

**Actively Involving Parents  
Staff Knowledgeable About Young Adolescents**



**Jill Spencer**  
[jillspencer51@gmail.com](mailto:jillspencer51@gmail.com)



**Chris Toy**  
[Christoy.net@gmail.com](mailto:Christoy.net@gmail.com)



**BRIGHT FUTURES CORE PRACTICES**

**11. Parents are actively involved  
as partners**

**12. Staff are knowledgeable  
about young adolescents and  
enjoy working with them**



## **Outcomes for this session:**

### **Participants will...**

- explore ways schools can foster positive parental partnerships in support of effective middle level programs and practices
- understand why having knowledgeable and committed middle level professionals is crucial for the success of young adolescents



## **Let's introduce ourselves!**

**Please use the chat box to  
introduce yourselves:**

**first name, last name,**

**school name**

**your role.**



## Webinar Guests!



Cathie  
Thibodeau



Wally  
Alexander



Sue  
Swaim



Argy  
Nestor



Ed  
Brazee



Bob  
Spear



## Why Involve Parents?



### Predictors of student success

- ✓ A home environment that encourages learning
- ✓ High (but realistic) expectations by parents
- ✓ The family is involved in the child's education

### Benefits of family involvement

- ✓ Higher grades/test scores
- ✓ Better attendance/higher homework completion
- ✓ Positive attitude and better behavior
- ✓ Higher graduation rates/enrollment in postsecondary education

## Recommendations

- Take time to develop and implement a specific, comprehensive, and ongoing plan to involve family and the community in the life of the school by:
  - Helping parents to understand their children's developmental needs
  - Establishing a Family-School Liaison position
  - Creating a list for connecting parents, school, and community to cultural resources
  - Using a wide variety of strategies and resources designed to increase parental involvement at school and at home.



Around  
New England  
With  
Bob Spear

## Parent Involvement Resources



**NMSA.org**  
Research Summary  
Parental Involvement



*Help and More Help*

How to Enjoy Living With a Preadolescent

Judith Baenen

**[NELMS.org/parent\\_links.html](http://NELMS.org/parent_links.html)**

NELMS  
Parent and Community  
Award



## Middle Level Partners

Maine DOE

MAMLE

University of Maine

Thomas College

NELMS

NMSA

A Panel Conversation

**Why Middle Level Professionals?**



## Why Middle Level Professionals?

- Young Adolescents are in a unique developmental stage
  - Physical
  - Social
  - Psychological
  - Cognitive



## Why Middle Level Professionals?

- Choice and commitment to Middle Level Organization and Practices
- Research links ML preparation and student achievement
  - Mertens, Flowers, Mulhall 2005



## Resources

- Mertens, Flowers, Mulhall, “How Does Middle Grades Certification Affect Teaching Practices and Student Learning?” May 2005 *Middle School Journal*, NMSA
- NELMS Position Papers, Administration and Teacher Licensure
- NMSA and NELMS online bookstores, [nmsa.org](http://nmsa.org), [nelms.org](http://nelms.org)



## Upcoming Opportunities

July 12-16 Middle Level Education Institute at Thomas College

July 20-22 NELMS Summer Institute, Attitash NH

July 28-30 MLTI Summer Institute, Castine, Digital Citizenship

October 21-22 MAMLE Annual Conference, Sugarloaf, Graduation Paths in the Middle

November 4-6 NMSA Annual Conference, Baltimore MD



## Thank You and Have a GREAT Summer!

- Argy Nestor
- Peter Bernard
- Wanda Monthey
- And more than a dozen honored guests!



## Evaluation

### Evaluation/Contact Hour

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XLPJS68>

Please take a few minutes to fill in our evaluation.  
You will receive a certificate for 1 contact hour. It  
will be mailed to you.

Thanks!

**Next Webcast: Tuesday June 1 3:00 PM**

**Parent Involvement and Knowledgeable Middle  
Level Educators**