

NDCTE CONNECTED

THE BEST FIT FOR ELA TEACHERS ACROSS NORTH DAKOTA

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the North Dakota Council for Teachers of English

WINTER ISSUE 1.15.2020

From the President's Pen:

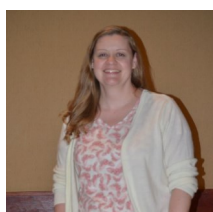
Welcome to the second newsletter for the 2019-2020 school year. For teachers, our "New Year" begins in August, but for those who don't teach, January is the traditional New Year's Party. Let's take this renewal and consider what is new in your classroom. I challenge you to consider what new ways you can connect with your students, your colleagues, your fellow NDCTE members. If you have a new idea you'll be implementing in your classroom this semester, please share your ideas in our Facebook group.

Your NDCTE board has been working over the past several months to get our 2020 NDCTE Conference planned. We have some awesome ideas brewing, and we are getting excited to make everything public in the next several weeks. While you're setting up your 2020 calendars, remember to save the date for July 30-31 for our conference, which will be held in Fargo on the beautiful NDSU campus.

Onward,
Kelsey Johnson, NDCTE President



The Benefits of 10 Minutes



Last summer at the NDCTE conference, Kelly Gallagher spoke to a room full of English teachers, telling us all about the power of giving students time to read in class. Ten minutes a day was all that he asked, and though that time seems short, it adds up to roughly one class period per week. Even though I've seen the research, read Donalyn Miller's *The Book Whisperer*, and invested in hundreds of books for my classroom library just like all of you, there was still a little ghost in my head saying, *Can you really afford to give up all that time? Of course reading is important, but how will you get through everything by the end of the year?* Those are fair questions, and I don't think I was wrong to ask them, but I decided to take the plunge anyway and, for the first time in my teaching career, set aside ten minutes a day for reading at the beginning of the class period—the beginning, not the end, so that I couldn't just not quite get around to it. I had to take the leap of faith and ... [continue here](#)

-Donna Davidson, Northwest Director

Age & Interest Book Recommendations

Have a **JUNIOR** or **SENIOR** interested in the **MEDICAL FIELD**?

Stiff by Mary Roach is a awesomely gruesome read on what happens to bodies that are donated for science research, the search for the location of the soul, and some pretty revolutionary medical procedures.

Have a **5TH** or **6TH GRADER** who is interested in the **MILITARY**?

Jocko Willink's book series *Way of the Warrior Kid* tells the tale of a wimpy kid who is not in love with his wimpy lifestyle so when his Navy SEAL uncle comes to visit, he gets to work learning about different military philosophies, working out, nutrition, and martial arts.

Have an **ENERGETIC LOWER ELEMENTARY STUDENT** who seems like they're constantly **GETTING INTO TROUBLE**?



The *Joey Pigza* series by Jack Gantos is so darn loveable. There are not many books for the lower elementary that get learning disabilities, tough home life, and a fun realistic kid character right. This series helps both kids and adults take another look at those energetic students in our room and inside ourselves.

-Lisa Gusewelle, Member-at-Large

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Teachers interested in continuing ed. credits for licensure renewal may want to check out this spring semester course from Dickinson State University: Reading Adolescent Literature with Future Teachers. The course is worth two professional development graduate credits. Here is the course synopsis:

Current teachers and librarians are invited to serve as mentors to future teachers while discussing works of recent adolescent literature with them. Participants will select five books to read with education majors in a university course on middle grade and young adult literature. Participants will join those students in an online discussion board to respond to the books and consider issues of literacy in upper elementary and secondary grades across subject areas. Participants will help to develop the next generation of teachers while enjoying new titles of adolescent literature.

All work for this course will occur online, so educators from any location are invited to participate. The course runs from January 30 to May 7, and educators can enroll through January 28. Enroll online by visiting DSU's West River Teacher Center at www.dickinsonstate.edu/wrtc. For a course syllabus, including the book choices and the reading/discussion schedule, please contact DSU faculty member Kevin Moberg at kevin.moberg@dickinsonstate.edu.

-Kevin Moberg, College Rep

NDCTE English Chats

Reminder: We still have eight upcoming sessions throughout the second semester that you can join for practical topics and helpful discussion. We have had a wealth of knowledge and experience from each of our presenters as well as those who have joined each week over Zoom. Check our Facebook page to get bi-weekly reminders. Here are just some of the upcoming topics. You can get all the information from the homepage of the NDCTE website, ndcte.org.

- 1/27– Expanding Listening and Speaking Abilities: Socratic Seminars and Philosophical Chairs
- 2/10– Teacher Wellness: How to Avoid and Deal with Teacher Burnout
- 2/24– Movement in the English Classroom– How to Utilize Stations
- 3/9– Career Essay Project: A Quarter-Long Inquiry Into One Career
- 3/23– Adolescent Literature in the ELA Classroom
- 4/6– Making Project-Based Learning Meaningful Through Research
- 4/20– Reflect and Project: Concluding the Year Well and Gearing up for Summer