The Middle Child- Strategies to Master Teaching the Middle School Student

Course Syllabus

Course Description

Ask most people what were the toughest years of their life- the answer is often the three years of middle school. This period of time is one of the biggest emotional challenges for students, which makes teaching during the middle school years especially challenging. This course aims to provide educators with strategies and best practices for reaching the middle school learner. This course will dive deeply into instructional best practices tailored to middle school students. Student-centered instruction and strategies for integrating technology to meet the needs of all learners will be examined. In addition, participants will explore case studies, reading selections, and videos on techniques to promote a positive middle school classroom environment. By the end of the course, participants will leave with strategies they can utilize right away to reach and teach all students and build an environment to foster growth and success.

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in middle school student development, inclusive and student-centered instructional strategies, classroom management, core content teaching, and the effective integration of technology and collaboration in diverse learning environments.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Understanding the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of middle school students.
2. Participants will examine the process and benefits of designing and implementing Student-centered learning in the classroom
3. Participants will examine strategies for meeting the diverse learning needs of middle school students, including gifted learners, English language learners, and students with special needs.
4. Participants will examine strategies to address classroom management and create a positive learning environment.
5. Participants will examine best practices of instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics at the middle school level.
6. Participants will examine how technology can be utilized to enhance instruction and create a deeper level of engagement for middle-school aged students.

7. Participants will examine how to facilitate collaborative and cooperative learning activities to promote peer interaction, communication skills, and teamwork.
8. Participants will examine approaches for creating an inclusive classroom where students receive the support they require both academically and emotionally.

Modules

- Module 1: Adolescent Development, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Student-Centered Learning, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Differentiated Instruction for Middle School Students, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Managing Behavior in the Middle School Classroom, Quiz 4
- Module 5: Middle School Curriculum and Instruction, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Technology Integration in the Middle School Classroom, Quiz 6
- Module 7: Collaborative Learning in the Middle School Classroom, Quiz 7
- Module 8: Creating an Inclusive Middle-School Classroom, Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.