

Call for Papers

Virtual Middle Grades Teaching and Learning

Guest Editors: **Brooke Eisenbach** and **Nicole Miller**

A special issue in **Middle Grades Research Journal**

Toni Williams and Shelley Thomas, Editors

The overall focus of this Special Issue will center on research on middle grades virtual teaching and learning. The scope of this issue will report on empirical research that speaks to middle level teaching and learning within the virtual or online classroom context. Specifically, the purpose of this call is to give attention to research pertaining to middle level virtual teaching and learning, as well as teacher preparation for virtual middle level teaching. We invite research regarding middle level virtual education, as well as research addressing emergency remote teaching and learning during the pandemic experience. This issue has the potential to fill a current gap in the literature centered around effective pedagogy, teacher preparation, and attention to the growing context of virtual education for middle grades learners.

Despite the continued expansion of virtual education for middle grade learners, virtual education continues to demonstrate challenges and limitations in student assessment and learning outcomes for young adolescents. While the body of research that features virtual education within the collegiate and high school classroom has continued to grow, there remains a need for research that targets middle grades online teaching and learning that supports meeting the developmental needs of middle grades learners. Specifically, for this special issue, we aim to examine research with connection to the AMLE tenets of effective middle level education.

Suggested topics for the special issue include:

- Characteristics of successful middle level virtual teachers and learners
- Middle level virtual teacher collaboration
- Middle level teacher education and preparation
- Virtual community and relationships
- Virtual pedagogy
- Virtual assessment
- Meeting needs of diverse populations and diverse abilities
- Emerging technologies in virtual teaching and learning
- Inquiries about research that explores other aspects of virtual middle level teaching and learning are welcome!

Timeline:

Submissions for this special issue are **due March 29, 2024**.

Guidelines for submissions: All manuscripts must adhere to APA 7th edition format, include an abstract of 200-300 words, and range between 20 - 30 pages in length (including camera ready tables, charts, figures, and references). Only electronic submissions are accepted at mgjtmw@gmail.com. Authors should utilize the provided outline in structuring their manuscript for consideration and review:

Chapter Outline and Guidelines for Middle Grades Research Journal Special Issue Submissions:

Abstract: (200-300 words)

- 1) Problem statement / Limitations of literature
- 2) Purpose of study
- 3) Methods
- 4) Overall results
- 5) Conclusion

Introduction

- 1) General phenomenon
- 2) Problem statements with direct connection to middle school philosophy/young adolescent development
- 3) Limitations of existing literature on middle level education
- 4) Purpose statement (e.g., The purpose of this research study is to...)

Review of Literature

- 1) Description of theoretical/conceptual framework
 - (a) Include definitions
 - (b) Strengths of theory/model
 - (c) Weaknesses of theory/model
- 2) Comparison to other theories/models (strengths and weaknesses)
- 3) Review of relevant literature within middle level education
- 4) Assumptions (if any)
- 5) Research questions

Methodology

- 1) Study design
 - (a) Quantitative (e.g., experimental, non-experimental, quasi-experimental)
 - (b) Qualitative (e.g., phenomenology, ethnography, narrative inquiry, case study)
 - (c) Mixed (e.g., exploratory, explanatory, convergent)
- 2) Study Participants (sample or population)
 - (a) Sampling method
 - (b) Sample demographics
- 3) Data collection
 - (a) Procedures (e.g., time frame, location, etc.)
 - (b) Instruments / protocols (include in an appendix)

Results/Findings

- 1) Description of data analyses
 - (a) Data coding (qualitative)
 - (b) Statistical procedures (quantitative)
- 2) Description of specific findings/results from study

Discussion

- 1) Discussion/explanation of how study results fit with prior research and relevant theory
- 2) Discussion/explanation of how study speaks to middle level virtual education
- 3) Discussion of study's limitations and delimitations

Conclusion

- 1) Concluding remarks which may include/address the following: impact on field of virtual education, practitioners, etc.; future directions/research; lessons learned; recommendations for virtual teaching and learning

References

- APA 7th edition format
- Current/accurate hyperlinks

Appendices

- Include copies of all data collection protocols (e.g., surveys, interview questions)

On a separate page, include the author(s) name, professional title, institutional affiliation, and all contact information (phone, mailing address, email).

Submission of a manuscript implies commitment to publish in *Middle Grades Research Journal*. Authors should not simultaneously submit this manuscript to another journal or book for publication consideration. All manuscripts will undergo a review/revision process.