

# MODEL SCHOOLS, MONTI INSIGHTS: A MONTHLY REFLECTION FROM MONTICELLO EDUCATORS.

*Each year, a team of Monticello staff members attends the Model Schools Conference, where they are immersed in opportunities to learn about innovative, out-of-the-box strategies that are transforming education and student success nationwide. This year, we asked each attendee from our district to bring some of that knowledge back to Monticello. Each month, the Navigator will feature a "spotlight" story highlighting new ways to engage our students and prepare them to be life-ready students. Our November spotlight is courtesy of RJK Art Teacher, Tricia Cahalan.*

## **What I learned from Model Schools Conference in June is this:**

We are who we are and we can be our own worst enemy or our greatest cheerleader. We should BE BOLD when it comes to our students' education. We should create a place where the future leaders have the



place to TINK and THINK. I would rather have a class of outside the box thinkers who want to try everything they can get their hands on; than kids that just follow everything to the letter. Going into my 16<sup>th</sup> year as an educator in a middle school setting I know the world is a completely different place than the kids I've taught in the past. I want passionate learners in my room. I realized that has to start with me. I need to be the Bold Tinker/Thinker in my classroom, for if I

don't model what I would like to see from my students they will not experience what they could.

**Goal 1:** If I walked into my room what would I expect? What would I see as a middle schooler? What do I want them to know? They should know how to use certain materials correctly for safety and creation purposes. I should see kids finding out who they are and what they really like. What are they really interested in? What do they want to SAY?

**Goal 2:** How I can make those students who are there and want to learn become better and move on? – Give them what they need. So far this year I've taught basic skills for use of materials the kids now get to make what they want.

**Goal 3:** What do I get out of this? Hopefully, a lot of creativity going on and I will find students who have become passionate learners about something, even if it's a unique way to create notes to make things easier for them. My ultimate goal is that students will leave middle school with a love of something they can keep with them for the rest of their lives.

Model Schools Conference is not just any conference it is an experience in learning about what we do every day all day, and a place to reaffirm what we do and find some new ways to share what we have...Knowledge- and that is the POWER.

Please enjoy my part two on Visual Note Taking. I could not just type. A little doodle goes a long way. Thank You! – Trish Cahalan

November 2016, Tricia Cahalan

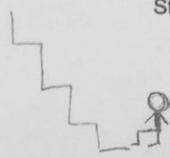
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**PROCESS / Pretty**

Visual Note taking as guide based on *Wendi Pillars* book- Visual Notetaking for Educators

The concept of an Edu-sketch does not follow how most of us have been taught. However, we must remember that we are learning along with our students and they learn in multiple facets. Students need every advantage they can get to become avid learners and leaders of their own education. If we are their leaders to inspiring our future leaders we should give them everything we can.

"To change the world,  
It starts with one step  
However small,  
First step is hardest of all  
Once you get to your gate  
You will walk in tall  
You said you never did,  
Cause you might die trying," – DMB



Students are active learners in the right situation  
so why not give them the world.  
One small step as a change can develop  
a group of learners who will change the  
world for the Good.



**EDU-Sketch** can be a simple change to your everyday life. How many times do you say I will remember to call this person or do this, grade this paper; but if you don't write it down it doesn't happen. I put things in my phone all the time to remember to do and sometimes blow it off and say I will get to it later. However, that random note/sticky note sitting there seems to get to me more than a note in my calendar. I always doodled in my notes, but for me that made it easier to remember a concept in any subject. I have always encouraged my students to take notes using pictures for concepts for association purposes. I personally hoped some would transfer that over to their other classes, but I am sure most do not even think of it.

If just the basic encouragement of adding a few simple doodles to their note taking in any class can help why would you not do it. We know visuals help all students at any level. Association is how we learn once we learn one concept and we build new thoughts and ideas. We've seen a kid get that –ah Ha/lightbulb moment. Why would we not want to take advantage of that every moment we can.

#1 it is process over pretty every day of the week or concept/application over repetition. We want the kid to know it not just repeat what they just heard, you want them to use the information not just lose it.

#2 you never know what a student will come up with to explain a concept and what makes sense to them may help another struggling student.

#3 Just requires an open mind and a writing utensil pen/pencil or whatever you choose.

**BE BOLD**

CREATE:  
Tinkers & Thinkers

Be CREATIVE

**VISUALS BACK**

**ADD**

**TO Life Long Learners**