

Preface

My goal of helping teachers has remained the same for over a decade. I have introduced teachers from across the United States to the best practices in elementary schools and high schools, and now I bring to you best practices from middle schools across the nation. The success of *Best Classroom Practices: What Award-Winning Elementary Teachers Do* and the bestselling *Best Practices for High School Classrooms: What Award-Winning Secondary Teachers Do* has led to *MORE Best Practices for Middle School Classrooms: What Award-Winning Teachers Do*. This book provides teachers with a new smorgasbord of information.

There is endless information out there, and it can take hours to find just what you are looking for. This book makes it easy. It is full of valuable lessons from outstanding teachers. These teachers are the ones shown in journals and magazines, the ones who win grants, fellowships, and contests. These are the Teachers of the Year, National Educator Award winners, recipients of the Milken Family Foundation award, ING Unsung Heroes, and the list continues. I wanted to know what makes them outstanding and what they are doing in their classrooms.

This book is the product of sharing at its best. There are four parts. Part I highlights classroom practices across the curriculum. Topics include classroom management, community involvement, technology in classrooms, and assessment. Some of the lessons in Part I are Internet Safety, Students Create Podcasts, and Short-Cycle Assessments. Part II focuses on science and math. Lessons include Creating a Thriving Prairie and The Hallway Crush: How Full Is Full? Part III addresses teaching language arts and social studies. Comparing Formal and Informal Language and Medieval Italy are just a couple of the topics

addressed. Part IV has a variety of lessons on music, art, and physical education, including Edible Color Wheels: A New Way to Introduce Color Theory and Chinese Zodiac: What Animal Are You?

I hope you enjoy each submission with the same enthusiasm and excitement that I did. *MORE Best Practices for Middle School Classrooms: What Award-Winning Teachers Do* provides you with an inside view of education practices in the United States thanks to the tremendously giving educators who offer up their classroom-tested lessons in the pages that follow.