and the steps to retire.

## 10. **What Every Secondary Principal Needs to Know About the READ Act** - *Grays Bay - 8th Floor*

**Kim Gibbons** - Director, Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement

During the 2023 legislative session, a historic investment was made to improve literacy outcomes in Minnesota. The Read Act seeks to have every child reading at or above grade level every year, beginning in kindergarten and to close opportunity gaps for BIPOC students, students with disabilities, and multilingual learners. This session will (1) identify key requirements of the Read Act and resources to support improving student literacy outcomes applicable to secondary schools, (2) describe how school systems and structures impact the successful implementation of curriculum and pedagogy, and

(3) identify common challenges and barriers to the implementation of high-quality core curricular materials.

## 12:30 PM

**General Session Four** - Luncheon - Ballrooms 1 & 2 - 4th Floor

Presiding: **Josh Haag**, MASSP Secretary, Principal, Moorhead High School

Welcome Honored Guests

Address: **Tom Brenner**, 2023 MN Middle Level Principal of the Year

Address: **Chris Hester**, 2023 MN High School Principal of the Year

## 1:30 PM

**Dessert and Refreshments** - Division Networking

Capitol: Elk Lake - 4th Floor

Central: Ballrooms 1 & 2

Hennepin: Ballrooms 3 & 4

Northeast: Ballrooms 3 & 4

Northern: Crystal Lake - 4th Floor

Southeast: Birch/Maple Lake - 4th Floor

Southwest: Deer Lake - 4th Floor

Western: Pine/Cedar Lake - 4th Floor

## 2:30 - 3:25 PM & 3:30 - 4:25 PM

### Concurrent Sessions

#### **11. A Relationship-Driven System: A Look Inside Armstrong High School** - *Birch/Maple Lake - 4th Floor*

**Erick Norby** - Principal, Robbinsdale Armstrong High School

**Stacy Olstadt** - Assistant Principal, Robbinsdale Armstrong High School

Supporting a student starts with knowing the student – and never giving up. Attendees will hear how Armstrong High School has increased student social-emotional skills as well as academic achievement through fostering positive relationships and staff collaboration. Leaders from Armstrong will share how the BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) system, combined with student supports such as the Student Mentorship Program and CBITS (Cognitive Behavior Intervention for Trauma in Schools) has had significantly positive results in their high school.

#### **12. Digital Chronicles: Crafting Your School's Narrative in the Social Media Age** - *Spring Park Bay - 8th Floor*

**Angie Charboneau-Folch** - Principal, Integrated Arts Academy, Chaska

**Dr. Alicia Fischer** - Principal, Chaska Middle School West

This session invites you to embark on a journey of harnessing the potential of platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and more, to authentically portray your school's unique story. Join us for a discussion on effective strategies, creative content ideas, engaging your community, and best practices for utilizing social media as a dynamic storytelling tool. Whether you're a current influencer or just starting out, this session will equip you with the knowledge and inspiration needed to showcase your school's identity in the digital landscape.

### **13. Listening, Engaging, Advocating & Partnering (LEAP) - Grays Bay - 8th Floor 2:30 Session Only**

**Dr. Darrius Stanley** - Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota

**Emily Colton** - Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota

**Dan Brogan** - Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota

Schools historically and presently are spaces that are hostile to marginalized students, families, and community members. Despite recent focus on social justice and equity, there remains significant disparities in graduation rates, academic achievement, and college access. The LEAP model offers to meaningfully connect community members, families, and youth with school leaders to sustain responsible community engagement. This presentation will provide school leaders with practical applications and promising practices to reimagine how we work with community.

### **14. Mental Health's Playbook - Excelsior Bay - 8th Floor**

**Joe Beckman** - Speaker/Author

**Margot Hansen** - Assistant Principal, Belle Plaine School District

Imagine - a classroom of excited students hungry to learn from an equally excited educator about the important mental health topics like...self-regulation, self-awareness, empathy, and resilience. THIS IS POSSIBLE! In this dynamic breakout participants will walk away with both a framework AND practical solutions that will support their current systems at the Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 level. If you're looking to increase engagement from students, buy-in from staff, and support from parents THIS BREAKOUT IS FOR YOU!

### **15. No Phones in Schools - Improving School Culture and Engagement - Lafayette Bay - 8th Floor**

**Patrick Smith** - Principal, Maple Grove Middle School - Osseo Area Schools

If you are looking for one way to improve the overall school climate and culture along with increasing student engagement, go phoneless. Maple Grove Middle School is in our 2nd year of a no cell phone policy/procedure during the school day and it has been a game changer. Super easy to manage and extremely supported by staff and parents.

### **16. School/Business Partnerships and Graduate Scorecards - Pine/Cedar Lake - 4th Floor**

**Aaron Nelson** - Principal, Pequot Lakes High School

**Joanna O'Neil** - Workbased Learning Coordinator, Pequot Lakes High School

**Ali Ross** - High School Counselor, Pequot Lakes High School

Using the Redefining Readiness research, Pequot Lakes High School created a graduate scorecard (report card) that identifies graduation readiness metrics for Career Readiness, College Readiness, and

Life Readiness. These metrics are used to help students, parents, and business leaders to identify the achievement benchmarks students are expected to be achieving as they reach graduation. Strong local partnerships with business leaders has lead to efforts to help students become aware of what skills are important to employers and how the skills learned in the classroom can transfer to the workplace. This presentation will highlight our efforts to build strong relationships with businesses that support student internships, career speakers, and job shadowing. We will also discuss how we built our scorecard and what we learned since publishing.

### 17. Strategizing Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence - Deer Lake - 4th Floor

**William Grube** - CEO & Founder, Gruvy Education

**Patrick Walsh** - Superintendent, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa Public Schools

In this presentation, we'll redefine your understanding of AI's role in education. The focus is on adapting education to an AI-driven world. Explore cutting-edge AI tools, transformative teaching methods, and ways to foster problem-solving skills in students. Leave equipped to lead transformative changes in education, leveraging both the challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence.

### 18. The State of the Principalship in MN - Initial Findings from the 2023 MN Principals Survey - Elk Lake - 4th Floor

**Katie Pekel, Ed.D.** - Executive Director, Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development, University of Minnesota

**Tyler Shepard** - Associate Principal, Wayzata High School

Many principals, assistant principals and charter school leaders across the state responded to the second MN Principal Survey. This session will focus on not only the 2023 results, but also the similarities and differences from the 2021 survey, as well as engaging participants in discussion where we will seek their feedback on how the 'principalship' may be transformed in policy and practice.

### 19. Your Voice has an Impact - Wayzata Bay - 8th Floor

**Ben Bakeberg** - MN State Representative and Principal, Jordan Middle School

The decisions at Saint Paul impact our kids on a daily basis yet the decision makers often do not understand schools today. Come share your priorities with members of the House of Representatives and learn practical strategies on how you can engage and inform your local representatives to improve our schools for students, families and educators.

## 4:30 PM

**Members Reception** - Atrium - 4th Floor

Sponsored by *Independent Representatives of MN*

## Friday, January 26

## 8:00 AM

**Breakfast Buffet** - Ballrooms 3 & 4 - 4th Floor

## 9:00 AM

### General Session Five - Ballrooms 1 & 2 - 4th Floor

Presiding: **Tom Brenner**, MASSP President, Principal, Cloquet Middle School

### Commissioner's Address

**Willie Jett**, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Education

### NASSP Update

**Angie Charboneau-Folch**, MASSP Coordinator, Principal, Integrated Arts Academy, Chaska

### MASSP 2024 Secretary Candidate Speeches

**Dusty Bosshart**, Principal, St. Clair High School

**Natty Messick**, Principal, Fertile-Beltrami High School

### Address: Legal and Legislative Update

**Roger Aronson**, MASSP Attorney/Lobbyist