

# 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 first month's spotlight is courtesy of MHS Science Teacher, Jeanine Nielson:*

## MODEL SCHOOLS SPOTLIGHT

For me, the beginning of each school year is accompanied by the excitement of possibility. The journey which awaits me and my students is unknown and full of potential. It's just like the moment when I can finally get into the kitchen and try out that new recipe. I'd like to say that most of the time my new recipes turn out amazing dishes but sometimes they don't. I can get discouraged and turn back to the ones I've always used. By the end of this last school year, my new recipes, which were so filled with the excitement of possibility, sat in a dusty corner, with a chef who was exhausted. Fortunately, I rekindled my excitement for them at the Model Schools Conference held in June. One recipe I happened upon included ingredients like: opportunities to build upon relationships with people from our district; the freedom to select workshops in areas I was interested in; and time to network with others from across the country, resulting in rich and dynamic conversations which assisted me in developing an action plan for the coming year.

Like any good recipe, it is meant to be shared, and that is what I'm going to do with all of you RIGHT NOW. Before I begin I want you to realize that it is going to require you to BE BOLD, and be willing to TAKE RISKS on a new recipe! Here are some other great recipe takeaways from this year's conference.

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### Teaching Academic Perseverance

with Jacob Clifford

#### **Why Do Kids Give Up in School?**

- #1 When they are facing issues in their personal space
- #2 When they are afraid of making mistakes
- #3 When they don't see the benefits of school or a particular subject
- #4 When they think the teacher is being unfair
- #5 When they are NOT motivated
- #6 When they are NOT connected

In order to help students, overcome these obstacles and develop academic perseverance (tenacity, grit, and "stick-with-it-ness") you will **NEED** to:

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#1 Get to KNOW YOUR STUDENTS: [First Day Icebreakers are one way to achieve this](#). I like the opening day letter for high school students but depending on what grade level you teach you might want to take a look at some of the others. If you already have something that works, that's GREAT. Maybe think about sharing it. Build your classroom community during the first three weeks of school and then it is **crucial** to follow this up with some 1:1 time to get to know them even deeper.

[Jacob Clifford Making your Classroom Awesome](#)

#2 REDUCE the FEAR. Let students know it's OK to FAIL. "You will always be at the cringe of your capabilities", Jacob tells us. We must teach our students that practice and failure are part of the journey to master. Consider using the [Rule of the Three for Learning](#)

#3 Make CONTENT RELEVANT. Show them the W.I.I.F.M. (What's In It For Me)

[Jacob Clifford Getting Students to BUY IN](#)

What you say:	Translation:
I hate math!	I hate problem solving and learning from my mistakes
I hate English!	I hate reading and effectively communicating with others
I hate science!	I hate thinking objectively and figuring out how things work
I hate history	I hate knowing who I am and how I got here
I hate foreign language	I hate other cultures and developing a skill that can get me a better job
I hate PE	I hate being healthy
I hate school!	I hate staying focused, working hard, multi-tasking, and applying skills that will decrease the likelihood that my life will suck

**Ask yourself, would you hire you?**

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#4 BE FAIR- Collaborate with teachers in your department and make sure you are on the same page when it comes to rubrics, expectations, and bonus points. Students who feel like they are getting a fair shot are much more likely to work through their challenges to reach their goal.

#5 In order to stay motivated students need to have "FLOW." To achieve flow, the following MUST happen:

1. The task has to have clear goals and structure
2. The task has to have immediate feedback

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3. There must be balance between the student's perceived challenges and their own perceived Skills

Show them how they've progressed. Consecutive little steps lead to success.

#6 BUILD Classroom Community- Taking time to do activities that build a sense of community can help increase motivation. Start with the first three weeks, but continue to periodically refocus throughout the year.

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## Do you Know What WhiteSpace Is and Why It's Important?

with Juliet Funt

I didn't either. WhiteSpace is the time and thought for which you have **NO** plans. Sounds Awesome... Read about the "Thieves of Productivity" below to find out which one is your nemesis?

[Whitespace Overview](#)

[Thieves of Productivity](#)

[Achieving Optimal Results Through the Use of WhiteSpace](#)

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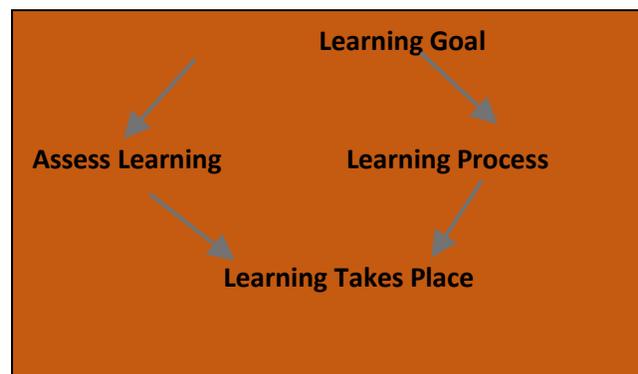
## Going Digital and Getting Results: Beyond Flipped and Rotation

with Weston Kieschnick

Students need to fail in order to learn. In Ed-Tech space failure is not just accepted, it's expected.

What's needed:

1. Engagement
2. Opportunities for Collaboration
3. Individual, Self-Paced activities
4. Differentiation
5. Multi-Modal activities



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[Weston Kieschnick](#)

Remember Coaching Matters

Take the station of, “I’m Your Coach”

Remember, Seeing is **NOT** Understanding, Seeing does **NOT** guarantee REPLICATION.

The **FEAR** is **REAL**... **ACKNOWLEDGE IT**... **COMMIT** to **OVERCOME IT**.

**THE RIDE IS TOTALLY WORTH IT 😊**

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**BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. YOU ARE A  
LEARNING MACHINE. WITH TIME AND  
HARD WORK YOU CAN GET BETTER AT  
ANYTHING YOU WANT. TAKE RISKS.  
TRY NEW THINGS. MESS UP. FALL  
DOWN. RAISE YOUR HAND. ENJOY THE  
PRESSURE. FEEL THE FEAR BUT DARE  
GREATLY. LET IT RIP. SPEAK UP. BUST  
OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE.  
ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT GETTING  
BETTER IS NOT PRETTY, THAT THERE  
ARE NO GIFTS, AND YOU GET BETTER  
WITH PRACTICE, PERIOD. SEEK OUT  
CHALLENGES. MAKE IT GAME LIKE. DO  
THE HARD THINGS. ENJOY EVERY  
MINUTE OF IT.**

**TRAIN UGLY**