

GETTING STARTED WITH MARE

Planning for MARE in Your School Year

Step 1: Turnkey the Program and Build Motivation!

Once you have completed the MARE Summer Institute, you are considered a **MARE Master Teacher!**

For MARE to be successful in your school or district, it is necessary for you to **turnkey** what you have learned, to your colleagues.

To make this task easier, the MARE team has created “**Golden lessons**” for each grade level. We have selected 3-4 lessons, as suggested starting points for each grade level. We have identified key concepts, lesson time frames, and the rationale for each lesson. We have included lesson objectives, NJCCCS, resources, and extension ideas.

Of course, we encourage all educators to explore the entire MARE binder. The “Golden lessons” are simply a way to ease into the program.

Plan a meeting with all staff members to introduce the binders and the “Golden lessons” together. Recall the enthusiasm you felt at the MARE Summer Institute and make every effort to transfer that enthusiasm to your colleagues! We all recognize that the binders can be a bit overwhelming, so try to concentrate on the “Golden lessons” to show your colleagues how easy it is to get started.

Step 2: Set the time frame

August/September

- Set the date for **Ocean Week** with your Principal.
- Choose the month/weeks where staff will teach the MARE **lessons** and build the **habitats**. (May is suggested, due to favorable weather for field trips, and the completion of state assessments.)
- Turnkey the MARE program to your colleagues.
- Form a MARE (building level) **Committee** to help you. (Plan Ocean Week, organize materials, invite presenters, negotiate habitat placements, etc.)
- Ask all staff and family members to save a small sand sample from any trips they take.
- Request staff members join Networked Ocean World (<http://coseenow.net>) to communicate with other educators regarding MARE and Ocean literacy.

January/February

- Meet with your (building level) **Committee** to plan. (Schedule presenters and field trips now.)
- Meet with your colleagues to answer any general questions about the **lessons** and the program. Locate materials needed for each grade level. Build confidence in your colleagues ability to teach ocean literacy!
- **PTA/PTO** are excellent resources for funds and programs. Contact your local representative now.

March

- Refine and set the schedule for **Ocean Week** and **habitat** placement.
- Meet with your colleagues to answer any last questions about the **lessons** or materials for MARE. Keep the enthusiasm going!

April/May

- Celebrate our Ocean habitat with MARE!
- Congratulate yourself and your colleagues on a great first year with MARE! Reflect on any successes and any problems. Make a plan for revision for next year.

Conclusions

Remember to **start small** and build your school's MARE program over time.

Many of the schools with the most successful and consistent MARE programs, have added new things each year to keep MARE fresh. MARE is the kind of program that you can **tailor** to your own school.

We suggest keeping contact with the Rutgers MARE team and to attend training again, whenever it is available. You **always learn something new!**

Sample Ocean Week Schedule

Grade level classes attend each program on a rotating schedule, one to two classes per half hour time period.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Grade K Ocean Life Center Touch Tanks 9:00-11:00	Grade 1 Valerie Vaughn Songs about Tucker's Island 11:00-12:00	Grade 2 Trip to Island Beach State Park 9:00-2:00	Assembly Mr & Mrs. Fish K-2 9:00 3-4 11:00	Beach Day All Classes Sing-a-long in the gym Beach ball volleyball IMAX Dolphin movie Picnic lunch on the playground on beach towels
Grade 3 Turtles lesson with MATES Academy Students 1:00-3:00		Grade 4 Seaweed exploration and pressing 12:30-2:00	Open house Family Night 7:00-8:00 Games Displays Storytelling Puppet show	All students wear their grade levels ocean week T-shirts, hats, sunglasses

MARE Tee-shirts & Hats

Each grade level can create a t-shirt or hat to wear on designated days during Ocean Week. They are also great for field trips!

We asked each child to supply a new t-shirt from home. Each grade level decides on a design for the t-shirt. Some ideas include:

Grade K-frogs

Grade 1-Seastars

Grade 2-Crabs

Grade 3 dragonflies

Grade 4 Otters

Grade 5 Gyotaku

Grade 6 sharks

Grade 7 Whale

Grade 8 penguin

We have used commercially prepared stencils (AC Moore, Rag Shop, Michaels) or cut our own stencils out of inexpensive plastic place mats. Fabric paint or any acrylic paint works well. Sponge applicators are best for applying the paint. Place a brown grocery bag inside the shirt before stenciling to prevent soaking through. Students have added cute sayings such as “Too cute to be crabby” or “Star of the sea” to the shirts. We have ordered cute sailor hats or painter’s caps from catalogs like Oriental Trading and decorated them the same way!

New Jersey Resources & Programs

- Adventure (Camden) Aquarium Assembly programs, Clamshell Theater, www.adventureaquarium.com
- Valerie Vaughn, Singer songwriter www.valerievaughn.com
- Mr. & Mrs. Fish Assembly www.mrandmrsfish.com
- Ocean Life Center, Atlantic City Aquarium <http://www.oceanlifecenter.com/educators.asp>
- Jenkinson’s Aquarium www.jenkinsons.com/aquarium
- Island Beach State Park www.islandbeachnj.org
- Cattus Island Park, <http://www.ocean.nj.us/Parks/cattus.html>
- Tuckerton Seaport www.tuckertonseaport.org
- Viking Village Barnegat Light <http://www.vikingvillage.net/>
- Barnegat Light State Park
- Sandy Hook Marine Science Lab sh.nefsc.noaa.gov
- Wells Mills Park www.ocean.nj.us/parks/wellsmills.html
- Sandy Hook Bird Observatory www.njaudubon.org/centers/SHBO/
- The Lighthouse Center in Waretown www.experiencebarnegatbay.org
- MATES Academy <http://www.ocvts.org/index.htm>
- Barnegat Bay Nat’l Estuary Program <http://www.bbep.org/educators.html>
- Forest Resource Education Center (NJDEP) http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/interpretive_programs.htm
- Project WET, Watershed Education http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/outreach_education.htm
- County Soil Conservation District (check for your local county office) <http://www.ocscd.org/education.shtml> (Ocean County)
- SEEDS (State Environmental Ed. Directory) (DEP) <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/seeds/index.html>
- Project Wild, NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/educatn.htm>
- The Monmouth Museum Traveling Trunks Program <http://www.monmouthmuseum.org/mmtrunks.html>

MARE Contacts

Help is just an email away! Please just ask!

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