

## 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 March spotlight is courtesy of Cooke Assistant Principal, Rosemarie Romano.*

Attending Model Schools Conference last year was an enriching, innovative, and inspiring experience for me. After attending the Model School Conference, I was inspired to take on the leadership role as principal of the Cooke School for the following school year. I am inspired and optimistic that I will make a difference at the Cooke School as we continue on the path of success.

There were many interesting workshops of choice and I chose workshops that targeted culture and climate. The presentations touched upon strategies for cultural transformation, student and staff motivation, instruction/intervention, and community collaboration. I now have a deeper understanding of the power of culture and expectations.

There were two BOLD statements that I embraced; "Culture Trumps Strategy", and "Caring is King". These two statements influenced me to create a culture where rigorous learning opportunities can be a reality. I've always believed that the culture in a school is extremely important for success. When a teacher is excited to come to work or a student is excited to come to school each and every day, they will be successful at what they do. It is important not only for students to know that you care, but also your staff and colleagues. Both statements will help me to establish a collaborative awareness that we are a team and are responsible for the success of our students.

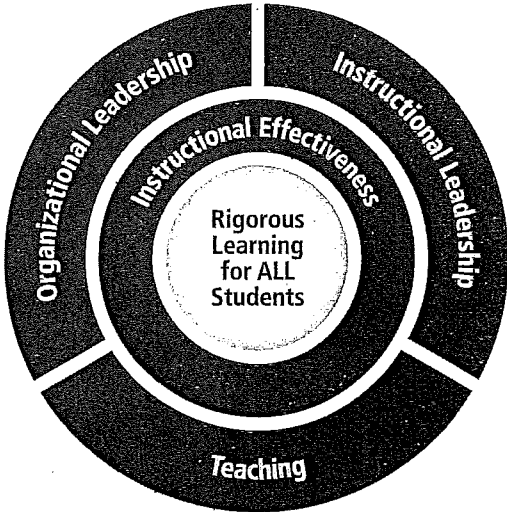
Rigorous learning is a shared responsibility. Effective leadership isn't one person, it's a team of teachers, instructional leaders, and organizational leaders that work together to accomplish the goals that are set to increase student learning. I attended a workshop with keynote speaker, Dr. Bill Daggett, Founder and

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Chairman of the International Center for Leadership in Education. He is well known worldwide by his ability to move education systems toward more rigorous and relevant skills and knowledge.

The Daggett System for Effective Instruction (DSEI) offers a vision and strategy for developing and supporting system-wide instructional effectiveness to maximize rigorous learning for all students.

## The Daggett System for Effective Instruction



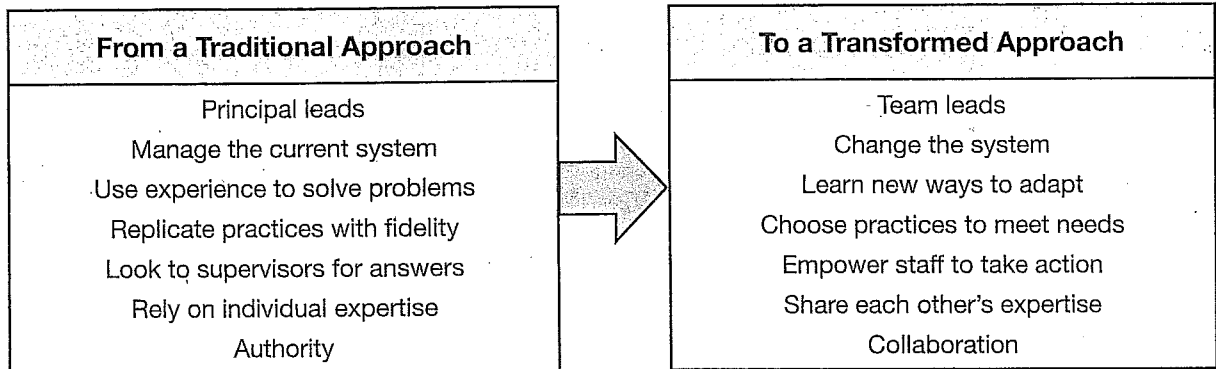
Below is a chart to give you an idea of traditional approach of Organizational Leadership, Instructional Leadership, and Teaching in comparison to a **Transformed** approach. This system relates to the everyone responsible for student success.

### Organizational Leadership

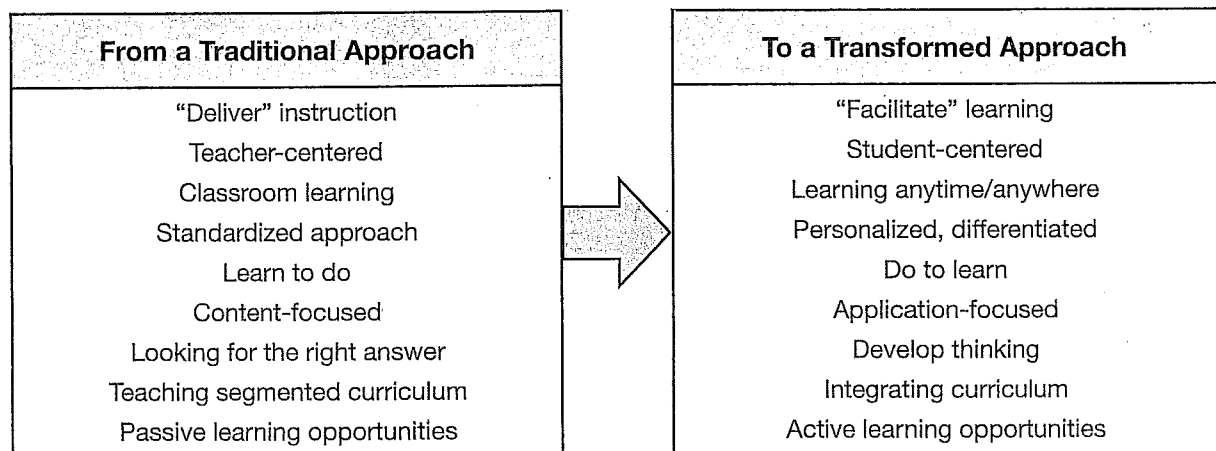
From a Traditional Approach	To a Transformed Approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Vision set by top leadership</li> <li>· Priorities based on short-term results</li> <li>· Rigid structures to accommodate adult needs</li> <li>· Top-down management for ease of administration</li> <li>· Teachers are the objects of change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Vision set by all</li> <li>· Priorities based on long-term improvement</li> <li>· Flexible structures to support learner needs</li> <li>· Top-down support for bottom-up change</li> <li>· Teachers are the agents of change</li> </ul>

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## Instructional Leadership



## Teaching



My vision is to be a leader that builds a culture, one that supports positive change and that focuses on student achievement. I will empower students and teachers to have a voice in our school. I will commit to supporting teachers and leaders in creating a learning environment in which foundational skills are developed and refined.

In closing, I would truly recommend and encourage you to attend the Model Schools Conference. This experience will inspire, motivate, and give you hope as you create a positive, rigorous and relevant learning experience. It was an amazing, fun, energizing, and empowering conference that you wouldn't want to miss!!!!