



Meeting Students' Needs During School Closures

Chuck Moss leads a school of almost 1,100 students in a suburban and rural area in Virginia. He believes in his students and in Dinwiddie Middle School—and it was his mission to spread the news of all of the good things and successes that were happening in his school to everyone who would listen.

“We’re not a prep school for high school,” says Moss. “We’re three years of awesome. If we don’t tell people that, they’re not going to have a chance to see it and to know it.”

And it worked. The school—with a fresh logo and dedicated hashtag—became known in the community and beyond. But all educators know that when one challenge is over, another is lurking around the corner. That’s when news of the coronavirus spread hit schools nationwide. Unprecedented school closings have created challenges for educators across the country that no one could’ve predicted. Armed with a dedicated staff and principal peers, Moss has found ways to meet the needs of his students and his community.

The Challenges:

- School’s out—for the year. How do we meet the needs of our students and the community?
- How do I set up the middle school as its own entity?
- How do I make sure the community knows how great Dinwiddie Middle School is?

In [this episode](#) of the Center for Innovative Leadership (CIL) video podcast, Moss gives you a tour of his school, highlighting all of the great things—and great people—who make the school a success. You’ll learn ideas to:

Give students a quality education through distance learning amid school closures. “The expectations are still there, even if the hallways are empty,” says Moss. Together, he and the staff at Dinwiddie handed out books to students and made sure food distribution continued. Serving students of two demographics—suburban and rural—Moss and his team

worked to meet the needs of the students and community—“because that’s what a school is supposed to do.” Through daily videos, Moss reminds the community about programs like food distribution, and he looks up what every day is the “National Day of” to boost spirits of this students, staff, and community.

Lead through an unprecedented time of challenge. His advice to others in his shoes? Be the leader your staff has expected you to be throughout the course of your time at that school. In times of extreme chaos, make sure your staff knows you will lead them through to the other side no matter what. Get out of the mindset that everything needs to be done perfectly the first time. “We’re going to make mistakes in this,” says Moss. “We are going to have shortcomings. But all of it is going to make us better when it comes to addressing the needs of kids.”

Position the middle school as its own entity; not as a prep school for high school.

For Moss, it was important to set his school up as its own entity. Even the logo the middle school used was the same as the high school until Moss stepped in and changed it. He created a new logo just for Dinwiddie Middle School and went a step further to create a school hashtag (#DontBeAfraidtoBeAwesome). The logo and the new hashtag set them apart from the high school. Plus, the Future Business Leaders of America group at his school put the logo on the products they sell in the school store so students and families could show their Dinwiddie pride through merchandise.

Market the school to the community. Moss believes that it’s his job to make sure the community knows how great the school and its students and staff are. He never misses an opportunity to spread the word. You remember that logoed merch we mentioned above? He hands it out to everyone from business owners to nearby school district personnel. The Dinwiddie buttons feature the school’s logo, hashtag, and social media accounts to help build his school’s followers and get the word out about the great things that are happening in the school.

Three main takeaways:

1. When challenging times like the

coronavirus pandemic hit, your school’s story doesn’t end; think of it as an opportunity to find new tools to write a new story for your school.

2. When it comes to professional development, membership in associations like NAESP and your state-level principal association can help you build priceless connections with other administrators.

3. Market your school like you would a business—connect with the community and share your successes to make them feel like part of the team.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/lg9I2fMCA4c>

—Dateline NAESP

Books for Children to Understand Race and Nurture a Positive Sense of Self — Dateline NAESP

[Antiracist Baby](#) (2020): With bold art and thoughtful yet playful text, Ibram X. Kendi introduces the youngest readers and the grown-ups in their lives to the concept and power of antiracism, providing the language necessary to begin critical conversations at the earliest age.

[Teach Your Dragon About Diversity](#) (2019): Fun, cute, and entertaining with beautiful illustrations, this book by Steve Herman aims to teach children how to celebrate differences and embrace diversity.

[All Are Welcome](#) (2018): This book by Alexandra Penfold lets young children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space, and they are welcome in their school—a school where students grow and learn from each other’s traditions.

[Young, Gifted, and Black](#) (2018): Meet 52 icons of color from the past and present in this celebration of inspirational achievement—a collection of stories by Jamia Wilson about change-makers to encourage, inspire, and empower the next generation of change-makers.



First Year Principals and Assistant Principals: you receive a free KAESP membership for your first year. Complete a membership application form and send it to the KAESP indicating your first year principalship status.

Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) will no longer collect KAESP dues!!

KASA has made the decision was made that it was not economically feasible for KASA to collect dues for their affiliates. So, to join, you will need to join KAESP directly. We hope that you will make the choice to become a member of your association.

Now there are three ways to join KAESP:

Personal Check
Purchase Order
PayPal

For items one and two above, mail these to Rosie Young, 1801 Echo Trail, Louisville, KY 40245

For item three above, please visit the KAESP website (www.kaespsy.org) and use the PayPal option on the Join Us screen.

The membership application is available on the website: www.kaespsy.org



KAESP has developed a page on its website that provides resources for principal with COVID-19. Additional resources are also provided on the page. Check it out at www.kaespsy.org.

News From KDE:

Welcome to Commissioner Glass!

Dr. Jason Glass has been named as the next Kentucky Commissioner. A native of Brandenburg, KY, Dr. Glass has most recently served as the superintendent and chief learner from Jeffco Public Schools in metro Denver since 2017. In an interview, Dr. Glass said, "I am so incredibly grateful to the board for this opportunity to serve the Commonwealth and I am excited to embark on this effort to improve the future for all of Kentucky's children" Dr. Glass will assume the position in September, 2020.

KAESP is Looking for Board Members!

Do you have an interest in serving on the KAESP Board of Directors? We are looking for principals and assistant principals to serve on the board by representing the principals in their region. The full board only meets about two times a year with most business conducted via email. Regional representatives are asked to recruit members from their region, attend KAESP functions, and provide leadership in KAESP. We are looking to grow the board and involvement of our members in KAESP. We need you!

If you are interested in being a more active member, please contact Rosie Young at ryoung@bellarmine.edu.



KAESP Website

The new KAESP website is up and running—check it out at : kaespsy.org

www.kaespsy.org



Newsletter, joining our Association, and more information about KAESP can be found at <https://kaespsy.org/>

Managing Mental Health Issues



Amid unprecedented school closures and social distancing, we're living a new normal. Transitioning to a world where learning takes place virtually for the first time ever and families are holed up in their houses for an unknown period of time is bound to affect the mental health of every person in the school community. So how can you help keep your students and staff—and yourself—mentally healthy during the coronavirus pandemic?

In a recent NAESP webinar titled "Managing Mental Health Issues," Joy Winchester, director of Early Childhood Development and Professional Support at the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education, and Jen Thomas, veteran principal of Olive B. Loss Elementary School in Bear, Delaware, offer tips to overcome the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of students,

staff, and administrators.

Breaking Down the New Normal

According to Winchester, the brain is pattern-seeking, survival-oriented, and a social organ that needs new connections to grow. But in a new situation, like what we're experiencing with the coronavirus pandemic, the brain struggles to find patterns; the higher thinking areas shut down, leading people to react instead of respond; and our brain growth slows because technology doesn't provide the same connections as in-person interactions do.

Impact of Toxic Stress

Trauma and toxic stress have an impact on both the teachers and the students.

In students, trauma:

In students, trauma:

- Adversely affects attention, memory, and cognition;
- Reduces the ability to focus, organize, and process information;

- Interferes with problem-solving and planning; and results in overwhelming feelings of frustration and anxiety.

In teachers, trauma:

- Increases irritability and impatience;
- Creates difficulty when planning lessons and activities;
- Decreases concentration; and leads to feeling numb, detached, and helpless.

Coping With Trauma

Winchester and Thomas offer tips to cope with trauma in a time of high stress. Mindfulness—creating a mindful mantra, setting intentions, finding ways to show gratitude, laughing, and being present—is a great place to start. Watch the [full webinar](#) or download the [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the NAESP website. Find additional resources to help you lead virtual learning communities on the [NAESP COVID-19 Resources page](#).

—Dateline NAESP



From the Executive Director, Dr. Rosie Young

The New Normal

Membership Time!

Our fall membership drive is on! Memberships in KAESP have dwindled over the past few years. So, we need all members to recruit at least two new members to our association.

We cannot necessarily compete with KASA due to their reach with many different affiliates. Know that KAESP is devoted only to the elementary/middle level school leader. We will support and advocate for your needs and keep you informed on issues relevant to your position.

We are hopeful that we will be able to have our fall conference. I would love to hear who you might want to be our keynote speaker.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not send my appreciation for the tremendous work you have done in supporting students, families, teachers, and staff members during this trying time. Thank you!

Take care, *Rosie*



KAESP has joined with a number of other state associations to launch the Ed Leaders Network.

The Ed Leaders Network (ELN) is grounded in the belief that educational leaders impact student performance. With this foundational belief at the ELN's core, multiple state principal associations have partnered together to provide you high quality, on-demand professional development webinars to enhance your leadership growth.

A dynamic professional networking community has also been created to allow you to interact with your peers and leadership experts from across the country. In short, the ELN's mission is to provide you the professional development content and capacity building professional network you need to do what's best for your students and learning community.

Regular ELN pricing will be \$199 annually for Members of State Affiliates/\$399 for non-members once the early bird rate ends.

Please visit the website at www.edleadersnetwork.org to take a tour of the site.

Join NAESP!

If you are not familiar with the many benefits of NAESP membership, please visit the website at www.naesp.org to see what our National Association has to offer. Your membership could help us become a Goal Buster Plus award winner again! School funds can be used for the Institutional Active membership category and you will receive a second set of publications for your school as well as an active membership. Please join!!!

Become a Member of KAESP Today!

The drive is on! The KAESP is conducting its membership drive and we need you as a member! Current members will receive an email to notify them of the need to renew their membership. If you do not receive this membership email, you are not a member and we want YOU! Your Regional Representative is listed on page 4 of this newsletter. You may contact your regional representative for information on membership, contact KAESP at kaesp@kaesp.org or visit the website (www.kaesp.org) for the membership application. We hope you become a member of your professional association. The KAESP is the only association dedicated to the needs of elementary and middle level principals. If you are not a member, please consider joining so that we may do even more for our members! Membership dues are only \$90.00 a year. Please join us as we advocate, serve and lead!



Trauma of Inequality and Discrimination on Children

The recent violence against African Americans and uprisings to demand police reform can be grief triggers that highlight the trauma of inequality and discrimination and the resulting impact on the mental health and wellbeing for students, families, teachers, and principals alike.

Community members look to school principals as a beacon of hope and inspiration when communities are being tested. Now is the time to recommit to advancing social-emotional learning and ensuring we provide the resources to fully support those students experiencing trauma. Use these tips from the Coalition to Support Grieving Students.

1. Identify a safe space or location where the student can go.
2. Provide the child with the name of an adult they can see when feeling upset or wishing to talk
3. Set up procedures that allow the students

to obtain support, such as a signal or statement that doesn't draw attention but does allow the student to leave the classroom. It's difficult for children to ask for help and expose their vulnerabilities in front of peers when they are already feeling overwhelmed.

4. Allow the child to call a parent or family member if they feel it would help.
5. Give permission and encouragement for the child to speak with a school counselor, school nurse, school psychologist, or school social worker.

6. Offer private time with a teacher to talk over feelings, questions, or other concerns. For other tips on helping students overcome trauma, visit the [Coalition to Support Grieving Students](#) website.

—Dateline NAESP



“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.”

— Robert Frost

Seven Ways to Lead Equity in Schools

1. Conduct individual and building-wide assessments that help staff to identify their cultural, philosophical, and social identities.
2. Create a positive climate and culture.
3. Develop student interest surveys and lead teachers to learn about their students' interests.
4. Provide strong professional development on cultural competence, equity, and social justice.
5. Recruit qualified teachers who are enthusiastic about change.
6. Provide chats, newsletters, or blogs about diversity.
7. Collaborate with families and community members.

Learn more about leadership competencies and strategies in NAESP's [The Principal's Guide to Building Culturally Responsive Schools](#).

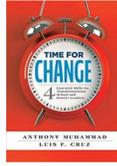


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Time for Change: Four Essential Skills for Transformational School and District Leaders by Anthony Muhammed and Luis F. Cruz



Transformational leaders have four distinctive skills: strong communication, the ability to build trust, the ability to increase the skills of those they lead, and a results orientation. *Time for Change* offers powerful guidance for those seeking to develop and strengthen the educational leadership skills needed for change management and overcoming resistance to change.

Make Virtual Learning Easier



Use these trusted resources from NAESP strategic partners to help navigate a new world of digital learning:

Access to eBooks: Follett eLearning is providing free access to eBooks from Lightbox and AV2 World languages through June 30, 2020. Lightbox offers more than 1,000 titles in science, social studies, language arts, math, and more. AV2 World Languages features high-interest titles in 10 languages with full audio support. Parents and students will find these resources interactive, easy to use and a great way for students to independently explore a new topic. [Register now](#)

Sara's Music Room: YMCA is providing engaging and enriching resources like Sara's Music Room to support parents while they're helping their kids learn at home. You can find Sara's Music Room, a 20-minute music class, every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. ET on the YMCA [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) channels.

SmileSafe Cards and Online Safety: Lifetouch has partnered with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for more than 10 years to help keep children safe. With schools shifting to distance learning, the center's [Into the Cloud](#) animated web series is a great resource for parents to use to teach children about online safety. Plus, the two groups have joined forces to offer [SmileSafe photo IDs](#) for free to Lifetouch schools.

Rural Child Hunger Summit: No Kid Hungry went virtual with its Rural Child Hunger Summit. The programming highlighted the effects of COVID-19 on children nutrition programs, especially in rural communities.;

*The mission of the KAESP, the collective voice of Kentucky's elementary and middle level principals, in partnership with other education leaders, is to **develop citizens that can succeed in a global society**, by delivering to our members a network for support, professional development, visionary leadership, and by pro-active involvement in shaping education policy.*

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Want to join us? —Send an email to Rosie Young at kaespky@gmail.com



structural and historic racial inequities that are at play that perpetuate hunger and poverty, finding solutions to hunger while addressing COVID-19, the role of health care in feeding children during public health emergencies, and more. These resources are available for free on the [No Kid Hungry website](#).

Resources for Teachers and Families: Coronavirus has closed schools across the country. Right now, teachers need to get supplies in the hands of students at home to keep them learning, especially in our country's highest-need communities. DonorsChoose helps get these supplies to those who need them with their [Coronavirus Relief: Keep Kids Learning](#) initiative.

Digital Equity: A major issue to arise from the coronavirus crisis is ensuring digital equity during virtual learning. [Comcast Internet Essentials](#) offers an easy, affordable way to for low-income families to get internet access—including two months of free service in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Lower Student Loans: GotZoom has helped many educators reduce their student loan burden by over 65 percent. And now the recently passed CARES Act introduces even [more potential savings](#), with payments on certain federal loans being suspended and interest being waived until Sept. 30, 2020.

—Dateline NAESP



To Think About

“Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”
— **Martin Luther King Jr.**

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”
— **Aristotle**

“I am not a teacher, but an awakener.”
— **Robert Frost**

“The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.”
— **C.S. Lewis**

“Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.”
— **Albert Einstein**

“In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn.”
— **Phil Collins**

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Kentucky Association of
Elementary School Principals



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