



WHAT EVERY MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER SHOULD KNOW

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PART 1. WHO ARE MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHERS

- Chapter 1 You Want to be a What?
 - “Going to school each day is exhilarating because you love your students. Sometimes you realize, however, that your emotional state matches that of your students, with all the ups and downs. You fall and get up again and again and again. You go home exhausted, wondering why you ever chose teaching as a career. The next day you’re back in the classroom and you’re soaring. You feel that you could teach forever. Teaching middle schoolers is not an easy trip, but the ride is exhilarating.”



PART 1. WHO ARE MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHERS

- Chapter 1 You Want to be a What?
 - Who are Young Adolescents?
 - They are going through more physical changes than they have since they were infants.
 - Becoming a Middle Level Teacher
 - Teacher/student relationships are extremely important at this point so having a middle level certification is beneficial.



PART 1. WHO ARE MIDDLE LEVEL TEACHERS

- Chapter 1 You want to be a what?
 - Characteristics of Effective Middle Level Teachers
 - The book gives a list, but the most important characteristic is a Positive Attitude.



PART 2. WHO ARE YOUR STUDENTS?

- Chapter 2-Understanding Your Adolescents
Physical Development
 - The growth spurt
 - Skeletal and Muscular Changes
 - Hormones
 - Female Physical Changes
 - Male Physical Changes
 - The Appetite: Insatiable and Peculiar



PART 2. WHO ARE YOUR STUDENTS?

- Chapter 2-Understanding Your Adolescents
Physical Development
 - Sleep Needs
 - Sleep Deprivation



PART 2. WHO ARE YOUR STUDENTS

- Chapter 3-Understanding Young Adolescents' Unique Brain Growth and Cognitive Development
 - The Effects of Blossoming, Pruning, and Myelination
 - The Effects on the Brain of Multitasking with Technology
 - The Prefrontal Cortex: Its effects on Behavior



PART 2. WHO ARE YOUR STUDENTS

- Chapter 3-Understanding Young Adolescents' Unique Brain Growth and Cognitive Development
 - Piaget's Findings (Concrete operational thought develops in the age group which is why they do best with hands on learning)
 - Adolescent Risk Taking



PART 2. WHO ARE YOUR STUDENTS

- Chapter 4-Understanding Young Adolescents' Social Development
 - Social Development
 - Developing Interpersonal Relationships
 - The Role of Peers
 - The Role of the Family
 - The Role of the Community
 - The Role of Technology
 - Moral Development



PART 2. WHO ARE YOUR STUDENTS

- Chapter 5-Understanding Young Adolescents' Emotional Development
 - Emotional Unrest
 - The Search for Identity
 - Experimenting with Identity
 - Ethnic Identity
 - Identity Challenges for Diverse Language Learners
 - Developing Sexual and Gender Identities
 - Sexual Identity
 - Behavioral Issues
 - Self-esteem



PART 3 WHAT RESEARCH TELLS US ABOUT EFFECTIVE MIDDLE LEVEL SCHOOLS

- Chapter 6-The True Middle School: More than a Sign on a Building
 - A Typical Day
 - Emulating the Factory
 - The First Junior High Schools
 - The Promise of a New Design
 - Support for Genuine Middle Schools
 - Support for Genuine Middle Level Schools Today
 - Content Standards Influence Middle Level Schools



PART 3 WHAT RESEARCH TELLS US ABOUT EFFECTIVE MIDDLE LEVEL SCHOOLS

- Chapter 7- School Structures That Support Young Adolescents
 - Misunderstanding the Middle School Concept
 - The Core Elements of Effective Middle Level Schools
 - Teaming: The Heart and Soul of the Middle School Concept
 - Advisory Programs
 - Flexible Scheduling
 - Exploratory Curriculum
 - Looping and Multi-Age Teams



PART 4 HOW YOUR CLASSROOM CAN BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

- Chapter 8 Creating a Safe Haven for Learning
 - Middle Level Schools and Student Stress
 - Establishing a Caring Environment
 - The Dangers of Bullying
 - Encouraging Risk-Taking
 - Responding to Crises
 - Eliminating Competitive Learning Environments



PART 4 HOW YOUR CLASSROOM CAN BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

- Chapter 9 The Power of Student Designed Curriculum: Exceeding Standards
 - What is Curriculum?
 - Beliefs of Middle Level Curriculum
 - Basic Approaches to Curriculum Organization
 - What Students Want
 - Curriculum Integration Model: A Different Way of Thinking About the Curriculum
 - Curriculum Integration in the Middle Level Classroom



PART 4 HOW YOUR CLASSROOM CAN BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

- Chapter 10 Curriculum Integration: What It Looks Like in Real Life
 - What Teachers Say About Using Integrated Curriculum
 - A Middle Level Curriculum Integration Experience: The Alpha Team
 - An Eighth-Grade Curriculum Integration Experience: Soundings
 - A Small-Scale Curriculum Integration Experience: Gert Nesen's Class



PART 4 HOW YOUR CLASSROOM CAN BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

- Chapter 11 This is Learning: Making Instruction Meaningful
 - How Learning Occurs
 - Collaborative Learning
 - The Teacher's Role
 - Culturally Responsive Teaching



PART 4 HOW YOUR CLASSROOM CAN BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

- Chapter 12 Assessment That Promotes Active Learning
 - What is Assessment?
 - Students' Roles in Assessment
 - Connecting Assessment to Curriculum and Instruction
 - Authentic Assessment Leads to Meaningful Learning
 - Student Led Conferences

