

MIDDLE LEVEL LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE

May 7, 2026 | 8:30–11:30 AM | CAS, 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire

Join middle-level leaders for a morning of practical strategies and collaborative learning designed to strengthen instruction and expand leadership impact.

1

Lifting Tier I Practices Through Instructional Coaching

Presenter: Mike DiCicco, District Math Consultant & Instructional Coach for Mansfield PS

Explore how separating evaluation from coaching creates a culture of “failing forward” and strengthens Tier I instruction. This session highlights the structures, scheduling shifts, and partnership-based leadership practices that make high-impact coaching possible.

Participants will gain:

- Strategies to build a safe, growth-focused coaching culture
- Insight into the infrastructure needed for lesson study and intensive coaching
- A framework that balances data-driven improvement with teacher agency

2

Moving from Walkthroughs to Instructional Rounds

Presenter: Kristina Wallace, Principal, Avon Middle School

Learn how Instructional Rounds shift schools from judgment to analysis. Participants will examine the four stages of the process and how this collaborative approach builds collective efficacy and improves instruction system-wide.

Participants will gain:

- An overview of the four stages of Instructional Rounds
- Tools to implement a non-evaluative, collaborative model
- Strategies to strengthen collective responsibility for teaching and learning

3

Ensuring Equitable Access to Advanced Programming

Presenters: Dr. Damon Lewis, Principal, Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy, Norwalk
Jennifer Nealon, Gifted & Talented Teacher

Discover practical steps for reviewing data through an equity lens to ensure all students have access to advanced programming. Presenters will share their process for data analysis, nominations, and equitable identification.

Participants will gain:

- A clear understanding of data sources and identification processes
- Practical strategies for equitable decision-making
- Insight into implementing sustainable systems for access



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