

5TH ANNUAL



Schools to Watch[®] Annual Conference

June 25-27, 2009 • Washington, DC

June 24, 2009 – Pre-Conference and Mathematics Smart Panel

Presented by The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform

Join us for this exceptional event!

The Schools to Watch[®] program is a significant force in middle-grades reform. It identifies and honors schools so all might learn how to achieve academic success through best practices for all young adolescents. Sites selected as Schools to Watch[®] exemplify the National Forum's vision and serve as resources for other schools.

Youth in the middle grades are capable of learning and achieving at high levels. This conference demonstrates how it happens. The event offers a powerful forum for sharing real-world success stories along with timely strategies and information about school cultures that raise student achievement to meet AYP and support positive student development. Educators, schools, education experts, policymakers, professors and teams will all benefit from top quality presentations and lively interactions. "It's like going to an all-star game."

Conference Highlights Include:

Wednesday, June 24

- 9:30-2:30 Math Smart Panel featuring Francis (Skip) Fennell, Ticketed Item \$50 (includes lunch)
This all-day session highlights *Foundations for Success: The Final Report of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel's* recommendations and suggests actions for middle grades classrooms and schools.
- 1:00-3:00 Pre-Conference Session: Using STW to Achieve High Performance, Ticketed Item, \$35
This session provides an opportunity for schools interested in becoming STW to learn about the criteria and self-review process for school improvement.

Thursday, June 25

- 9:00-11:45 STW Networking and Advocacy Training for all new STW sites and Redesignated STW sites, followed by afternoon "Hill Visits"
- 1:00-3:00 Two conference sessions are available for attendees not involved in Forum arranged, congressional visits
- Session A: Differentiated Grading: Fair Isn't Always Equal by Rick Wormeli**
Differentiated instruction is a nice idea, but what happens when it comes to grading students? What's fair and leads to real student learning? Join us for a provocative look at what grades really mean and how to handle those burning grading issues in diverse classrooms: averaging, homework, late work, re-done work, gradebooks, report cards, inclusion students, gifted students, keeping zeroes or rounding up to 50, 100 vs 4.0 scales, formative vs summative assessments, and much more.
- Session B: Mathematics Resources and Enhancement Strategies for Teachers**
This highly interactive session will demonstrate the professional development resources within the new, free web-based Mathematics Improvement Toolkit for reaching diverse learners.
- 4:30 Exhibit Hall opens
- 5:30 Reception (cash bar)
- 6:30 Gala Dinner Honoring our 2009 STW sites with Rick Wormeli as Keynote

Friday, June 26

- 8:00-5:00 Exhibit Hall and Conference Sessions
- 12:15 Luncheon, 2009 Redesignated STW Honored, Ticketed Item, \$35

Saturday, June 27

- 8:30-12:00 Conference Sessions

Keynote Speaker

Rick Wormeli - Thursday, June 25, Evening Gala

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Excellence - Rick Wormeli

One of the first Nationally Board Certified teachers in America, Rick brings innovation, energy, validity and high standards to both his presentations and his instructional practice. Rick's work has been reported in numerous media, including ABC's Good Morning America, USA Today, Hardball with Chris Matthews, *National Geographic* and *Good Housekeeping* magazines, *What Matters Most: Teaching for the 21st Century*, and the *Washington Post*. His classroom practice is the showcase for the first DVD of ASCD's best-selling series, "At Work in the Differentiated Classroom," and he is a contributing author to *Middle School Matters*, and *Because You Teach*, published by Incentive Publications.

With his substantive presentations, sense of humor, and unconventional approaches, he's been asked to present to teachers and administrators in all 50 states, Canada, China, Europe, Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Australia, the Middle East, and at the White House. He is a seasoned veteran of many international Web casts, and he is Disney's American Teacher Awards 1996 Outstanding English Teacher of the Nation.

From its humorous opening to the crowd-pleasing "grand finale" video teacher "mockumentary," this address affirms and pushes educators with compelling observations about modern teaching practices, including acts of courage and compassion. Based on the latest pedagogy but never afraid to question current metaphors, Rick's address inspires even those who came only for the food. Join us for an entertaining and educational provocation of the highest order.



National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform

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Schools to Watch[®]: An Initiative of the National Forum • www.schoolstowatch.org

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.mgforum.org

Special Events

- Math Smart Panel featuring Francis (Skip) Fennel \$50, June 24.
- Conference Session focusing on networking and advocacy, June 25.
- Gala event and dinner honoring new Schools to Watch, June 25.
Dinner and Keynote included in registration
- Award Luncheon for Redesignated STW, \$35, June 26.
- Interactions with middle-grades leaders in the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

Special Resource Offer

Reserve a copy of the Forum's 5-part Leadership Library set (\$220 value) for a special conference rate of \$100. One set per school recommended.

Pre-Conference Sessions

Math Smart Panel, Wednesday, June 25, 9:30 - 2:30 pm, \$50
Pre-Conference Session, Wednesday, June 25, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, \$35

Conference Registration Fees

Register on-line at www.mgforum.org

- Individual - \$325** (after 6/13 - \$350)
- Team (4 members) - \$290** (after 6/13 - \$315)
- Group (5 or more) - \$275** (after 6/13 - \$300)
- National Forum Member - \$145**

Conference Site and Accommodations

Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel
1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 920-3230 • \$179 single/double, plus tax/fees

Call the hotel directly to reserve your room. To ensure low conference rates, make your reservations before May 16, 2009. Published rate supports the Conference. Gateway is conveniently located minutes from Washington Reagan Airport. Upon arrival, call the hotel for shuttle pick-up. The hotel is at the Metro-Crystal City stop for easy accessibility to all the DC sites.



Registrations

Please register with payment by mail or fax on or before June 12, 2009. (Only purchase orders or credit card orders may be faxed.)

On-Site Registration

You may also register on-site after 6/12, however, Thursday dinner seating subject to availability. Payments by cash, check, purchase order, Visa or MasterCard will be accepted.

Cancellation Policy

No partial refunds for teams or groups (substitutions allowed). Cancellations must be faxed to (217) 351-1068. Please call to verify receipt of cancellations at (217) 351-2196. Prior to 5/1/09 - Full Refund; 5/2/09 to 5/20/09 - \$100 fee; After 5/20/09 - No Refunds only substitutions

Pre-Conference Session

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

- Noon - 6:00 Registration Open
- 9:30 - 2:30 Math Smart Panel (ticketed)
- 1:00 - 3:00 Pre-Conference Session (ticketed)

General Conference

Thursday, June 25, 2009

- 8:00 - 6:00 Registration Open
- 9:00 - 10:30 Schools to Watch Networking Meeting
- 10:45 - 11:45 Advocacy for STW Schools
- 11:45 - 1:00 Lunch on your own
- 1:00 - 4:00 Capitol Hill legislative visits
- 1:00 - 3:00 Session A - Differentiated Grading: Fair Isn't Always Equal
- Session B - Mathematics Resources and Enhancement Strategies for Teachers
- 4:30 - 6:30 Exhibits Open
- 5:30 - 6:30 Reception (Cash Bar)
- 6:30 - 9:00 Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony for 2009 STW
Keynote: Rick Wormeli

Friday, June 26, 2009

- 7:45 am - 5:00 Registration Open
- 8:30 - 9:30 Session I
- 9:30 - 10:00 Visit Exhibits
- 10:00 - 11:00 Session II
- 11:15 - 12:15 Session III
- 12:15 - 2:15 Lunch (ticketed) Awards Ceremony II
- 2:30 - 3:30 Session IV
- 3:45 - 4:45 Session V

Saturday, June 27, 2009

- 8:30 - 9:30 Session VI
- 9:45 - 10:45 Session VII
- 11:00 - 12:00 Session VIII

Register
on-line at
mgforum.org