
Hitching Wagons

Integrating Media Literacy in
U.S. Teacher Education through
School Reform Initiatives



Media
Education
Lab

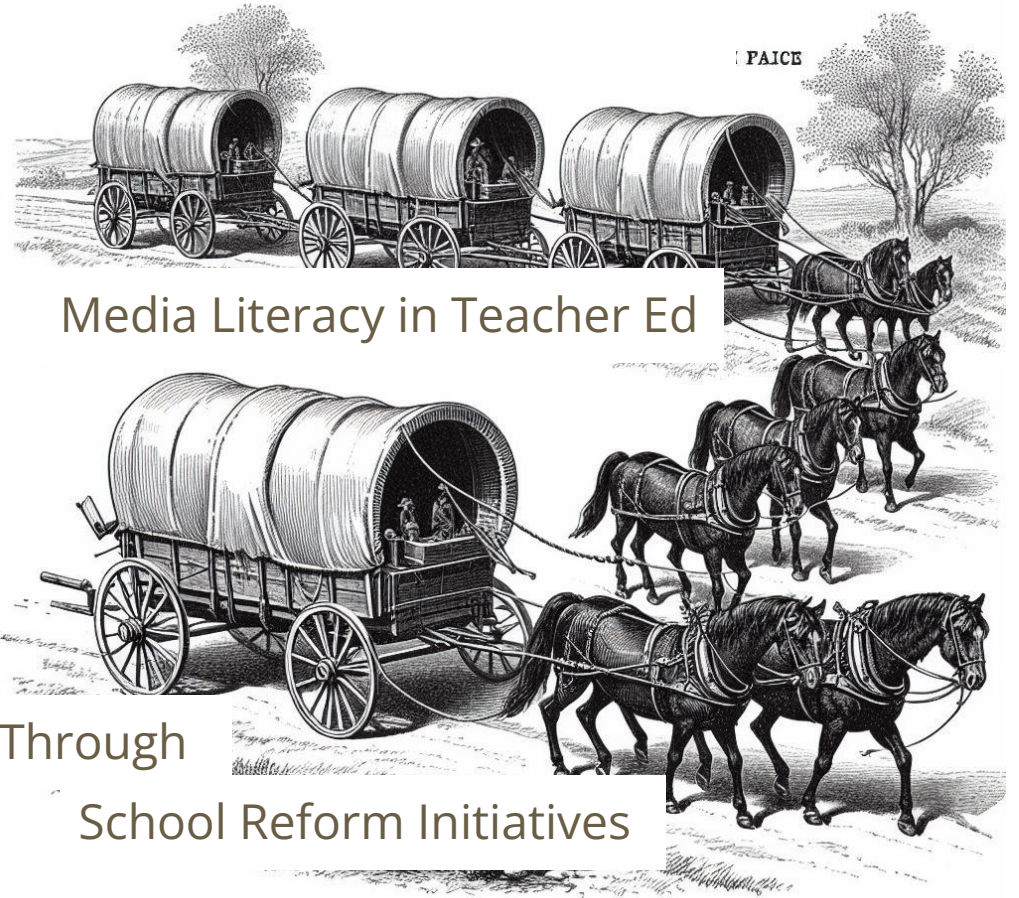


Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY

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March 20, 2024
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Hitching Wagons

- U.S. Context
 - Decentralized Education Governance
 - Teacher Education Trends
 - Media Literacy: Now, More than Ever, Always
- K-12 School Reform Initiatives and Media Literacy
 - Examples from Vermont, US 2015-2023
- Pre-service Teacher Education at Sacred Heart, 2023-2024
 - Isolated Efforts, Possibilities for Curriculum Integration



U.S. Context: Decentralized Governance & Trends in Teacher Education and Media Literacy

- Decentralized K-12 Public School Governance
 - Local Control: school district (town, county) and state
 - Centralizing Influences:
 - Federal laws and grant incentives (IDEA, Title I, IIa, III, IV, IX)
 - State Licensure regulations; State board guidelines; state grant incentives
 - Professional Teaching Organizations (ongoing Professional Development): Position Statements (National Council for Teachers of English, NC for Social Studies, etc)
- Teacher Education
 - Innovations in Theory & Research, State Licensure, & Realities of School Needs
- Media Literacy chases the hot media trend or crisis of the day
 - Now, More than Ever, Always: Media Consolidation, Marketing to Children, Media & Youth Violence, Social Media (optimism, now health concerns), Fake News, Algorithms, AI

Media Literacy in K-12 Schools with In-service Teachers

- Why integrate media literacy into existing school reform initiatives?
 - Very difficult to initiate stand alone courses
 - Relegating MLE to Library/Media or Technology courses is inadequate
 - Crowded Curriculum in Content Areas; Initiative Fatigue; Lack of Teacher Capacity for Additional Professional Learning; Competing Priorities
 - Funding incentives
- How does Media Literacy fit into current School Reform Initiatives?
 - Examples from my experience in Vermont, U.S. 2015-2023
 - Proficiency-Based Learning (not a fit, at first, with traditional content demands)
 - Student Supports, Interventions (MTSS, RTI); (not a fit in practice)
 - **Personalized Learning (a fit!)**
 - Social Emotional Learning (a promising start...)
 - Back to Proficiency-Based Learning via Transferable Skills (a sustainable fit)

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W.I.L.D.

WILDCAT INNOVATORS LEARNING DYNAMICALLY

Twin Valley MHS, Whitingham, VT

Student-Centered, Real World, Inquiry-driven, Project-based Learning



DESIGN **ARTIFACTS** **REFLECTION**

J-TERM 1.0: WILD 2019

Our first program evolved from student input on teachers' proposed offerings and a whole lot of flexibility from teachers, students and administrators.

[Link to WILD Event Photo Album c/o MRG](#)



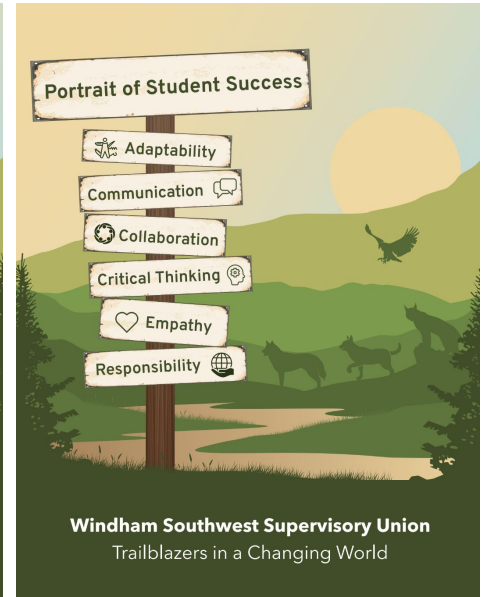
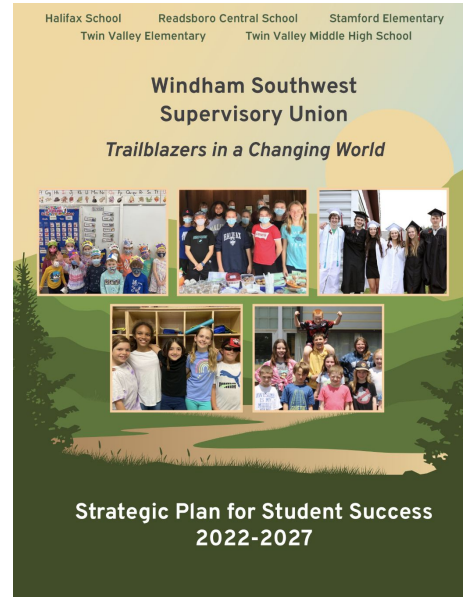
Twin Valley Middle High School

WILD Program of Studies

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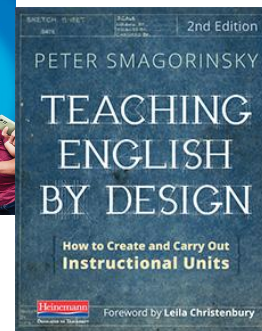
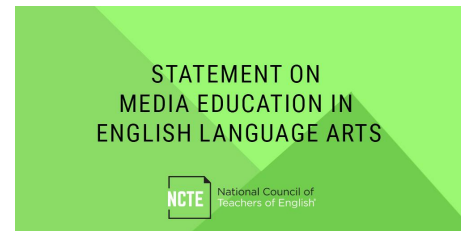
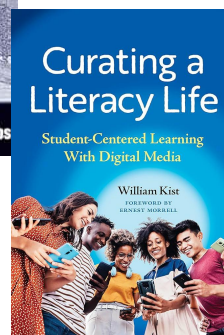
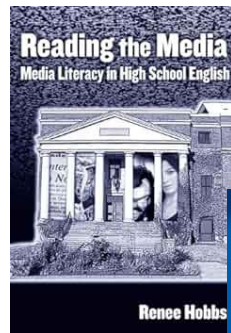
Media Literacy in Pre-service Teacher Education

- Current Examples in my first year at Sacred Heart University
 - In Teaching Methods & Curriculum courses, secondary content areas
 - In Create-to-Learn digital media assignments in survey and clinic courses
 - Can a general university-wide course requirement in Media Literacy provide a foundation for media literacy integration in Teacher Education courses? Example, FY Req's at SHU
- Is the Technology Integration course the place for teaching media literacy?
 - Hit or Miss: Should we focus on making this course media literacy focused?
 - How does media literacy relate to assistive technology, universal design for learning, and other core technology integration topics/approaches?
- How can we integrate Media Literacy across Teacher Education courses?
 - Should we do an audit of existing practices to map and build upon curriculum integration?
 - Do we need common professional learning for Teacher Education faculty in media literacy?
 - Should we hitch the media literacy wagon to an existing Teacher Education cross-curriculum integration initiative? Example, DEIB at SHU?

Media Literacy in Pre-service Teacher Education

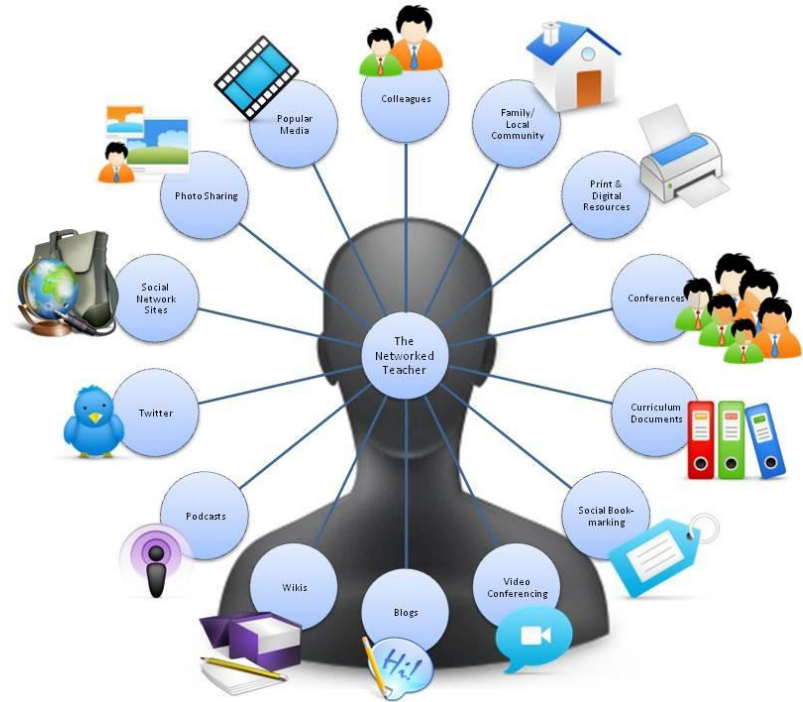
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How do you hitch your wagons?

How are you integrating media literacy in Teacher Education through school reform initiatives?

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