Scrapping the SILOS
Seminar Teaching

Laura Dahm
Kettle Moraine School District
Instructional delivery models

- Direct Instruction
- Blended or Online Instruction
- Workshop
- Discussion and Inquiry
- Ability based groups
- Independent
- Seminars
Seminar Attributes

Interdisciplinary
Targets from multiple subjects are embedded and personalized based on student needs

Student Input
Interest surveys, class discussions, question inventories

Generative Curriculum
Covers high interest topics and capitalizes on initiatives, student voice and community opportunities

Modular Grouping
Allows for continuous grouping and regrouping and encourages teacher collaboration
Why Seminars?

- Framework and delivery model, not curriculum
- Constant grouping and regrouping
- Title matters, engagement matters
- Connect place based experiences
Multiage Seminars
K-5 community building, habits of mind, schoolwide

Elective/Specialists
Choices within specials, tangential opportunities

Academic Content
All science and social studies are interdisciplinary
Where do you start?

- Pick anchor standards you need to cover
- Offer choices to students - gather their input
- Writing is a great launch point
- Pick a catchy title
Unpack an example

Instead of...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Everyone pick a state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Create a poster to represent learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Must include state motto, capital, industry, etc.</td>
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Try...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where in the USA are the ___?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Digital Map Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Geocashing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Inquiry Question (Why is Nevada full of Ghost Towns?)</td>
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The Science of Snow

Science, non fiction writing, habits of mind

Snowshoing, catch a snowflake, vocabulary, make snow!
Ride on the magic school bus

Reading comprehension, science, non fiction writing, habits of mind

Turn classroom into jungle, create plant guides, experiential writing
Start a Revolution!

US History, Reading fluency, non fiction writing

Student led scripts, one act plays, oral storytelling
Green thumb

Reading comprehension, science, non fiction writing, habits of mind, math

Create advertisements, sell at farmer’s market, presentation skills
Give it a try!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instead of...</th>
<th>Try...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrative Writing</td>
<td>Narrative Seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Small moment story</td>
<td>- Fractured Fairy Tale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fictional story elements</td>
<td>- Imagine a World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Story Mapping</td>
<td>- Do you Rememoir?</td>
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</table>
**Give it a try!**

**Physical Science Targets (%)**

Use models to describe that energy in animals’ food (used for body repair, growth, and motion and to maintain body warmth) was once energy from sun.

Apply scientific ideas to design, test, and refine a device that converts energy from one form to another.

Make observations to provide evidence that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electrical currents.
Give it a try!

Writing Targets ($\frac{2}{3}$)

I can write an introduction in which I named my topic and tried to interest the reader.

I can use drawings, labels, definitions and many facts to teach about my topic.

I can write an ending using details that stay close to the topic.
A bundle of energy

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<td></td>
<td>- Create an energy model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Imagine a world prototype</td>
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Road Tripping!

- Geography, map skills, planning a road trip
- Stops along the way, price and interest guide

Try...

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Questions?
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