



3rd Annual  
**Middle School**  
Conference Presents

**The**  
**Marvel-ous**  
**Super Teacher**

**Feb. 27, 2021**  
**Online Sessions**

Links for each session  
available upon registration



# At A Glance

**Keynote Speaker**

**Breakout Sessions 1**

**Breakout Sessions 2**

**Breakout Sessions 3**

**Breakout Sessions 4**

**Closing Session**



# **Breakout Sessions 1**

## **The Art of Middle School Zen: Teaching and No-thing-ness**

**Christopher Kazanjian, El Paso Community College**

Mindful Zen mediation is an experience where one is able to be conscious of everything that is happening, aware of breath and senses, and is able to dissolve the notion of self into everything in one's universe. This presentation is designed to help middle school teachers learn the practices of Zen meditation in order to develop their pedagogy. Participants will learn three Zen strategies, and how they can translate this mindfulness practice in the classroom in order to develop students' Social and Emotional Intelligence. This presentation will also incorporate why developing a sense of cultural humility in the diverse middle school classroom can become an important gateway to experiencing Zen.

## **How to use TexQuest to support your Curriculum**

**Liz Philippi, Texas State Library & Archives Commission**

Did you know that TexQuest has resources that you can use to teach ALL content areas? Need resources for Math, Science, Social Studies, and Reading? Join us to learn how to link, download, embed, and use the TexQuest resources in your curriculum.

## **DinoTracks Tours: New Science Fieldtrips & Complete Curriculums**

**Meghan Curry & Sue Huffman, Insights**

Did you know that there are thousands of fossilized dinosaur tracks 10 minutes from downtown El Paso? Insights El Paso Science Center offers TEK-aligned curriculum and special school tours of dinosaur tracks, local geology, and other aquatic fossils at the DinoTracks site. Attend this session and you'll receive a FREE ticket to the DinoTrack tour!

## **Breaking the mold The LA FE Way**

### **Eliu Garcia & Nicolas Herrera, La Fe Preparatory School**

This presentation is intended to help Physical Education Teachers across all grade levels engage their students during online instruction. The education world as a whole is experiencing unprecedented times, but P.E. Teachers can continue to make their class the preferred period where the students not only get the needed exercise/movement, but also provide a much-needed break from the grueling monotony of online learning. With simple items found around most homes, P.E. Teachers can create a fun and unique environment where the rest of the family wants to join in. Our goal is to show you how to help families maintain a healthy level of physical activity while bonding and playing together. Now, more than ever, it is time to get the education world to recognize the importance of physical education in the lives of our students. But in order to do that, we need to break the mold of doing the bare minimum and use our unique skills to engage our students and their families.

## **An Innovative Virtual Career Discovery Model**

### **Olen, Experience Externships**

Discover a proven virtual career preparation model designed with industry that helps students explore high demand technical career pathways.

## **What's the Point**

### **Karen Arras, SISD**

90 Minute Model in RLA (Secondary)

# **Breakout Sessions 2**

## **I am smarter in Spanish (or other language)**

**Frances Rios, Miguel Flores, & Veronica Juarez, EPISD**

Strategies on how to teach, connect and motivate English Learners, and helping students and teachers overcome the misconception that a language barrier will make a student unsuccessful.

## **Need Homework Help? Use TexQuest!**

**Liz Philippi, Texas State Library & Archives Commission**

Need help doing that last minute assignment? Need to know how to help your child with homework? Join us to learn how to use TexQuest to help your child! We will look at how the resources can be used remotely with studying, and homework in all content areas.

## **#OwnVoices and #ReadWoke: Finding oneself in Literacy**

**Oscar Porras, YISD**

What is #OwnVoice? #ReadWoke? Join us with an open mind on how to make our students connect with reading, and how to make them more socially aware to the world around them.

## **Inquiring Minds: making the most of your library time and resources**

**Blanca Guerrero, San Elizario ISD**

Libraries are the heart of information and discovery. This session will provide participants with a glimpse into how the Inquiry Based Method can help their students to become self-sufficient and motivated to learn. Participants will walk away with tools for fostering inquiry, technology samples, and lesson ideas to generate student interest in seeking their own knowledge.

## **Becoming a Better Writer**

**Margaret Ricke & Lynn Harris, RALLY! Education®**

The Becoming a Better Writer session will provide tips, techniques and research-based strategies connecting reading and writing.

## **Remote Learning with Pear Deck**

**Nick Park, Pear Deck**

Pear Deck was founded by educators on a mission to help teachers engage every student, every day. Whether students are back in the classroom this fall or not, Pear Deck is a resource for all learners (grade-levels & subject-areas) and all instruction (synchronous & asynchronous), regardless of the learning environment-- in-class, remote, or flexible. In fact, more than 90% of teachers consider Pear Deck to be an effective and essential tool for remote learning!

## **PARENTS, Help is on the way! The 411 on Virtual Learning!**

**Donna Cuevas, ESC Region 19**

In this session, parents will gain a better understanding of their child's virtual learning by learning different strategies and accessing helpful resources that will help them help their children.

# **Breakout Sessions 3**

## **Formative Assessments in Remote Learning Environments**

**Amanda Vass, Mentoring Minds**

How can we, as teachers, use formative assessment tools to help our students thrive in a remote learning environment? We will utilize Google Forms, Google Drawings, Flip Grid, Itematica, and other platforms to engage students in formative assessments. Join this session to learn how to leverage a variety of digital tools to monitor where students should be, where students are currently, and how to close the learning gaps.

## **Daily spiraled review in math to increase student long-term retention**

**Jennifer Axtens & Shelly Pelton, Get More Math®**

Teachers will learn a proven and tried method to increase student long-term retention in Math as well as receive an offer for a complimentary site-license to Get More Math®, lasting through July 31, 2021.

## **Yes, but can I add IXL to my Google Class? YES!**

**Gaby Lozano, IXL**

Join us as we learn about the hassle free way to assign IXL Skills to your virtual Google Classroom. Discover how IXL is personalizing learning for every student and quickly providing teachers with Actionable Analytics that take the stress of grading, grouping, and looking for resources out of the equation.

## **Get More Math® - Complimentary 2020-2021 Site License Offer - Unlimited Access**

**Shelly Pelton & Robin Allen, Get More Math®**

Get More Math® (GMM) is a uniquely powerful digital tool providing individualized cumulative practice for students, actionable formative and summative assessments, and easily customizable to pair with any curriculum. Supports grades three through high school. TEKS aligned!

## **Bridging the Gap with Newsela**

**Perla Sanchez & Whitney O'Connell, Newsela**

Join us for a session on how Newsela can be used to spiral key concepts and bridge any gaps that occurred within student learning since March. We'll also dive into how Newsela can support reading and writing across content areas for the middle school grades!

## **PBS Learning Media and STEM Resources**

**Reagan Doyal, PBS El Paso**

PBS Learning Media is the home to thousands of TEKS aligned STEM resources. In this session, you will get registered for PBS Learning Media, familiarize yourself with the platform, and explore classroom resources for you next 9-week period.

## **Aprendiendo en dos idiomas: Adolescentes y el mundo socio-cultural dentro de DL**

**Keli Scardina, Diverse Learners**

This session is for Dual Language Spanish speaking educators. During our time together we will share strategies for using student cultural strengths and identities as tools for motivation, engagement & bridging during virtual and/or in-person instruction.



# **Breakout Sessions 4**

## **Economic Development in the Borderplex**

**Kassandra Huhn, The Borderplex Alliance**

Economic development is a multi prong approach. Municipalities, companies, non-profits and most importantly, educational institutions are all key contributors to how a region develops. Learn how our region, the Borderplex, is strategically taking strides and how your classroom can help shape the narrative.

## **Great Works of Art and Their Influence**

**Frank Rimbach, El Paso Community College**

What makes art influential and what makes art good? This talk will focus on works of art that have pushed the language of art and furthered our understanding of visual ideas. Art is not created in a vacuum and an audience is essential for discovering its meaning.

## **Engagement in Virtual Classrooms: Getting the Most Out of Online Instruction**

**Kimberly Baxter, Socorro ISD**

Teachers will learn tools and strategies to increase student engagement when delivering online instruction

## **Supporting All Pathways for All Students**

### **Jerome Martin, Xello**

A strong system of strategies that support self-knowledge, exploration, and decision making can help every student unlock their future potential. With a student-centered approach, you can help students more easily connect the dots between their unique qualities, current education plans, and career pathways -- leading to greater engagement and achievement rates for your district. In this session, you'll learn how Xello supports districts in CCMR and have the opportunity to preview features such as our built in lessons and resume builder.

## **Understanding SEL: The key to creating a trauma-invested classroom (even in a virtual world)!**

### **Albert Villa, ESC Region 19**

In this session we will discuss how to cultivate a trauma-invested learning environment by understanding what trauma is and how it hinders the learning, motivation, and success of all students. We will also discuss how to create a culture of safety where students feel valued, important, and capable and also describe how to meet their needs using relationship, responsibility, and regulation. Finally, we will share self-care techniques to help head off frustration and burnout to help you and your students' flourish, even in a virtual world.

## **El 411 de ayuda para el aprendizaje virtual de sus hijos(as)**

### **Donna Cuevas, ESC Region 19**

*Esta sesion ayudara a los padres de familia con estragedias y recursos para la educacion virtual de sus hijos(as)*

# Closing Session

## Chief Science Officers Panel

### **Dr. Stephanie Garcia, IDRA's Texas CSO Director Chief Science Officers**

Listen in on this incredible student panel as youth ambassadors, known as Chief Science Officers, share their leadership and learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Dr. Stephanie Garcia, the director of the Texas Chief Science Officers Program, will also share information on STEM education and career pathways, as well as extend a special invitation to you!

**Thank You  
for Join Us!**

**See You Next Year**

