

# Motivating the Middle: Reaching Struggling Middle School Readers



## Technology that works for our students:

**www.edmodo.com**- a social learning environment for classrooms to share ideas and assignments

**docs.google.com** – free web-based word processor where you can collaboratively create, share, and store online  
Microsoft movie maker-create and share movies (Windows XP needed)

**www.onetruemedia.com**- free site to create and share video creations

**www.skype.com**- talk free face-to-face with anyone else on skype- wherever they are – voice and/or video (internet and web cam needed)

## Resources that motivate our students:

Plugged In series- ([www.pluggedintoreading.org](http://www.pluggedintoreading.org))  
literacy program for middle and high school students – audio books scaffold instruction – fiction and nonfiction titles available

SCOBRE books ([www.scobre.com](http://www.scobre.com))- free sample online- high interest books each title written on two reading levels for proficient and struggling readers.  
Builds vocabulary, entices readers- fiction and non-fiction titles available.

Graphic novels- narrative works of literature conveyed in comic format

MP3 – portable digital media player that can store, organize, and play audio files

Playaways- ([www.playaway.com](http://www.playaway.com)) ([www.recordedbooks.com](http://www.recordedbooks.com))  
digital content preloaded on portable audio player

## Contact Information:

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Thanks for joining us! We have created an Edmodo community to continue today's discussion. Here you can also find today's power point. Please use this as a site where ideas can be shared and questions posed. Just log onto [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com) - click "student", complete the sign up page (enter group code ns1xz6) then post your note. Let's keep the conversation going so that motivation can grow!



**MOTIVATING THE MIDDLE:**

**REACHING STRUGGLING  
MIDDLE SCHOOL READERS**

Beth McKee and Heather Mochulski  
Title I Reading Specialists  
Coatesville Area School District

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**What We Teach and  
Why It Can Be Difficult?**

- We teach a class called: "Reading Proficiency"
- Students not Proficient or Advanced on PSSA can not take a world language and must take our class.
- Some do not need to be in this class, but most do.
- Many of our students are already frustrated, unmotivated, or have just given up.
- No grades are given out- this was our choice.

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**What About Our Program Works?  
What Is Motivating Our Students?**

- Knowledge about themselves as readers!!
- Technology
- Audio-supported text
- Self-selected, Engaging text
- Real life experiences

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### Knowledge About Themselves As Readers

- ☐ From Day 1, we collect data from the current year and past years
  - Performance Tracker
  - Title I Criterion Testing
- ☐ Student Conferences are held to share:
  - Strengths and weaknesses
  - What their scores are and what they may mean
  - What will help them improve- setting realistic goals
- ☐ We begin keeping records that our students will monitor all year.

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### Technology

- ☐ Classrooms today are full of DIGITAL NATIVES led by DIGITAL IMMIGRANTS.
- ☐ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
  - Major increases in the use of entertainment media such as cell phones, iPods, computers, and television in 8 -18 year olds.
  - 7 hours 38 minutes a day
  - BUT, because most multitask, they are actually consuming 10 hours 45 minutes worth of media!!

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### Are We Engaging Our Digital Learners?



Vision of K-12 Students Today

- ☐ Grown Up Digital by Don Tapscott
- ☐ \$4 million study on this Net Generation
- ☐ What works? Learning must be:
  - Interactive
  - Discovery-based
  - Collaborative
  - Customized
  - Student-Centered

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**How Do We Engage Our Students With Technology?**

- ☐ Edmodo
- ☐ One True Media and Powerpoint
- ☐ Movie Maker
- ☐ Digital Story Telling
- ☐ Skype
- ☐ Google Docs

Share your ideas and thoughts!

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**How Do We Engage Our Students With Audio Supported Books?**

- ☐ Self-Selected Material
- ☐ Exposure to several grade levels above reading level
- ☐ Increases
  - Fluency- "Eyes past print with fluent voice support"
  - Reading Comprehension
  - Vocabulary- Exposure to more sophisticated vocabulary
  - Motivation

We use:

Playaways, MP3 players, iPods, and audio centers.  
Plugged Into Reading/Nonfiction –Dr. Janet Allen

Share your ideas and thoughts!

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**How Do We Engage Our Students With Self-Selected, Engaging Text?**

- ☐ Our goal is to increase time spent reading
- ☐ We require students to have a book at all times
- ☐ We hold reading conferences to
  - Help guide book selection
  - Set reading goals
  - Discuss the book
- ☐ Must find ways to get students to read!

We use:

High Interest Nonfiction such as Oh Yuck,  
Graphic Novels  
High/Low books such as Scobre books

Share your ideas and thoughts!

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**How Do We Engage Students With Real Life Experiences?**

- ☐ We always try to make learning relevant

We use:

Author visits and Dinners

Book store visits

Celebration of readers-limo

poetry slams

Authentic projects- Destiny Quest

Attend local community events

Share your ideas and thoughts!



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**How Can You Be a Motivating Force in Your School?**

- ☐ Be a Positive Voice
- ☐ Advocate for Twenty-First Century Skills and Technology with Professional Development.
- ☐ Learn the Technology with Your Child- you may be surprised!
- ☐ Encourage your local library to have young adult audio-supported text available.

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**Product Giveaways!!**

Thank you to Recorded Books for their generous donation of the Playaway and Audiobooks.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Reading Assessment Tracking Sheet***

### **PSSA:**

3<sup>rd</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_

5<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_

6<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_

7<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_

### **4Sight :**

date \_\_\_\_\_ score \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_ score \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_ score \_\_\_\_\_

### **MAP:**

date \_\_\_\_\_ score \_\_\_\_\_ lexile score \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_ score \_\_\_\_\_ lexile score \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_ score \_\_\_\_\_ lexile score \_\_\_\_\_

### **Fluency:**

date \_\_\_\_\_ WPM

date \_\_\_\_\_ WPM

date \_\_\_\_\_ WPM

date \_\_\_\_\_ WPM

date \_\_\_\_\_ WPM

date \_\_\_\_\_ WPM

