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Course Listing 2020



Midwest Teachers Institute
Teachers Helping Teachers

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2020 Course Listings

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Literacy

MTI 502: Essential Common Core Strategies for Reading and Writing

Course Description: This course is designed for teachers and administrators who wish to gain the skills necessary to effectively implement the Common Core English Language Arts Standards. Six high impact strategies will be explored that are not only designed to be used with the common core but are research proven to aid in student performance. The course examines not only the techniques to utilize these strategies, but also the research supporting the strategies.

MTI 505: Integrating Your Curriculum with STEM

Course Description: This course is designed to provide the learner with tools and strategies to design integrated, interdisciplinary STEM lessons and units that are both relevant and exciting to your students. STEM in itself is not a curriculum, but rather a way of organizing and delivering instruction by weaving the STEM disciplines together in thoughtful and intentional ways. Rather than teaching the new disciplines in isolation, the engineering and technological practices should be blended into existing lessons in ways that engage the students and help them master 21st century skills.

MTI 515: Active Reading Strategies for Middle and High School

Course Description: *Active Reading Strategies for Middle and High Schools* is designed to help teachers find ways to integrate a variety of reading skills and strategies into their classrooms. The goal is to identify why students struggle, determine what they need to become more successful readers, and develop strategies for them to be successful. This course provides approaches for motivating students to be lifelong learners and describes ways to ensure that the reading program is supported throughout the school district.

MTI 516: Best Practice Reading Strategy: Literature Circles in The K-12 Classroom

Course Description: *Best Practice Reading Strategies: Literature Circles* is designed to assist teachers in developing, facilitating, and assessing Literature Circles in K-12 classrooms. The application of Literature Circles can span a wide spectrum of content areas, and can be easily hybridized to fit each individual teacher's needs or desires. The goal is to help teachers foster student-led book clubs and discussions in their own classrooms that are based on student interest and choice. These peer-led book discussion groups can also help motivate students to read, learn, and collaborate with one another.

MTI 528: Effective Instructional Practices for English Learners (EL)

Course Description: This class is designed to assist classroom teachers and support staff in tailoring instructional practices to support English Learners to develop both content knowledge and language growth. The class is organized to explore the 8 components of the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) Model and 30 features identified to guide educators in their development of effective lessons and assessments for instructing English Learners. Participants will also learn techniques and strategies to increase interaction, engagement, and comprehension for English Learners in their classrooms.

MTI 529: Creating a Classroom Environment for English Learners

Course Description: *Creating a Classroom Environment for English Learners* will provide teachers and administrators the strategies, knowledge and skills required to understand and overcome the barriers that limited or non-English speaking students face. To achieve this, the course and content will draw upon the textbook, "Unlocking English Learners' Potential," by Diane Staehr Fenner and Sydney Snyder. Differentiation is an essential classroom component to increase students' success rate in not only learning, but retaining information learned at school. Specific strategies will be discussed, encouraged to implement, analyzed and reflected upon to assist in creating a successful learning atmosphere as well as build upon different cultural norms and expectations to give teachers a better understanding of their students.

MTI 537: Powerful Teacher Language: Using Words to Help Children Succeed

Course Description: *Powerful Teacher Language: Using Words to Help Children Succeed* is designed to assist teachers with developing simple changes in their language to promote profound changes in student behavior and academic, social, and emotional success. The goal is for teachers to increase student engagement with academics, build a positive community, and effectively manage a classroom.

MTI 542: 21st Century Digital Fluencies for Literacy

Course Description: *The 21st Century Digital Fluencies for Literacy* will provide teachers and administrators the strategies, knowledge and skills that students must master to succeed in a culture of technology-driven automation, abundance, and access to global labor markets. To achieve this, the course and content will draw upon the course textbook, *Literacy is NOT Enough: 21st Century Fluencies for the Digital Age*, by Lee Crockett, Ian Jukes, and Andrew Churches. If students are to thrive in their academic and 21st century careers, then independent and creative thinking hold the highest currency. The authors explain in detail how to add these new components of literacy:

- Solution Fluency
- Information Fluency
- Media Fluency
- Creativity Fluency
- Collaboration Fluency

The authors present an effective framework for upgrading literacy instruction for digital learners by integrating comprehensive literacy or fluency into the traditional curriculum.

MTI 552: The New Art and Science of Teaching Writing: 100 Instructional Strategies For K-12 Students

Course Description: This course offers research-based instructional strategies and assessments for educators to be effective teachers of writing. The course text explores more than 100 instructional strategies across grade levels and subject areas for writing, as well as some reading instruction. Teachers will understand which instructional strategies are best suited to teaching writing skills, and gain specific examples for implementing these strategies. They will learn how to utilize general and specific strategies to improve the learning environment of the classroom and obtain desired student learning outcomes for writing. The course will help in fine-tuning writing curriculum to achieve student success by developing and assessing writing skills with the book's instructional techniques. Throughout the course, teachers will examine samples of writing rubrics, proficiency scales, and checklists, and learn effective teaching methods to use them as assessment and instructional tools. Educators will learn how to utilize an advance organizer as a quick reference of all strategies to assist in designing writing curriculum and planning lessons. Lastly, the course text gives access to download free reproducible activities, rubrics for assessing student writing, writing assessment examples, writing checklists, and more for classroom use.

MTI 554: The New Art and Science of Teaching Reading & Comprehension

Course Description: This course introduces teachers to a compelling model for the stages of reading development. The model is centered around five key topics: foundational skills, word recognition, reading fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. By the end of the course, teachers will be able to:

- Understand how to best utilize the framework for teaching reading comprehension and other reading skills
- Explore a reading model that addresses how to articulate content, implement specific instructional strategies, and navigate reading-related issues that might arise in the classroom
- Understand which elements of instruction are best suited for teaching reading

Explore how general strategies for teaching can be employed alongside specific strategies to enhance teaching, enrich learning and literacy development, and improve the classroom environment.

MTI 595: Vocabulary for the Modern Day Classroom: K-12 Strategies for ELL/ESL, Content Areas, and Beyond

Course Description: *Vocabulary for The Modern Day Classroom: K-12 Strategies for ELL/ESL, Content Areas, and Beyond* is designed to assist teachers with developing authentic, engaging, and meaningful vocabulary activities and assessments for students in all grade levels and across all content areas. It is especially helpful in identifying activities and strategies to use with English Language Learners and Native Language learners. No matter the grade or makeup of students in a particular setting, it provides strategies for use with all of them. The goal is for teachers to help diverse populations of students, even in the same classroom, to build their own vocabularies and a genuine interest in words.

Social & Emotional Learning

MTI 512: Social Emotional Learning: Creating a Positive Culture and Climate in Your Classroom

Course Description: An awareness of the importance of Social Emotional Learning has increased in schools and the classroom during the last decade. This course is designed to give teachers the knowledge to understand Social Emotional Learning and develop the skills necessary to promote a student's social emotional development. It is important for teachers to work with school leaders to create a positive school culture and environment. The course materials will introduce SEL programs and how to implement and assess their effectiveness. The course will also make connections between SEL and academics as well as how to make Cultural adaptations and modifications to SEL programs.

MTI 522: Boys and Girls Learn Differently: Proven Methods to Design the Ultimate K-12 Classroom

Course Description: In this course, K-12 educators will read the latest brain-based research on how boys and girls learn differently. You will learn how societal gender differences, socialized norms, and hard wiring affects how boys and girl learn. This course will demonstrate the importance of understanding gender theory and how it affects learning. Educators will learn practical, research-based, cutting-edge strategies to implement in the classroom to help all learners succeed. This book and course are eye-openers to the structure of education in regards to student learning and how we can help to improve learning for all students.

MTI 524: How the Brain Learns: Effective Strategies & Interventions to Maximize Student Learning

Course Description: *How the Brain Learns* is a course that presents information on how the brain processes information and how this affects how students learn. It presents suggestions on strategies to maximize student's retention. The course is designed to help teachers answer questions like "How can I help students understand and remember more of what I teach?" and "What classroom strategies are more likely to appeal to the brain of today's student?" This course explores new research on brain function and converts this information into effective classroom strategies and activities. The course introduces new evidence on how incorporating art into lessons can enhance cognitive processing and creativity. How the Brain Learns discusses integration of recent developments in neuroscience, education, and psychology into the classroom. The course also has updated research on how the explosion of technology is affecting the brain.

MTI 532: Brain Powered Classroom: Focus, Mindfulness, Emotional Wellness

Course Description: *Brain Powered Classroom: Focus, Mindfulness, Emotional Wellness* will provide teachers and administrators expert guidance and inspiring stories from the field that help create a Brain Power Classroom full of engaged, focused and collaborative students. This course discusses, in detail, the 10 essentials for focus, mindfulness, and emotional wellness in the classroom. Part 1 of the course book provides scientific background, principles and insightful advice for creating an optimal classroom atmosphere. Part 2 features 30 classroom activities you can easily integrate into your current curriculum. They are divided into the "Brain Power 10 Essentials" and incorporate various modalities, such as movement, mindfulness, and focusing strategies to engage students' multiple intelligences. Using the tools in this book, teachers will be able to motivate their students to use their full brain potential as they develop into harmonious leaders with strong character and high levels of academic achievement.

MTI 533: Power of Growth Mindset: Transform Teaching, Leadership, and Learning

Course Description: *Power of Growth Mindset: Transform Teaching, Leadership, and Learning* explores the theories which underpin a growth mindset ethos and lays out how to embed them into the culture of a school. It offers step-by-step guidance for school leaders to help build an approach to teaching and learning that will encourage children to embrace challenges, persist in the face of setbacks, and see effort as the path to mastery. This course discusses an evidence-based transformation of the way we think and talk about teaching, leading, and learning.

Chris Hildrew, the author of the course , navigates the difficulties, practicalities, and opportunities presented by implementing a growth mindset, such as:

- forming a growth mindset curriculum
- launching a growth mindset with staff
- marking, assessing, and giving feedback with a growth mindset
- growth mindset misconceptions and potential mistakes
- family involvement with a growth mindset.

This course discusses how a growth mindset ethos benefits the whole school community, from its students and teachers to parents and governors.

MTI 534: Developing a Growth Mindset: For Teachers of all Ages and Curriculum

Course Description: This course will provide teachers of all ages and curriculum with strategies, techniques, and activities to develop growth mindsets in their classroom. The course will help educators change the perception of mistakes and instill new habits that challenge their students. Mistakes and failures in the classroom will now be viewed as positive learning experiences. Educators will learn new ways to provide feedback, use language that promotes growth mindsets, and engage parents.

MTI 541: The Role of GRIT: Embracing GRIT as an Educator

Course Description: The course will take an in-depth look into the research conducted on grit and its correlation to success in academic and non-academic pursuits. In order to create a learning environment that teaches grit, educators must understand the demands and obstacles that need to be overcome when trying to pursue a long-term goal. Educators enrolled in this course will look at how expectations within their classroom, students taking ownership of their goals, and hopefulness will lead to their students pursuing long-term goals with passion and perseverance.

MTI 549: Compassionate Teaching : Building A Trauma Sensitive Classroom

Course Description: This course shares research and experiential knowledge about the practices that support students' healing from traumatic events, building their resilience, and fostering compassion in the classroom. The course text breaks the course into three parts:

- Part I describes the effects of trauma on the body and mind, and how to recognize them in students' behavior.
- Part II introduces trauma-sensitive practices that can be implemented in schools, and more specifically, in classrooms.
- Part III connects the dots between mindfulness, compassion, and resilience.

This course offers easy-to-use, practical activities to hone the skills needed to create a compassionate learning environment.

MTI 573: Creating a Mindful Classroom: Incorporating Mindfulness in Education

Course Description: This course will provide teachers with knowledge and strategies to incorporate mindfulness into their classrooms. This course will provide teachers with lessons that could be implemented on a daily or weekly basis, along with quick activities to refocus the class. Teachers enrolled in this course will research the benefits of mindfulness for themselves as well as their students. Teachers will discuss current practices, research new strategies, and collaborate with peers to further their knowledge. Throughout this course teachers will examine the 5 key benefits of mindfulness: (1) stress reduction, (2) attention, (3) emotional control, (4) positive self-concept, and (5) positive interactions.

MTI 583: Strategies for Supporting Students with Anxiety

Course Description: This course provides educators with the knowledge and tools they need to build supportive learning environments for students with anxiety. Beginning with a clear explanation of what anxiety is, as well as its potential causes, discover how students' social, emotional, and academic skills are impacted by anxiety. Learn how to identify your students' anxiety-related behaviors and take preventive steps to help reduce stressors in school. This course is filled with practical strategies and academic accommodations you can use to help students manage their anxiety and thrive in your classroom.

Improving Instruction

MTI 500: Teacher’s Toolbox: Proven Strategies for Student Success

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide teachers with a variety of strategies designed to help students succeed. All of the strategies have been proven to succeed based on research conducted in the classroom. Throughout this course the educator will learn practical ways to use all nine of the strategies provided by the authors. The goal of this course is to show every educator the research and theory that can help their students.

MTI 501: Measuring Effective Teaching

Course Description: This course is designed for teachers and administrators who wish to understand what evidence based research has revealed about teaching strategies effects on student achievement. The most effective strategies will be examined as well as the methodology for showing what is most effective. The text not only presents a synthesis of educational research but also presents actual case studies that show the most effective methods used in real classrooms. This class provides a balance between presenting strategies that are linked directly to achievement with the theory that explains why they are effective and how we know.

MTI 507 H: Habits of Mind To Empower Personalized Learning

Course Description: This class is designed to help teachers and school leaders effectively implement personalized learning with habits of mind. Educators will learn ways to increase the say students have in their own learning by reexamining goal setting, lesson planning, assessment, and feedback practices. Educators will learn how to prioritize voice, co-creation, social construction, and self discovery in order to help students develop the intellectual and social strength of character necessary to succeed in the world.

MTI 508 W: 75 Ways to Be a Better Teacher Tomorrow

Course Description: *75 Ways to Be a Better Teacher Tomorrow: With Less Stress and Quick Success* Highly effective teachers have something in common: They do simple things extraordinarily well—simple, uncomplicated things on a daily basis. In this new book by bestselling authors and presenters Annette Breaux and Todd Whitaker, you'll learn the secrets of these tried-and-true techniques that will help to improve your teaching, your students' learning, and your students' behavior. Annette and Todd, who have years of experience working in schools across the globe, reveal 75 easily-implemented strategies that will improve teaching and instruction, classroom management, student motivation, student achievement, parent communication, and more—with no new programs! Each tip provides practical takeaways that can be used immediately and with remarkable success.

MTI 522: Boys and Girls Learn Differently: Proven Methods to Design the Ultimate K-12 Classroom

Course Description: In this course, K-12 educators will read the latest brain-based research on how boys and girls learn differently. You will learn how societal gender differences, socialized norms, and hard wiring affects how boys and girls learn. This course will demonstrate the importance of understanding gender theory and how it affects learning. Educators will learn practical, research-based, cutting-edge strategies to implement in the classroom to help all learners succeed. This book and course are eye-openers to the structure of education in regards to student learning and how we can help to improve learning for all students.

MTI 540: The Art of Teaching: Getting the Most Out of Students

Course Description: This will be a class that provides participants with a balance between theory and practice with the emphasis on what is eminently useful, usable, pragmatic, and practical. The course will purport to give the participants foundational, tested, and researched based techniques that are easily and immediately employable in their respective classrooms. The class will include discussions on why these techniques are so effective and how to best employ them not just on an individual basis but also how they could contribute to total school reform.

MTI 541: The Role of GRIT: Embracing GRIT as an Educator

Course Description: The course will take an in-depth look into the research conducted on grit and its correlation to success in academic and non-academic pursuits. In order to create a learning environment that teaches grit, educators must understand the demands and obstacles that need to be overcome when trying to pursue a long-term goal. Educators enrolled in this course will look at how expectations within their classroom, students taking ownership of their goals, and hopefulness will lead to their students pursuing long-term goals with passion and perseverance.

MTI 542: 21st Century Digital Fluencies for Literacy

Course Description: *The 21st Century Digital Fluencies for Literacy* will provide teachers and administrators the strategies, knowledge and skills that students must master to succeed in a culture of technology-driven automation, abundance, and access to global labor markets. To achieve this, the course and content will draw upon the course textbook, *Literacy is NOT Enough: 21st Century Fluencies for the Digital Age*, by Lee Crockett, Ian Jukes, and Andrew Churches. If students are to thrive in their academic and 21st century careers, then independent and creative thinking hold the highest currency. The authors explain in detail how to add these new components of literacy:

- Solution Fluency
- Information Fluency
- Media Fluency
- Creativity Fluency
- Collaboration Fluency

The authors present an effective framework for upgrading literacy instruction for digital learners by integrating comprehensive literacy or fluency into the traditional curriculum.

MTI 570: Learning and Motivation: Practical Strategies for Your Class

Course Description: This course will provide strategies and tips for teachers to increase motivation and learning for students in the classroom. Teachers will examine brain-based learning and multiple intelligences to design instructional plans to motivate their students. Strategies for block schedules, improved student motivation and hundreds of teaching tips and student activities are presented for teacher implementation. Educators will also learn about developing instructionally supportive activities and strategies to improve motivational and instructional impact in classrooms.

Differentiation

MTI 525: Differentiation for Gifted Students

Course Description: This course is designed to reach out to the gifted student, someone who is often left behind in the classroom. The course begins by identifying who the gifted are, how they learn, and how to push them to higher achievement. We will develop pre-tests to avoid re-teaching material that students have already mastered, exploring new ways to challenge the gifted students and keep them focused. Curriculum for gifted students will be examined and modified, developing problem solving skills that incorporate multiple levels of intelligence. The goal is to develop a classroom that is conducive to the special needs of the gifted student.

MTI 535: Differentiation in the Classroom: Helping All Students Find Success

Course Description: The purpose of this class is to develop strategies that can help all students reach their potential. The course will specify what differentiation is, how to incorporate it into the curriculum, and how it can be applied to the classroom. The class will examine the areas of the classroom and instruction that can be differentiated and how the teacher can use a variety of strategies to modify their teaching. The text will present real-life examples of differentiated lesson plans, and teachers will work to create their own activities and strategies to help differentiate their own classrooms. Last, we will examine how a teacher can make sure that they are ready to get started and the steps to make sure that they follow through with differentiating the classroom.

MTI 597: Assessment in a Differentiated Classroom for New and Experienced Teachers

Course Description: This course will help new and experienced teachers develop assessments that will increase achievement for all students. This course will display how pre-assessment, formative assessment, and summative assessment work together to allow growth for all learners in the classroom. Teachers enrolled in this course will enrich their classroom practices, discuss current practices with other educators, and develop new strategies for assessment.

Student Growth & Achievement

MTI 500: Teacher's Toolbox: Proven Strategies for Student Success

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide teachers with a variety of strategies designed to help students succeed. All of the strategies have been proven to succeed based on research conducted in the classroom. Throughout this course the educator will learn practical ways to use all nine of the strategies provided by the authors. The goal of this course is to show every educator the research and theory that can help their students.

MTI 501: Measuring Effective Teaching

Course Description: This course is designed for teachers and administrators who wish to understand what evidence based research has revealed about teaching strategies effects on student achievement. The most effective strategies will be examined as well as the methodology for showing what is most effective. The text not only presents a synthesis of educational research but also presents actual case studies that show the most effective methods used in real classrooms. This class provides a balance between presenting strategies that are linked directly to achievement with the theory that explains why they are effective and how we know.

MTI 522: Boys and Girls Learn Differently: Proven Methods to Design the Ultimate K-12 Classroom

Course Description: In this course, K-12 educators will read the latest brain-based research on how boys and girls learn differently. You will learn how societal gender differences, socialized norms, and hard wiring affects how boys and girls learn. This course will demonstrate the importance of understanding gender theory and how it affects learning. Educators will learn practical, research-based, cutting-edge strategies to implement in the classroom to help all learners succeed. This book and course are eye-openers to the structure of education in regards to student learning and how we can help to improve learning for all students.

MTI 579: Raising Expectations: Returning Rigor to the Classroom

Course Description: *Raising Expectations* is a class designed to address how to identify and implement a new set of standards in the classroom. These standards are designed to be easily implemented into a classroom and are based on real strategies and assessments already being used in classrooms, demonstrated by real-life examples. At the core of this course is the concept that students need to be pushed to excel by teaching what matters most.

MTI 594: 21st Century Assessment: Raising Student Achievement

Course Description: This course will provide teachers with the knowledge and strategies to develop assessments that support higher-order skills, which hold students to higher standards. Teachers enrolled in this course will discuss the current policies and practices, as well as new research and strategies in education that lead to in-depth learning. Educators will be challenged throughout this course to improve their assessments to support 21st century learning.

Educator Wellness

MTI 527: Burned-OUT Teacher Training: Eight Steps to go from Surviving to Thriving in Education

Course Description: In this course teachers will learn strategies and practices they can implement into their daily lives while planning, engaging with students, their parents, coworkers, administrators, grading, and meeting the high demands that are asked of today's teachers. Administrators will learn the best ways to engage with a teacher who they believe is struggling with burnout and the steps they can take to build a bridge of trust and support to help them through it. After struggling with burnout for years and not understanding why, I decided to make decisions about my career and life, take action and control over it, and serve others who are dealing with the debilitating and stifling issue of teacher burnout.

MTI 532: Brain Powered Classroom: Focus, Mindfulness, Emotional Wellness

Course Description: *Brain Powered Classroom: Focus, Mindfulness, Emotional Wellness* will provide teachers and administrators expert guidance and inspiring stories from the field that help create a Brain Power Classroom full of engaged, focused and collaborative students. This course discusses, in detail, the 10 essentials for focus, mindfulness, and emotional wellness in the classroom. Part 1 of the course book provides scientific background, principles and insightful advice for creating an optimal classroom atmosphere. Part 2 features 30 classroom activities you can easily integrate into your current curriculum. They are divided into the "Brain Power 10 Essentials" and incorporate various modalities, such as movement, mindfulness, and focusing strategies to engage students' multiple intelligences. Using the tools in this book, teachers will be able to motivate their students to use their full brain potential as they develop into harmonious leaders with strong character and high levels of academic achievement.

MTI 573: Creating a Mindful Classroom: Incorporating Mindfulness in Education

Course Description: This course will provide teachers with knowledge and strategies to incorporate mindfulness into their classrooms. This course will provide teachers with lessons that could be implemented on a daily or weekly basis, along with quick activities to refocus the class. Teachers enrolled in this course will research the benefits of mindfulness for themselves as well as their students. Teachers will discuss current practices, research new strategies, and collaborate with peers to further their knowledge. Throughout this course teachers will examine the 5 key benefits of mindfulness: (1) stress reduction, (2) attention, (3) emotional control, (4) positive self-concept, and (5) positive interactions.

MTI 591 A: Mindfulness in the Classroom and Wellbeing for Teachers K-12

Course Description: This course investigates the ways that mindfulness practices and applications can transform both the classroom and a teacher's wellbeing. Mindfulness is the building of three capacities: awareness, advancement, and authenticity. Built upon these facets, this course covers the background and uses of mindfulness, plus offers ideas about ways to use mindfulness in the design of learning spaces, routines, curriculum and community. Learners will access and discuss 24 detailed practices for individuals and groups, including step-by-step embedded mindfulness exercises, ready to implement immediately. They will be able to reflect individually and as a community, and feel empowered to start designing ways to incorporate learnings into their classrooms and daily quality of life.

This course is led by Caitlin Krause, teacher and author of the acclaimed book, *Mindful by Design*. Her personal approach and guidance allows this course to be both instructional, informative, and filled with lasting personal and professional insights.

About the text, *Mindful by Design*: "With the framework of the Three A's -- being Aware, Advancing, Authentic -- Krause has crafted a wonderful book that shares her experience and deep inquiry as a scaffold for integrating mindfulness into the classroom. This book skillfully provides an informed and practical set of guidelines and exercises for designing mindful experiences for the benefit of teachers and students."

Poverty in Education

MTI 538: How Poverty Affects Students' Brains: Brain Research and Effective Strategies to Improve Academic Achievement and Life Readiness

Course Description: In this course, teachers will learn how poverty hurts children, families, and communities and how schools can improve academic achievement and life readiness for students coming from poverty. Author Eric Jensen's research demonstrates that chronic exposure to poverty can result in negative changes to the brain, but equally how this ability of the brain to change can result in success for economically disadvantaged students when given the right circumstances. Teachers will learn how to create a rich, balanced learning environment and strong teacher-student relationships that have the potential to change the trajectory of students' lives for the better.

MTI 585: The Effects of Poverty on 21st Century Education

Course Description: *The Effects of Poverty on 21st Century Education* will provide teachers and administrators the strategies, knowledge and skills required to understand and overcome the barriers of poverty. To achieve this, the course and content will draw upon the course textbook, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, by Dr. Ruby Payne. We may provide as educators many innovative and effective strategies to advance student reforms, but until we address and understand the impact of school sociology on academic achievement, school reform will not succeed. The creative feature of this course is bringing together the framework for understanding poverty in today's education and the social context that traps so many intelligent and capable students in a self-fulfilling dead-end. By combining these two aspects of poverty, teachers and administrators will have the skill and knowledge base to effectively challenge the barriers of impoverishment.

Classroom Management & Behavior

MTI 523: 50 Ways to Improve Your Students Behavior

Course Description: Want to be a better teacher who has better student behavior and better student learning? Want less stress in your life? Want an overall happy, more effectively and efficiently run classroom? Want better student motivation? **Then this course is for you.** This graduate course focuses on you, the teacher. It is for educators of all grade levels, ethnic and social backgrounds. Designed to provide you with the tools to improve, not perfect, student behavior in your classroom. When behavior improves, so does learning. Applying the strategies and suggestions learned from this course and corresponding textbook will undoubtedly improve your teaching dramatically.

MTI 546: Solving Behavior Issues to Create a Positive Classroom

Course Description: Educators enrolled in this course will examine the key elements that lead to behavior problems and techniques to reduce behavior issues. This course will provide educators with tips, strategies, activities, and techniques to improve interactions with students and manage behavior in the classroom. This course will help educators create a positive culture in their classroom to make learning accessible to all students.

MTI 549: Compassionate Teaching : Building A Trauma Sensitive Classroom

Course Description: This course shares research and experiential knowledge about the practices that support students' healing from traumatic events, building their resilience, and fostering compassion in the classroom. The course text breaks the course into three parts:

- Part I describes the effects of trauma on the body and mind, and how to recognize them in students' behavior.
- Part II introduces trauma-sensitive practices that can be implemented in schools, and more specifically, in classrooms.
- Part III connects the dots between mindfulness, compassion, and resilience.

This course offers easy-to-use, practical activities to hone the skills needed to create a compassionate learning environment.

MTI 584: Bullying Prevention and Intervention in K-12

Course Description: This course will equip educators, counselors and administrators with the knowledge to recognize different types of bullying, from teasing to more severe behaviors to digital abuse and cyber-bullying. Aspects covered consist of learning the signs that indicate your student is on the receiving end of aggressive behavior or being an aggressor him- or herself. You will learn how to prevent bullying by creating a caring home and school environment where kids feel safe and where differences are accepted. Educators will gain the tools to help their students feel empowered to stand up to bullies, whether they're the target or witness to someone else being treated unfairly.

MTI 555: PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports)

Course Description: This course is designed to give teachers a vital classroom management resource. It also serves as a guide for implementation of PBIS (positive behavior interventions and supports) in K-12 classrooms. Teachers will be given step by step instructions on how to effectively provide classroom structure that will lead to a more engaging environment. In addition, teachers will learn to establish positive expectations and will be provided a continuum of strategies to reinforce appropriate behavior.

MTI 590: Classroom Management: Researched and Proven Strategies That Work

Course Description: This course is designed to complement and assist teachers and administrators in public, private or charter schools to develop and hone their skills to help them effectively manage the classroom behavior problems that today's students bring to school. The ultimate purpose for this course is to prepare teachers to be effective managers of their classrooms so that student learning is maximized by utilizing and showing them researched and proven strategies that work. The textbook utilized for this class describes and illustrates the management strategies that research suggests can have a major positive impact on student achievement.

Curriculum Design & Assessment

MTI 501: Measuring Effective Teaching

Course Description: This course is designed for teachers and administrators who wish to understand what evidence based research has revealed about teaching strategies effects on student achievement. The most effective strategies will be examined as well as the methodology for showing what is most effective. The text not only presents a synthesis of educational research but also presents actual case studies that show the most effective methods used in real classrooms. This class provides a balance between presenting strategies that are linked directly to achievement with the theory that explains why they are effective and how we know.

MTI 505: Integrating Your Curriculum with STEM

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Course Description: In this course, K-12 educators will read the latest brain-based research on how boys and girls learn differently. You will learn how societal gender differences, socialized norms, and hard wiring affects how boys and girls learn. This course will demonstrate the importance of understanding gender theory and how it affects learning. Educators will learn practical, research-based, cutting-edge strategies to implement in the classroom to help all learners succeed. This book and course are eye-openers to the structure of education in regards to student learning and how we can help to improve learning for all students.

MTI 594: 21st Century Assessment: Raising Student Achievement

Course Description: This course will provide teachers with the knowledge and strategies to develop assessments that support higher-order skills, which hold students to higher standards. Teachers enrolled in this course will discuss the current policies and practices, as well as new research and strategies in education that lead to in-depth learning. Educators will be challenged throughout this course to improve their assessments to support 21st century learning.

MTI 536: The Power of Formative Assessment

Course Description: This course will provide practical ideas about changes that every teacher can make in the classroom to develop their own practice of teaching, including evidence that these changes will result in improved outcomes for learners. Research evidence will show that these practical strategies in the process of formative assessment, will increase student engagement and help teachers make their teaching more responsive to students' needs. Teachers will explore the use of classroom questioning, feedback, and collaborative and cooperative learning to engineer effective learning environments for students.

Special Populations

MTI 517: Students with ADHD: Teaching with Success and Growth

Course Description: This course will encourage the educator to evaluate the challenges facing students with ADHD in the classroom. The educator will learn several strategies and techniques for teaching students in the areas of attention and planning, time management and organization, homework and study skills, encouraging achievement, behavior management, selecting appropriate interventions, accommodations, and adaptations, and classroom strategies. This text provides several reproducible pages which includes worksheets, forms, checklists, and charts. The educator will also gain an understanding of effective data collection, the IEP process including appropriate accommodations, and creating a Functional Behavior Assessment. Finally, the course will cover effective communication with parents and medical personnel.

MTI 518: Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Teaching with Strategies and Methodologies

Course Description: This course provides an overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of research-based strategies and methodologies when teaching students with ASD. The course teaches basic ABA principles and methodologies and provides numerous strategies for teaching students with ASD. The course also covers IEP procedures and proper development of an FBA.

MTI 519: Introduction to Special Education: The Basics of Disabilities and IEP's

Course Description: This course provides an overview of information for a variety of disabilities. We will study each disability in the following areas: definition of the disability, unique characteristics, curriculum needs which include subject matter suggestions, expectations, organization, and transitions, and social relationships with peers. Each disability is presented with several examples and real-life case studies. Finally, we will review the special education system. This section covers the eligibility process for identifying a student with a disability. The IEP section provides an overview of the various IEP section, goal writing, and standardized testing options.

MTI 520: Students with Learning Disabilities: Reaching Higher Achievement Across All Grade Levels

Course Description: This course will walk the educator through the process of supporting a student with a learning disability from understanding the student's needs to successfully supporting them for the long term. Educators will examine the process of determining how to decide whether students will receive accommodations or strategies while supporting parents throughout the process. They will learn practical strategies, interventions, and activities to more effectively teach students with learning disabilities across all settings and grade levels. Professionals will be challenged to reexamine their teaching and testing practices to more widely accommodate a variety of learning disabilities.

MTI 521: Building Literacy Skills for Students with Disabilities

Course Description: This course will walk the educator through information about literacy; literacy and federal mandates in education; and literacy for students with disabilities. Educators will examine how students with a wide range of disabilities can build literacy and communication skills. Educators will consider how to plan literacy activities, teach literacy skills, and evaluate progress.

Teacher Leadership

MTI 553: PLC 2.0: Effective Collaboration

Course Description: In this course teachers will seek to create a high functioning PLC for their departments/schools. Teachers will look at their current challenges in the areas of: creating observable visions of their learners, investigating evidence-based reality, exploring their learning, experimenting and observing students, reflecting, then customizing their activities. No matter what level they are at, there is an appropriate tool that can be utilized to move their PLC forward.

MTI 586: PLC's: Working Together As A Team

Course Description: This class is designed to help teachers and school leaders effectively implement professional learning communities in their school. Included in the text are all the essential steps needed to ensure that all educators have a common vocabulary and understanding of the key concepts to work in a collaborative setting. The class will also ask educators to take a look at their own schools, examining the culture of the school, as well as possible setbacks to avoid.

MTI 589: Improving Student Achievement: Through School Wide Leadership

Course Description: This course will provide teachers and principals with the knowledge, strategies, and tools to become a more effective leader in the classroom, school, and district. Professionals enrolled in this course will discuss and debate new topics and forms of education. They will examine the influence and impact of Professional Learning Communities (PLC's), collaboration, student-generated assessments, and redeployment. Educators will be challenged to push themselves and those they lead to improve student achievement.

MTI 596: Leaders in the Classroom: Closing the Achievement Gap

Course Description: Being a leader is something that can come naturally for some, however there are many ways that becoming a good and effective leader can be learned. This course will help classroom teachers develop the knowledge, skills, and techniques necessary to become a successful leader. This course will take a look at case studies, research, exceptional teachers, pedagogical theory, measurable targets, and classroom management to increase leadership qualities in order to improve student achievement. Whether you are teaching in a low-income community, affluent community, or anything in between this course will help you become a highly effective teacher.

Technology & Google Tools

MTI 542: 21st Century Digital Fluencies for Literacy

Course Description: *The 21st Century Digital Fluencies for Literacy* will provide teachers and administrators the strategies, knowledge and skills that students must master to succeed in a culture of technology-driven automation, abundance, and access to global labor markets. To achieve this, the course and content will draw upon the course textbook, *Literacy is NOT Enough: 21st Century Fluencies for the Digital Age*, by Lee Crockett, Ian Jukes, and Andrew Churches. If students are to thrive in their academic and 21st century careers, then independent and creative thinking hold the highest currency. The authors explain in detail how to add these new components of literacy:

- Solution Fluency
- Information Fluency
- Media Fluency
- Creativity Fluency
- Collaboration Fluency

The authors present an effective framework for upgrading literacy instruction for digital learners by integrating comprehensive literacy or fluency into the traditional curriculum.

MTI 556: Gamification: Boost Comprehension, Collaboration and Learning Using Game-Based Techniques

Course Description: In this course, K-12 educators will take an in-depth look at games, gaming culture and game design to identify the characteristics of gameplay that make it such a powerful learning tool. **Regardless of whether or not you teach technology or are a “Techie”**, you can incorporate these techniques and best practices to gamify your instruction. Move your classroom from teacher centered to student centered while learning methods for transforming lessons into multiplayer games that engage all your learners, including gifted and students with special needs.

MTI 559: Advanced Google Tools in Education

Course Description: This course is designed to provide educators with Google tools to improve communication, share content more effectively, and improve student performance. Participants will use Google Hangouts to participate in professional development that transcends boundaries, providing them with a tool that will make meetings more effective. They will use Google Sites to create a website for their own use at school, placing all information in one convenient location for staff, parents, and students. Students will learn advanced search engine skills to make their searches more efficient, and to provide a list of the top tools for their students. Participants will also learn how to create their own Youtube account, as well as explore many options to fully utilize this as an educational tool. Finally, students will learn how Google Cultural Institute, Google Maps, and Google Explore can be used as powerful tools to improve current teaching.

MTI 560: Web 2.0 Tools for the Classroom

Course Description: This online course will assist teachers in exploring some of the latest web-based tools that can be utilized in the classroom. Teachers will become proficient in classroom management tools, explore how to use video slide shows to enhance projects and other assessments. Teachers will become proficient in a web based study tool that will promote independent and/or live group learning in and out of the classroom. Through these tools, teachers will improve communication with students and parents, increase organization for their students and themselves, and develop multimedia projects and assignments that are ready for immediate implementation.

MTI 561: Web 2.0 Cool Tools for Schools

Course Description: This course is designed to provide teachers with some of the best and latest web tools. Teachers will become proficient in several web tools and implement them immediately into their classroom. Dynamic interactive multimedia presentations, mind maps, word clouds, and exploration of virtual web tools are a few of the topics that will be explored. Through these web tools teachers will be able to bring their lessons to life, create new student projects, and organize all course content resources through bookmarking and canvas websites.

MTI 564: Google Tools for Educators

Course Description: This course is designed to provide educators with a variety of tools available through Google Apps for Education. Participants will gain valuable time through increased productivity using Gmail and Calendar advanced features. They will also learn how to maximize their own as well as student organization of documents through Google Drive. Educators will be able to greatly improve immediate feedback to students through Google Drive as well as Google Forms. Finally, they will implement a learning management system that greatly improves communication with students and with parents and makes all classroom materials available from anywhere.

MTI 566: Education and Social Media: Toward A Digital Future

Course Description: Social media has changed how students communicate, relate, receive information, and learn. This course will help classroom teachers develop the knowledge, skills and techniques necessary to responsibly embed social media into the classroom. We will examine how social and digital media is changing the future of education, explore the challenges of integrating social media in the classroom, and use research and case studies to improve the way social media is being used in the classroom today.

MTI 574: Minds Online: Teaching Effectively with Technology

Course Description: This course is designed to provide the learner with tools and strategies to teach effectively with technology. Technology itself is not a curriculum, but rather a way of organizing and delivering instruction. The course takes a brain based research approach to explaining why the strategies and techniques work online. This is a great course for beginners all the way to advanced technology users.

MTI 575: Unlocking Students Potential with Technology

Course Description: This course is designed to provide the learner with tools and strategies to teach effectively with technology. Technology itself is not a curriculum, but rather a way of organizing, delivering and receiving instruction. The course takes an experiential approach to explaining why the strategies and techniques work. This is a great course for beginners all the way to advanced technology users. The course is also great for teachers wanting to incorporate technology more effectively in their classroom/school.

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