

Educating Boys 2018 • February 16, 2018 • The Buckley School

Concurrent Workshops 10:45 – 11:45

1. A 21st Century Wellness Curriculum for Middle School Boys Room 301

Joe Viola, Academic Dean, Psychologist
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St. Albans School
Grades 5-8
Subject areas: Wellness

This workshop will describe and engage participants in a 21st century social-emotional wellness program for boys. The landscape changes dramatically with each new iPhone or new social media app. In the past few months there have been numerous longform stories on the iGen (The Atlantic), anxiety (NY Times Magazine), and the relentless pursuits of teenagers documenting their lives online. I will review how the wellness curriculum at my school has changed: what has stuck, what hasn't, where we need to go, etc. Along the way we'll go up 10,000 feet and look back on ten years since MySpace was the predominant form of social media, as well as look in a more granular way at how boys have changed, and what has become "best practice" when teaching boys about their increasingly fragile social lives. We will explore programming (child and parent) and curricular endeavors focused on: social media, addiction, masculinity, connectedness, and anxiety. Along the way, we will identify the necessary pillars (and related, the scaffolding) required for an effective 21st century wellness program for middle school boys.

2. Boys of Color: Independent School Room 302

Russell Marsh, Upper School Diversity Coordinator
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Ethical Culture Fieldston School

Jeff Martin, Asst. Head of School
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Covenant Preparatory School
Grades 5-12
Subject areas: All, Diversity

This workshop will examine the philosophical and practical elements of the education and engagement boys of color in independent schools. The presenters offer different perspectives: a small middle school of all boys of color; a large N-12 coed school with relatively few students of color. These environments offer both challenges and advantages for boys of color and the adults who work with them. Participants will join a reflective and robust discussion of what social / emotional, cultural, and academic strategies work best for these students in various school environments.

3. Hardwired for Everything and Anything but School Room 401

Scott Milliken, Associate Head of School
milliken@albanyacademies.org
The Albany Academy
Grades 5-12 Subject areas: All

This presentation will highlight both personality traits and emotional intelligence traits common to many boys that do not fit mold of the traditional student. Next, perceptions of the student often left behind will be examined. Finally, effective strategies to engage these capable, yet reluctant, learners will be discussed.

4. Demystifying, Decoding, and Delivering Shakespeare Room 402

Kent Burnham, Director of Theatre Arts
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Trinity-Pawling School
Grades 5-12
Subject areas: Art, English/Language Arts, History/Social Studies, World Language,

Shakespeare is and can be fun, exciting, accessible, dynamic, and even sexy. This workshop will focus on the language of Shakespeare and the visceral connection between the text, the body, and the voice. Shakespeare is not an old language but a thrilling one for boys!

5. Foreign Languages and their Role in Raising Good Men Room 501

Susana Epstein, Spanish Teacher
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Collegiate School
Grades 5-12
Subject areas: Arts, History/Social Studies, World Language

In a foreign language program in which the ultimate pedagogical objective is effective communication, boys of all ages can learn at their own pace in a supportive environment. In my experience, this type of instruction promotes participation through age-appropriate individual as well as collaborative projects stemming from selected literary sources, current affairs, movies, and students' own stories. Moreover, these narrative contexts inspire thought-provoking discussions on a variety of personal and social issues, and can often become the basis for community building initiatives with a focus on ethical principles, such as respect and compassion. I will share some examples and teaching strategies for both Middle and Upper School instruction in an all boys school. The examples are all drawn from a Spanish language curriculum, but can be easily adapted for any language, a boys school or coed school.

6. Honor, Discipline, and Student Leaders Room 502

Ben Labaree, History Dept/Head of Upper School
blabaree@stalbansschool.org
St. Albans School
Grades 9-12
Subject areas: All

This workshop will feature a conversation about honor and discipline issues in boys' schools and how best to involve student leaders in setting expectations, building and sustaining trust, and the work of honor and discipline committees. The workshop will feature a few scenarios, and participants will be encouraged to exchange ideas about practices they have found to be effective--or not--in their home schools. During the course of our conversation, we will consider whether there are approaches to these issues that seem particularly well suited to all-boys environments.

7. Teaching Prose Style to Reluctant Writers Room 601

Daniel Hodgson, English Faculty
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Avon Old Farms School
Grades 9-12
Subject areas: English/Language Arts

Teaching compositional principles and writing style to reluctant writers is a daunting task, and at boys' schools, many of our students fall into that category. My workshop outlines a progression of low-stakes writing exercises that help boys develop a consistent prose style that they can use in writing assignments across the curriculum. Workshop attendees will progress through a series of mini class-ready lessons while being shown the entire scope of the unit. The goal of the workshop is to provide teachers with both a methodology that they could work into their own curriculum and (or) a series of exercises that they could use on a day's notice, whichever fits their needs.

8. Superhero Mozart and the Magic Fourth Room 602

Lucy Warner, Chair of Music Dept. / Lower School Music Specialist
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Browning School
Grades PK-4
Subject areas: Arts, English/Language Arts

What if Mozart were a Superhero? What would his super power be? His music can teach us the power of a melody jumping up and down, with musical intervals such as the fourth - with our bodies, voices, drums, xylophones, and cymbals! Using Mozart's "A Little Night Music" plus a traditional song with new lyrics, this workshop gives tried and true classroom examples of lessons in which boys listen, learn, and stay engaged through action, playing, rhyming, and singing. No musical experience is required! Includes poetry and spelling. For music teachers and homeroom teachers.

9. Participatory Synergy or Hands-On Teambuilding: a Process Approach Room 701

Nick DePreter, Assistant Director, John Dorr Nature Laboratory of the Horace Mann School
depretern@horacemann.org
Horace Mann School
Grades PK-8 Subject areas: All

Do your boys like to play, and do you want to learn new ways to use play as fodder for creative classroom discussions? Utilizing the amazing world of experiential education and empathy-based methods, we will play, build, explore, and learn games that promote paths to reflection that really engage boys. Sharing feelings is a necessary part of any emotional experience, and you'll leave this session with tools to create "empathizers" in your classroom.

10. Internationally Minded Boys: Head, Heart and Body Room 702

Chris Beddows, Curriculum Coordinator
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Soroush Panahi, Steve Presti
Dwight School
Grades PK-8
Subject areas: All, Diversity

Join us as we share with you our best practices for guiding boys towards becoming globally-minded, conscientious adults in the 21st century and beyond. This session will take the form of a workshop, complete with themed-stations, and intermittent reflecting. We plan to discuss how to be a balanced role model and give effective feedback to our boys. Furthermore, we will share aspects of curriculum that help to reinforce these strategies while also providing boys with the skills they need in order to succeed in school and in life.