
11-2020

Education on Boyer 4th Newsletter - November 2020

Education Department

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Sharpening Intellect | Deepening Christian Faith | Inspiring Action

Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.



EDUCATION ON Boyer 4th

The campus newsletter of the Messiah University Education Department

Issue 3 | November 2020

VIRTUAL CONFERENCES

Middle-Level Teachers
Specific Webinars

SCHOLARSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

Read more about how our
graduates and current
students making a difference
with their research

ALUM GIVE BACK

Current students are learning
from Alum and their
experiences teaching virtually

In Every Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT, TECHNOLOGY CORNER, PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD, PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT, ALUMNI ADVICE, DEVOTIONAL, UPCOMING EVENTS



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DR. TINA KELLER

Concern... Love... Kindness... Humility...

November 2020

Each November, I look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving and remembering the many blessings of the year. Then came 2020. I don't know about you, but there have been times when I felt like there weren't many things to be thankful for. Even if I did attempt to muster gratitude, I wondered if it might somehow diminish the pain and trials that many have experienced. Thanksgiving 2020 might be just another event to cancel.

As I was considering the theme of this month I was reminded of a book that I read over the summer. The book, *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* written by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg, explains the traditions and Jewish life that Jesus and his followers experienced. If you love history and culture and want to understand the social context of Jesus, I think that you would enjoy this book.

One concept that especially spoke to me was the idea of **Kavanah**. In Judaism, the concept of Kavanah means to have continual awareness of God's presence in your daily life. No matter if you are working on an essay at midnight, taking a nap between classes, praying for the health of a loved one, or laughing with a roommate; God is there. He is with us. This practice requires a deliberate sense of concentration and awareness as it is so easy to move through life on autopilot. For some Jewish believers, their decision to wear head coverings is an outward expression of the belief that they are always in the presence of an Almighty God.



So, how might this connect to our month's theme of humility?

It is easy to be thankful when we see tangible blessings in our life; an A on a paper, a new job offer, success at work, restored health or goals accomplished. But what if this year didn't provide any of that? What if it was one setback after another? If we view Thanksgiving through the eyes of humility we realize that it really isn't about us at all. Humility provides the space to be thankful for God's presence; his innate goodness and mercy. We are thankful that he has been with us along the way, loving us and cheering us forward. The authors explain that the essence of Kavanah is to be "humbly in awe of God's presence all around them" (Spangler & Tverberg, 2009, p.87).

On the Cover:

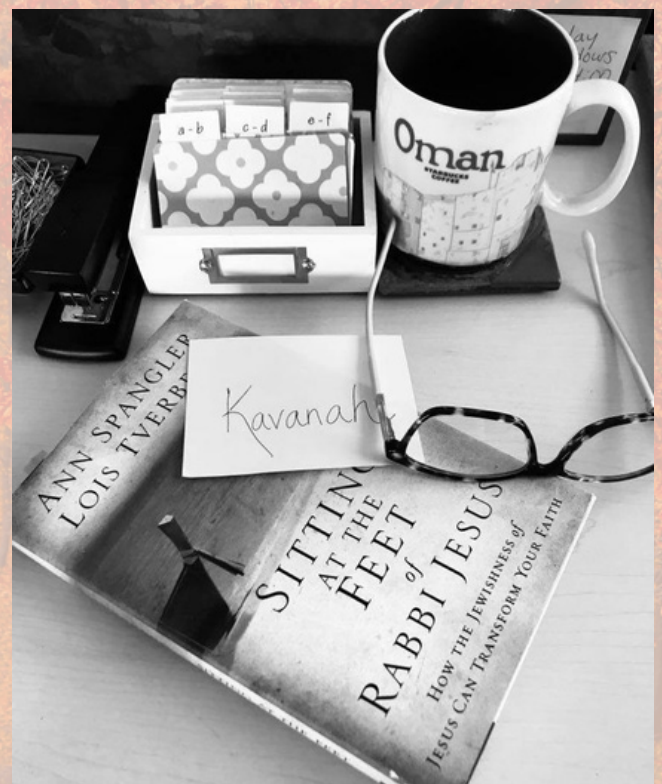
Hannah Weller, Junior Music Education Major, captured the fall beauty of our beloved Yellow Breeches.

Concern... Love... Kindness... Humility...

One suggestion in the book was to write the word Kavanah on an index card and place it somewhere that one might see it often. I have decided to place it on my desk at work. I have found that just this simple reminder helps me to continually realize that God is always here. I can be thankful for his presence and love as I drink my warm cup of coffee, grade papers or listen to students. I am the humble vessel of this glory. I am thankful to be his.

My challenge to you (and myself) this month is to reimagine thankfulness through the lens of humility. As you go about your daily rituals and responsibilities how might you express gratitude and thankfulness? In viewing life in this way, I feel overwhelmed as there are so many blessings that I simply do not notice. It is my prayer for you to experience God's love and presence in new and wonderful ways. May we all be humble enough to see it!

All the Best,
Dr. Keller



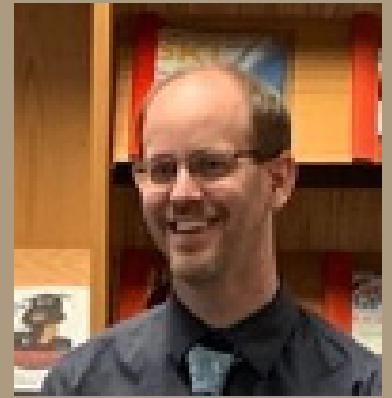
1 Peter 3: 8-9 (CEV)

Finally, all of you should agree and have concern and love for each other. You should also be kind and humble. Don't be hateful and insult people just because they are hateful and insult you. Instead, treat everyone with kindness...

Virtual Conferencing in the Time of COVID-19

Dr. David Hazen

Assistant Professor of Middle-Level and Social Science Education



**UPDATE: ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE ON HOLD
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

The above has been an unwelcome and all too common message for students and practicing teachers wishing to engage in professional development, networking, and collaborative learning activities this fall. However, moving events from in-person to online has provided some unique opportunities for students to take advantage of, including reduced or free webinars, conference events, and teaching resources. Additionally, it has opened up opportunities for students to collaborate with administration and practicing teachers while also providing opportunities to present at statewide conferences.

This past month, the Pennsylvania Association for Middle-Level Education (PAMLE), a part of the nationwide Association for Middle-Level Education (AMLE), has been hosting a series of Webinars focusing on teaching connecting with Middle-Level students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Webinars combine both nationally and regionally recognized researchers and authors with administrators and teachers who are in the field in Pennsylvania. Topics range from “Supporting Students’ Social/Emotional Development” to “Promoting and Student Moral and Ethical Behaviors: Understanding the Challenges!” Past Webinars are available to view on the [PAMLE YouTube channel](#), while future Webinars are located on the PAMLE website at <https://www.pamle.org/webinars>. Many of the Webinars are available for ACT 48 credits.



AMLE also has provided a set of resources to aid teachers during the pandemic in a COVID-19 [Resource Center](#), which, along with the [PAMLE Resource Center](#), provides some quality resources for teachers and student teachers alike.



Plans are currently in the works to move the PAMLE state conference online as well. PAMLE will be hosting its 2021 State Conference at the end of February and is primarily looking for students to present during special 60-minute speed sessions. Each 60-minute session is divided into three 15-minute segments, allowing participants to get more personal attention and more information in a short amount of time. Topics such as School Culture and Virtual Learning opportunities are some of the strands of particular interest. Check out the Call for Proposals for more information.

WEBINARS TO SUPPORT YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

STUDENTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Bryce Eckenrode

MEET BRYCE

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

Home School District: Mt. Lebanon School District

Major: Middle Level Education (4-8) Math Concentration

Why did you choose Messiah?

I chose Messiah because of the incredible community of support. I wanted to be able to contribute during classes rather than sitting in the back of a big auditorium. The professors want to hear what we have to say.

What do you love about Messiah?

The professors at Messiah take the time to get to know each student personally because they want to see us all succeed. The number of opportunities that the Education Department has presented me with is truly amazing.

DEVOTIONAL

A MONTHLY DEVOTION WRITTEN BY MESSIAH
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION STUDENTS.

HIKING THROUGH THE VALLEY

Written by Brittany Roberts

On my first trip to Glacier National Park, I was astounded by the beauty that surrounded me. While I was aware that I'd be seeing majestic purple mountains and beautiful wildflowers, I was surprised to also see the deep, dark valleys in between. We often hear others talking about their experiences on the mountains, climbing upward. But, it's rare to hear people talking about their experiences in the valleys. This same phenomenon is seen in our society today. We see all the perfect pictures and experiences on social media, but not the tears and fears that accompany them. We talk to our friends about our newest purchases and coolest experiences, but we rarely talk about the nights that we lay in bed wondering why God brought us into this world. If our friends don't want to hear about our time in the valleys... if our families don't want to listen to our concerns... if our significant others push us away when we need someone the most... How can we be sure that God will? Does God see me when I'm walking in the valley? Can God even see me below the shadows of the mountains high? Does He even care to know what I'm experiencing? The answer to all these questions, YES. God not only loves the world, but He loves YOU.

Jesus Christ walks alongside you, suffers with you, and ensures you are seen as righteous by the Father because of His work on the cross. Isaiah 41:10 reads, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." God does not abandon us. The Lord is our shepherd and He will not leave us behind. Remember this. Even on your darkest days, in your lowest lows, when you feel walked over, lifeless, and ignored, know God is with you and God is for you. If you're feeling stuck in a valley, be encouraged! The light will soon shine there too. Valleys are all about perspective. Once the sun rises to mid noon, you too will see the light!





PROFESSOR GOODLING

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Office: Boyer 422

Email: bgoodli2@messiah.edu

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA

Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, concentration in Early Childhood, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA

Bachelor of Science in Home Economics, minor in Early Childhood Education, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA

CLASSES I TEACH

EDUC 212 Language Development
EDUC 415 Practices in Early Childhood Education

SERVICE

Friendship Family Program, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, PA, 2006-present· Provide Messiah College international students with care and hospitality while away from home and family

Mountain Ridge Church Vision Team, Dillsburg, PA, 2014-present· Support church leadership to fulfill the mission of the church

Capital Area Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children· Since 2010, I have served in a variety of leadership positions on the board of CACPennAEYC, a non-profit organization committed to serving children, their families and early childhood professionals

WHY DID I BECOME A PROFESSOR

I graduated from Messiah College with a B.S. in Home Economics and a minor in Early Childhood Education. After spending my final college semester student teaching in the Early Learning Center on campus, I knew I had found my passion in early childhood education. Several years later I completed the coursework and student teaching necessary to obtain PA State Teaching Certification in grades N-3. With this background I gained experience teaching first grade, third grade and preschool. In 1999 I was hired at Messiah College to teach preschool at the Early Learning Center, the place where I initially found my passion for young children. During my 12 years at the ELC, as a teacher and later the director, I uncovered another passion - mentoring pre-service teachers! After furthering my education, I am thrilled to be currently teaching in both the Education and Human Development and Family Science Departments at Messiah University, promoting best practices in early childhood education.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE VERSE AND WHY

Proverbs 3:5-6 New American Standard Bible

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." The KJV of this passage ends with "He will direct your paths." There have been several very difficult experiences in my life where I was uncertain (or even frustrated) about where God was leading me. I have learned not to ask why, but to trust in God's sovereignty for the future. A favorite quote, attributed to Homer, is "I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future." Remembering how God carried me through difficult times in the past gives me courage to face any uncertain times in the future.

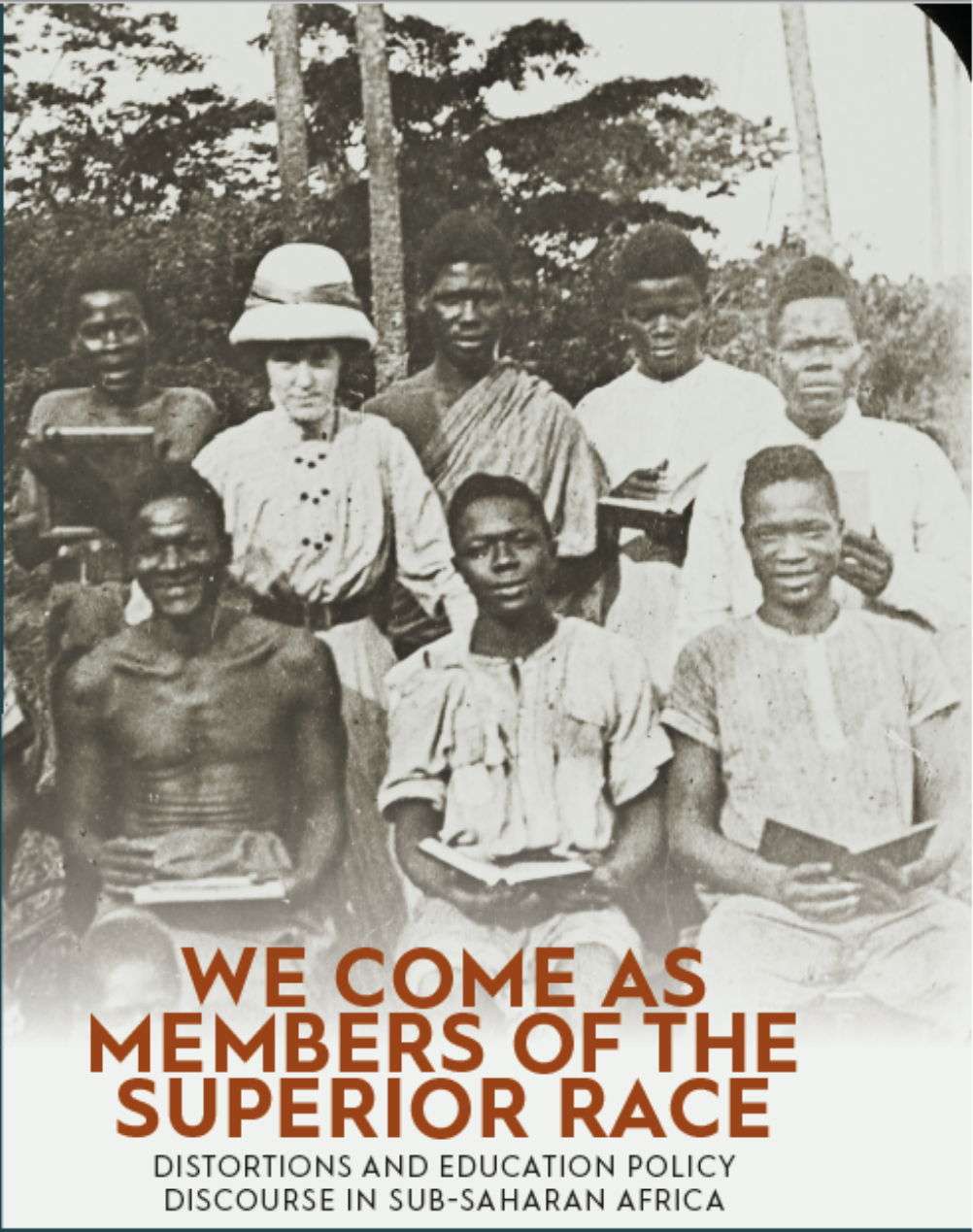
WHAT I DO ON THE WEEKENDS

In my spare time I enjoy hiking and fly fishing with my family, flower gardening and collecting antique children's toys.

WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT MESSIAH

What I love most about teaching at Messiah University is our students. They are highly motivated and committed to making a difference in the world.

OBED MFUM-MENSAH | WE COME AS MEMBERS OF THE SUPERIOR RACE



WE COME AS MEMBERS OF THE SUPERIOR RACE

DISTORTIONS AND EDUCATION POLICY DISCOURSE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

OBED MFUM-MENSAH

<https://messiah.zoom.us/j/96426421595>

Meeting ID: 964 2642 1595

Passcode: 646816

Book Talk



Tuesday
November
17th at 7:00
via Zoom

Westerners have long represented Africans as “backwards,” “primitive,” and “unintelligent,” distortions which have opened the door for American philanthropies to push their own education agendas in Africa. *We Come as Members of the Superior Race* discusses the origin and history of these dangerous stereotypes and western “infantilization” of African societies, exploring how their legacy continues to inform contemporary educational and development discourses. By viewing African societies as subordinated in a global geopolitical order, these problematic stereotypes continue to influence education policy and research in Sub-Sahara Africa today.

***NEW BOOK WRITTEN BY DR. MFUM-MENSAH
PUBLISHED THIS MONTH***

HEARD IN THE CLASSROOM

What are we talking about this month?



ERIN HAINES

Child Development

It fascinates me to learn about how something so common as pregnancy and the development of children is so perfectly and carefully designed by God. You can see how much love He put into His creation.

KATE PROTHERO

I'm really enjoying my class for High Incidence Instructional Strategies where I enjoyed researching evidence-based practices for teaching math to students with intellectual disabilities. It was neat to learn how applying a variety of methods for instruction can make all the difference in a student's comprehension of a concept.

ELENA CASTILLO

"Dr. Burchard's Inclusion Practices class is very enlightening. She teaches us how to accommodate to many different groups of students. We are constantly learning of new groups and how to teach them. We focus on what works in the classroom."

TRENDS IN THE FIELD

Recently, what was deemed the "Reading Wars" of the 1980s have been reignited in the field of literacy education. What is the question driving the debate? *How is reading best taught?* Proponents of explicit systematic phonics instruction say the "science of reading" backs up their claims while whole language theorists push for an instructional emphasis on meaning making. Here, you can sign up to watch a free webinar called "Unpacking the Science of Reading" that will give you some context for the current discussion:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AA16NvwQTHiQ41tlzxcGwg

I also encourage you to talk to your friends in EDUC 301 about the debate. They might have their own professional opinions to share!





Kaylee Getz - Education Cert Grades 4-8

I'm from Huntingdon, PA (about 2 hours from Messiah), and I'm a tour guide at a museum there!



Maddy Myers - Education Cert Grades PreK-4

I am from Centre County, Pennsylvania and I enjoy music, playing piano, reading, and watching movies

MEET OUR 2020 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

Haylee Miller - Education Dual Cert
Grades PreK-4, Special Ed N-12

I am from Gettysburg, PA and I was in an education program in my high school!

Hannah Steckbeck - Education Cert
Grades PreK-4

I'm from Lancaster, PA. My favorite bible verse is Joshua 1:9.





Clare Bradshaw - Education Dual Cert
Grades PreK-4, Special Ed N-12

I'm from Damascus, Maryland and I'm looking forward to seeing what the next four years at Messiah look like for me!



Alli Swank - Education Dual Cert Grades
PreK-4, Special Ed N-12

She's from Pennsylvania and she loves newsies. Her favorite quote is - "I don't need the limp to sell papes. I got POYSONALITY!" - Crutchie, Newsies

EACH MONTH WE WILL HIGHLIGHT 8 WONDERFUL FIRST YEARS! REACH OUT TO MAKE THEM WELCOMED.

Payton Jackson - Education Dual Cert
Grades PreK-4, Special Ed N-12

He's from Dayton, Virginia and he's on the wrestling team here at Messiah and he's also a YouTuber. One of his favorite quotes is, "Stay Positive" "Stay Motivated."

Jenna Ryan - Education Dual Cert Grades
PreK-4, Special Ed N-12

She is from Severn, Maryland and she taught little kids how to swim over the summer.



SCHOLARSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES



In October 2020, Messiah University celebrated three scholarly achievements of a student and a recent alumna from the Special Education program. Shannon Hogan (class of 2021) presented at the state conference of the Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children, PACEC, about Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) in Special Olympics. As part of that project, she published editable AAC tools on Messiah's digital repository, MOSAIC.

(<https://mosaic.messiah.edu/edu/st/1/> and <https://mosaic.messiah.edu/edu/st/2/>)

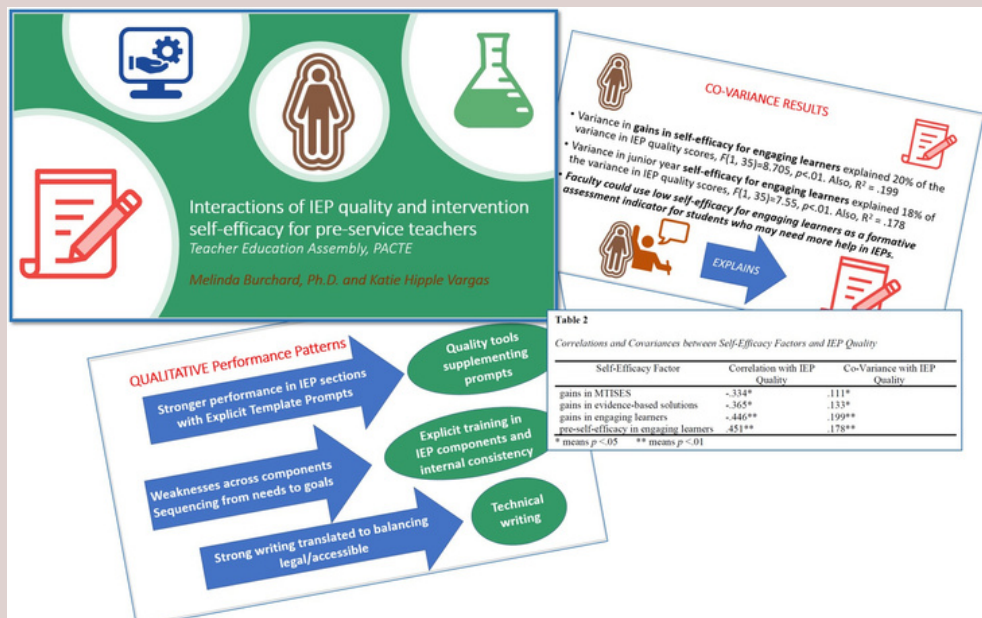
During October, we also saw publication of an article co-authored by Katie Hipple Vargas (May 2020) and Dr. Burchard about IEP quality interacting with self-efficacy of pre-service teachers. That paper was then presented at the state conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators, PACTE. Katie now teaches life skills special education in Warwick School District.

Congratulations to both Katie and Shannon!

“

...20% of the variance in IEP quality score may be explained by the variance in gains in self-efficacy for engaging learners.

”





PROFESSOR VADER

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Office: Kline 217

Email: avader@messiah.edu

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, B.S. Animal Science
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, M.S. Biology Education

CLASSES I TEACH

Life Sciences
Human Anatomy & Physiology
Science Curriculum & Instruction

SERVICE

Until this Fall I have spent a good bit of time working with the Harrisburg Science Camp team which brought science activities to different schools in our area. My husband, David, and I also serve as deacons at our church, Dillsburg BIC.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE VERSE AND WHY

Though I fathom all mysteries and knowledge, without love I am nothing. 1Cor 13:2

Sometimes being caught up in academia we start to think that what matters most is knowledge. When our daughter, Emily, was born all this was turned on its head for me. Emily had one extra chromosome, Down Syndrome, which meant a different type of future than I had imagined. Through the years I learned and continue to learn that what really matters is the giving and receiving of love. "Without love I am nothing"

IF I WASN'T A PROFESSOR I WOULD BE...

...a dog behaviorist/nutritionist! I love reading about animal (especially dog) behavior and thinking about how to best mesh our lives for the benefit of all. My current favorite author is Pippa Matinson (The Labrador Handbook, Total Recall)

HIDDEN TALENTS

Maybe not quite talents, but I have been learning to play viola under the tutelage of a wonderful neighbor who happens to be Messiah University's viola professor. I have advanced from "Twinkle, twinkle", but unfortunately business from COVID has whittled my practice time down to almost zero.

FAVORITE VACATION MEMORY

Other than our epic 2 month trip across the US visiting amazing National Parks, my favorite memory is the Coast to Coast (England) walk my husband, David, and I completed in 2017. This walk went from St. Bees on the coast of the Irish Sea to Robin Hood's Bay on the North Sea. It wasn't always easy, but the people, the sights, and the experience were amazing. We have a great slideshow if anyone is ever interested in viewing.

Literacy and Math Commonalities

By Dr. Buckley

In elementary school classrooms, you will often find English Language Arts instruction to be totally separate from Mathematics instruction. In the last decade, we have found some common ground and have been intentional about making connections between Language Arts and Mathematics instruction through the use of children's literature. But are there even more commonalities hidden within the disciplines?

Below is a partial list of some common characteristics between literacy and math. Can you think of more? Email cbuckley@messiah.edu if so!

Common content	Math Example	Literacy Example
Early skill progression	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Random numbers out of sequence- correct sequence- 1:1 correspondence- cardinality- fluency with basic facts- problem solving and critical thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Random letters out of sequence- Correct sequence- phonics- phonemic awareness- fluency in reading- comprehension
Use of Symbols	+ - x ÷ () % \$! numbers	? . ! @ letters
Place value	Placement of numeral matters Consider the "1" in 921 vs. 129	Placement of letters matters Consider the sound of "h" in hat vs. that
Foundational skill	Basic facts	Sight words
Complete statement	Number sentence	Sentence
Incomplete statement	Expression	Fragment
Daily Use	Time, purchases, temperature, distance, space, etc.	Read – books, email, letters, cards, billboards, etc.
Rules	Function tables, proofs, properties, Etc.	Capitalize names, <u>i</u> before e except after c, <u>cvce</u> means long vowel, etc.

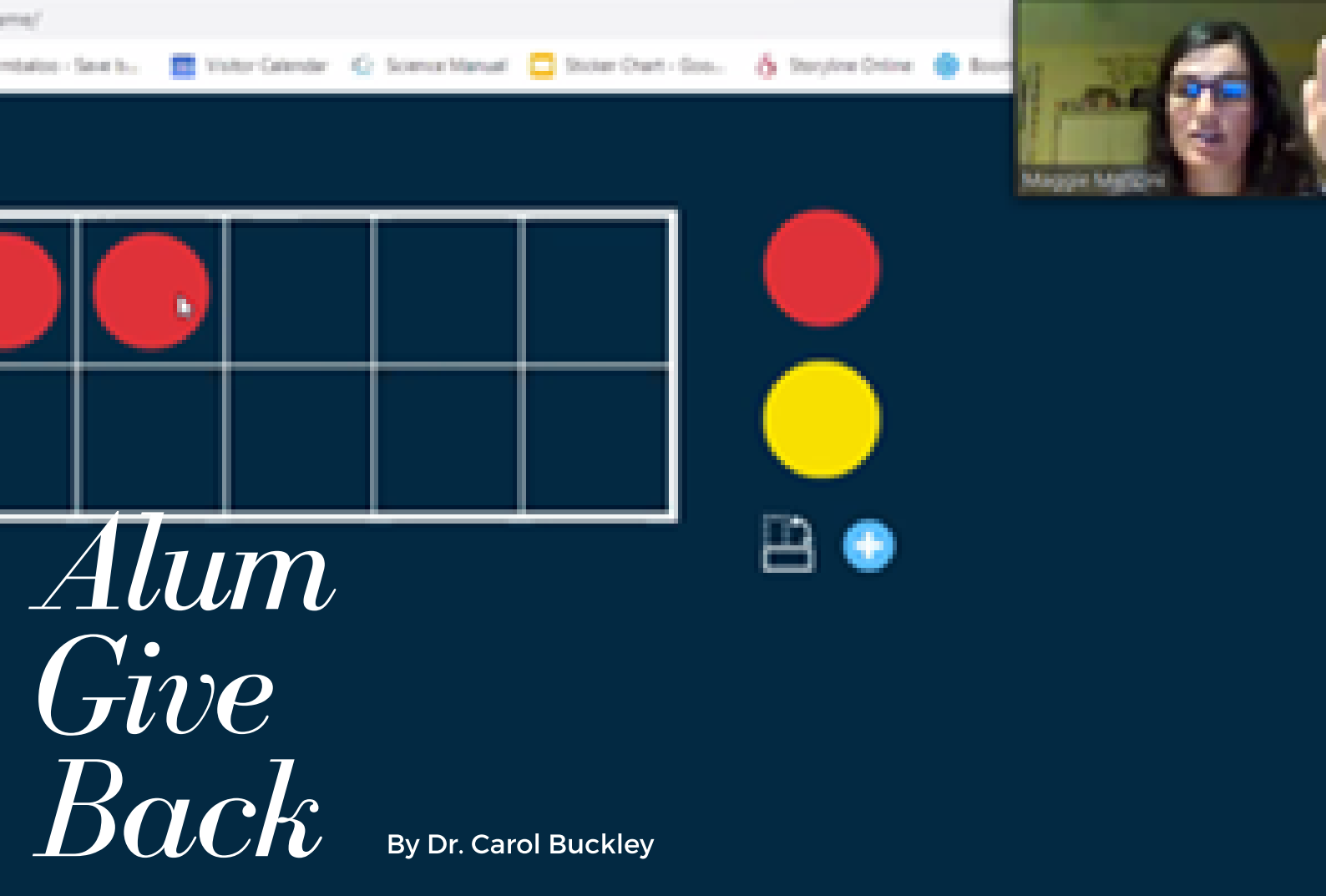
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
OF MESSIAH UNIVERSITY

First Year Teacher Panel

Oct. 22, 2020

We were joined by 5 Messiah Alums during the middle of their very hectic first year of teaching. The guests taught a variety of grades and subjects but all had one thing in common to share: teaching during a pandemic is hard work! But they all are finding creative ways to manage with students completely online or in a hybrid model. They could all agree that Messiah's education program helped them with lesson planning and keeping a positive attitude in the midst of all of the chaos. To see a recording of the meeting please email eamu@messiah.edu.





Alum Give Back

By Dr. Carol Buckley

This is such an interesting time to be an educator. The current environment with increased frequency of virtual learning provides an opportunity to reflect on our practice and rise to the challenge of learning new ways to be an effective teacher.

One thing that I believe makes a huge difference in a college classroom are the experiences and associated stories that the professors share with pre-service teachers. When professors provide authentic examples from their own experience in similar situations in the K-12 setting, it creates a much more rich learning opportunity than strictly learning theory without those examples. However, when it comes to our current situation with so many students from the K-12 system learning in any number of different virtual settings, many professors have less real-world experience from which to pull. I have experience teaching adult learners virtually. I've read about strategies for teaching PreK-4 students virtually. While I still have an ample supply of applicable stories and expertise about teaching my specific discipline, I have no real experience from which to pull when it comes to teaching five year olds about numbers, one-to-one correspondence, or counting sequences in the virtual world.

Fortunately, I know who does have that experience. Messiah University alum who have been in the field teaching through the initial stages of the pandemic have this experience from which we can pull. Many of our alum in the early stages of their career were thrust into teaching remotely in the spring 2020, and continue to do so either totally remote or with a hybrid model this fall. On August 31 (Maggie Mancini) and September 2 (Aubrey Werley, Genna Mitchell Heath, and Kelsey Strum) shared their experience via ZOOM webinar with students in Math: Climate, Curriculum, and Instruction I and Principles and Structures of Mathematics classes. They discussed some resources, virtual manipulatives, virtual management of students, instructional delivery, curriculum, practical ideas, and much more. It was rewarding to listen to the profound wisdom, rich experiences, and creative instruction these alum have developed to adjust to teaching through a pandemic. I am sincerely grateful for their contribution to the discussion. I admire their dedication to their students, and have great respect for the work you are doing.

Photos from the Field

MESSIAH STUDENTS SHARE CLASSROOM MOMENTS

EMILY STEVENS

*Second Grade
Northside Elementary
Mechanicsburg School
District*



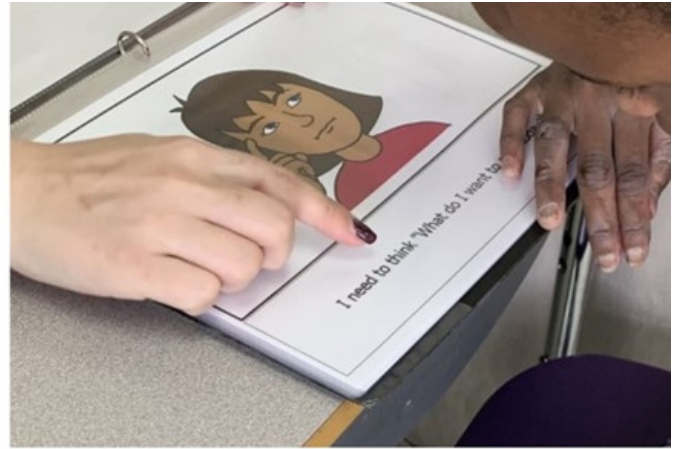
Giving a developmental
spelling assessment



"Fishing for 10" - an addition game

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

*FAPE Free and Appropriate Public Education
meeting needs virtually*



CEC RESOURCES FOR DELIVERING FAPE DURING COVID

Dr. Burchard's favorite collection of technology and pedagogy supports

The photos above show use of materials designed by Messiah University students serving children in the multiple disabilities class at Wellsville Elementary School. These represent varied specialized pedagogies that require touching shared materials, hand-over-hand prompting, or working in close proximity with learners. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, requires we meet the unique needs of children who qualify for special education. Eligible children qualify to receive a "free appropriate public education", FAPE. The Endrew F Supreme Court case of 2017 set a standard of ambitious expectations. So how do we meet such unique needs during a pandemic? The challenge to deliver FAPE now involves new technologies for virtual teaching, enhanced skills in communicating with adults who are supporting virtual learning, and specialized pedagogies less reliant upon touching or proximity. The Council for Exceptional Children, CEC, compiled and shared resources to support special educators in IEP revisions, technology, and problem-solving to meet the unique needs of learners in special education:

<https://exceptionalchildren.org/improving-your-practice/resource-library/resources-teaching-remotely>

- Everyone Can Think About Balloons: Scaffolding for Comprehensible Input in Mainstream Classrooms
- Supporting ELLs in the General Education Classroom
- Distance Learning for ELs
- The Perfect Beauty Makeover



TESOL Symposium

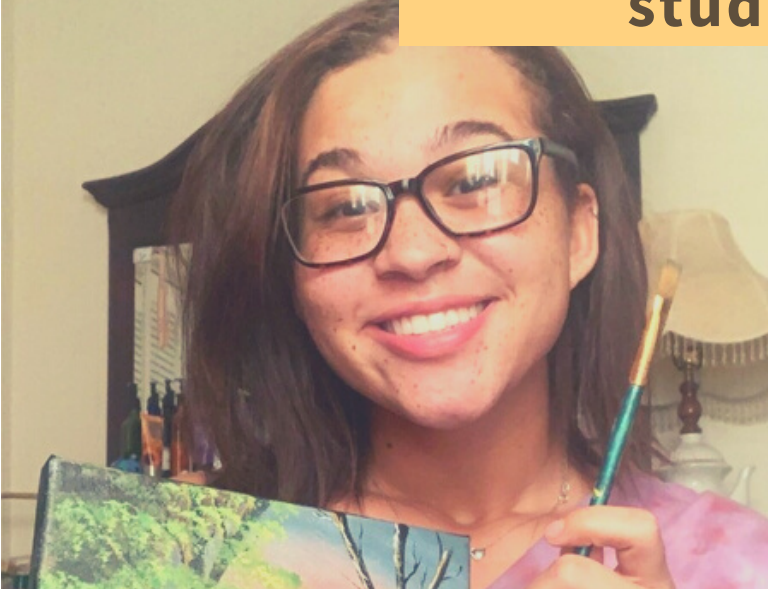
TINA KELLER IS INVITING YOU TO A
SCHEDULED ZOOM MEETING.

NOVEMBER 16TH
5PM

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
[HTTPS://MESSIAH.ZOOM.US/J/9230658811](https://messiah.zoom.us/j/9230658811)
MEETING ID: 923 065 8811 PASSCODE: 6RM6RY



We have such creative students!



Four Creative Juniors Share Their Talents

In the top left we have Becca Ziegler, a Middle Level Education major with a certification in grades 4-8 with a math concentration. Tap is her way of expressing herself, it is an emotional release and a way for her to praise the Lord. The image in the top right we have Emily Watson, an Elementary Education major with certification in grades PreK-4 and a minor in children and youth services. Singing has always been a passion of hers and she joined the Concert Choir her freshman year; it challenges her and provides her a fun way to express her creativity. In the bottom left we have Tara Pryor, an Elementary Education major with a minor in studio art. She has always loved to paint and it is a nice, comforting escape from reality for her and she suggests we all pick up a paintbrush! In the bottom right we have Alexa Renda, a Pre-K-4 Elementary Education major with a minor in children and youth services. She decorated her prosthetic leg to make it less of a scary thing for her students. She did this with comics to help students associate it with something familiar and exciting for them to look at, and encourage them to ask questions if they want to. By showing students that disabilities exist and are nothing to be afraid of, they become more accepting and compassionate for those who are different from them.



Dr. Anita Voelker
Professor Emerita of Education

ANITA VOELKER

Literacy Research Award

**OPEN TO ALL EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT STUDENTS**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PRESENTING
AT A CONFERENCE, COMPLETING
HONORS RESEARCH, OR CONDUCTING
A SERVICE ORIENTED LITERACY
PROJECT?

Funding is Available

Applications can be
found here

Or Talk with Dr. Keller



ALUMNI ADVICE

LESSONS FROM MESSIAH ALUMNI

ALUMNI PROFILE

*Maggie
Marcini*

CLASS OF 2019

Bancroft Elementary
Kennett Square, PA

1-5 grade Life Skills (special
education)

ADVICE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

My first year I had five students and four paraprofessionals in my classroom, so I quickly learned I was managing many different counterparts each day. In college, I had aspirations of the teacher I was going to be, as I'm sure you do, too! Don't lose sight of them in your first year, but also realize it may take you time to build up to them. More than half of my students' families spoke Spanish, making parent communication an overwhelming and laborious endeavor. It was heart breaking not being able to pick up the phone and call home to share a proud moment with a parent. Especially when I knew my non-verbal students wouldn't be able to independently share it with them either. I was overwhelmed and working 12 hour days and still taking work home. By October, I had settled into a routine of choosing one thing to improve from the week before. Just one. Sometimes it was adding in new task bins, fine tuning paraprofessional schedules, and sometimes it was as simple as taking my lunch break. Choose one thing at a time, and do it well. By December, I had found a solution to my communication barrier with the help of a colleague and the TalkingPoints app. You won't have your perfect classroom or be your vision of the "perfect teacher" on day one, and that's ok. Appreciate every smile and laugh you get from your students. You already know that's why we do what we do. When you get overwhelmed, and you will (it's normal!), take a breath and choose one thing. Love your students, and find unwavering grace for yourself.

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NOVEMBER

Lead and Learn Conference- November 14

TESOL Symposium November 16th 5:00 via Zoom

Dr. Mfum-Mensah's Book Talk Celebration-November 17th 7:00
via Zoom

EAMU Conversation Café
November 19th 7pm via Zoom

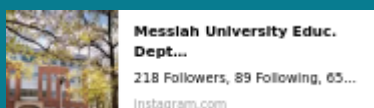
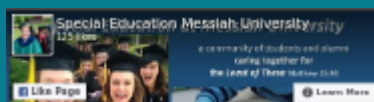
Penn TESOL Conference
Nov.21

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Email ideas to tkeller@messiah.edu



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