

What is an Honors or Mastery Program?

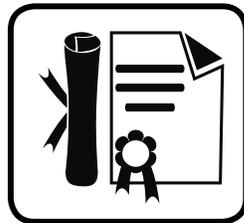
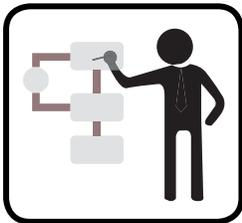
- » Every student has a gift and a talent.
- » Every student has a specific passion on a topic, event, or experience.
- » Students deserve the opportunity to master a topic, event, or experience.
- » Grades do not reflect master or knowledge!
- » Knowledge is demonstrated through multiple methods and intelligences.
- » Students need the ability to showcase their talents.
- » Traditional assessment does not allow students to truly express their knowledge.

Honors and Mastery

- » An honors project allows students to go beyond the basic skills that are required for a lesson or topic.
- » Honors programs and projects are not graded and are not mandatory.
- » Every student has the opportunity to take part in a honors project.
- » This does not limit or take away from gifted and talented programs within the school or school district.
- » Teachers and students will pick a topic together—based on student interest.
- » Student will choose an advocate to help them through the process.
- » Student and advocate will create a timeline and deadlines for the Honors Project.
- » When completed, the project or mastery will be presented to panel of educators, parents, community members, or school board members.
- » Teachers will create expectations for student to prove Mastery or Honors status.
- » When Mastery is achieved, teachers and administrators will create a Master's Degree and identify specific rewards for the students.

Possible Master's Awards

- » Earn a Master's Degree from the School for that topic
- » Present to the Panel
- » Certificate
- » Newsletter spotlight
- » Recognition from the School Board
- » Name on a plaque "Honors"
- » Project on display



21st Century Skills

- » Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- » Communication
- » Collaboration and Cooperation
- » Creativity and Innovation
- » Initiative and Self-Direction
- » Social and Cross-Cultural Skills
- » Leadership

Each skill has an outcome and examples.

Sample of Skills-Outcomes

Outcome – Students will use various types of reasoning to think and reflect critically and solve problems in both conventional and innovative ways.

- » Make connections to present-day situations or real-life situations
- » Can give various points of view
- » Show the emotional impact of what you have learned
- » Utilize social media
- » To apply knowledge across the curriculum

Mastery Using Questioning Model

Holocaust and Genocide

- » What types of governments use genocide and why?
- » What is the emotional impact on survivors?
- » Modern day examples and impacts?
- » People who defied the odds of the Holocaust?
- » What have we really learned?

Creating a Sample Honors Project

» Topics

» Goals

» Outcomes

» Rewards

» Presentation

Research Background

» Howard Gardner's *Multiple Intelligences*

» 21st Century Skills

» William Glasser

Thanks to Liberty Arts Magnet- Lima, Ohio



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

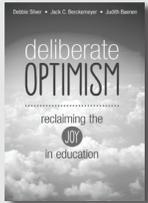
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A nationally-recognized presenter, author, and humorist, Jack Berckemeyer, began his career as a middle school teacher in Denver, Colorado. After two years of teaching he was named as an outstanding educator at his school, and shortly thereafter he was identified as one of the outstanding educators in the district. In 2003, he received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Falcon School District. Jack brings his energy, humor, and expertise to all staff development as he helps teachers and administrators remember why this job makes a difference. Jack has presented in conference and school district settings both nationally and internationally. Jack served as a judge for the Disney American Teacher Awards and served on the selection committee for the USA TODAY All-Teacher Team.

Jack Berckemeyer is known for his motivating, practical ideas communicating a message of hope, laughter, and insight into education. Jack was also the Assistant Executive Director for the National Middle School Association for 13 years and is the author of *Managing the Madness - A Practical Guide to Middle Grades Classrooms*. His most recent publications are *Taming of the Team - How Great Teams Work Together* and *Deliberate Optimism - Reclaiming the Joy in Education*, co-authored with Dr. Debbie Silver and Judith Baenen.

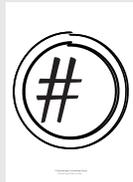
Jack is currently the Owner and Director of *NUTS and BOLTS - Ready to Lead, Teach, and Learn Conferences* located in Denver, Colorado and Destin, Florida. Jack lives in Denver, Colorado and has no pets or plants.



Deliberate Optimism: Reclaiming the Joy in Education

by Debbie Silver, Jack Berckemeyer & Judith Baenen

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Paper Plate Activities - Letters and Numbers

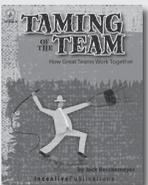
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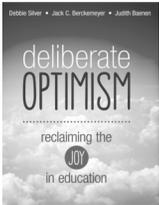
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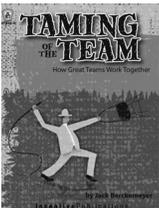
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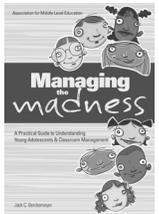
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