

What Your TAMS Membership Provides:

- TAMS Tidbits Newsletter and Journal

These are mailed to all active members in order to keep you updated on educational developments that are occurring both statewide and nationally.

- Professional Growth

Opportunities to attend regional and state conferences can be found in the "What's Happening" section.

- Discounted Rates

Available for any member who attends a Saturday morning drive-in conference and/or the annual summer conference.

- Positive force for education

Join your fellow educators and become an active member in our efforts to provide a quality education for all students in Tennessee.

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Tennessee Association of Middle Schools

"WELCOME BACK!"
FALL 2009

"TidBits"

*(A bit of information about
anything and everything
happening in middle schools
throughout Tennessee)*

Featured Sections

- **Hot Topics**
- **Cool Sites**
- **TAMS Membership Benefits**
- **Parent Connection**
- **What's Happening?**



Please send your comments
and ideas for TidBits to Edi-
tor, Lauren Pitoscia at
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What's Happening?

- [36th NMSA Annual Conference](#)
November 5-7, 2009,
Indianapolis, Indiana.
- [TAMS Drive-In Conference](#)
October 24, 2009
Stewarts Creek Middle School
Smryna, TN - Register [here](#)

New Revisions Made to The Middle School Rules

The State Board of Education recently adopted a revision to the Middle School rules that will have implications on identifying students who do not achieve "Basic" or above on the new TCAP assessment, and requires schools to use researched based interventions to support the learning of struggling students. Please read the Middle Grades Task Force, Rule at <http://state.tn.us/sbe/2009Julypdfs/IV%20J%20Middle%20Grades%20Policy%20Cover%20Sheet%20&%20Rule.pdf>

Parent Connection

You Were Wondering...

Why won't my son talk to me about important things or even day-to-day activities? Lately, he has just clammed up and rarely speaks to me unless spoken to directly.

Explanation and Advice:

For some young adolescents, the moment is everything. While the Cleavers made dinner table conversation look easy, that is not always the best place to "grill" your son about his day. The moment he walks into the house after school may not work, either. Instead, do something relaxing with your son, and let the conversation begin naturally. Take a walk, ride your bikes around the block, play catch, or throw the Frisbee; do something active together. Talk about your own day or something in the news or a bit of family history—anything to get the conversation started. But, try to keep the questions to a minimum and let your son initiate the conversation about his day, his work, and his life. It is critical to keep coming back. Don't expect the "big talk" every day, but do stay connected, and the communication will take care of itself.

The State of Middle Schools in Tennessee

Click [here](#) to complete the survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine how Tennessee Middle School teachers and principals view 17 dimensions linked to the "middle school concept" across three domains; to rate the school-level implementation of these 17 dimensions within each of these three domains; and to determine the quality of leadership that shapes the realization of "the middle school concept" across Tennessee.

Cool Sites

Check out the following URLs:

www.nmsa.org for middle school research and best practices for teaching at the middle school level.

www.teachertube.com for information, ideas and videos from other teachers.