

November 19, 2026 For Participants in LEA's Middle School Educators Network

Great Educators Deserve Recognition — Nominate Someone Today! The deadline for 2027 LEA Award nominations is Friday, November 20! Every day, dedicated educators, administrators, and pastors make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families through Lutheran education. Do you know someone whose exceptional service, leadership, and commitment deserve to be celebrated? Now is your opportunity to recognize them! Nominate a deserving colleague for a 2027 Lutheran Education Association award. Don't let their outstanding contributions go unnoticed! Explore the award categories and criteria at lea.org/awards, and submit your nomination by November 20! Important Reminder for Distinguished Lutheran School Team Pastor Nominations: Nominators are responsible for collecting three letters of recommendation—one each from an administrator or board chair, a teacher, and a parent—and emailing them to Denise Rice by January 22, 2027. Take a moment to honor someone who makes a difference. Nominate them today!



What does it take to Help Students Get Comfortable with Taking Risks? Natalia Ortiz, an NYU professor, says teachers can model "productive discomfort" and encourage students to have a growth mindset. (Ed Finkel in *K-12 Dive*)

AI can produce a polished essay, but it cannot make a student a clearer thinker. Teaching in the Age of AI: Opportunities, Pitfalls, and Christian Discernment works through where AI genuinely helps a classroom and where it quietly replaces the struggle that forms a mind, and ends with four questions worth asking your students directly. (Steven Di Iorio in *Answers in Genesis*)

Holiday Ideas for December 2026

December 7–Pearl Harbor Day: In Pearl Harbor: Analyzing FDR's Pearl Harbor Address, your students will examine Roosevelt's famous speech, compare primary and secondary sources, and consider how leaders communicate during a national crisis. (*WWII Museum*)

December 25–Christmas: 3 Free Christmas Printables for Middle School ELA has free Christmas-themed discussion cards and a reader's theater activity exploring Christmas traditions and St. Nicholas. It's a good choice if you want something festive with a little academic enrichment. (*Mrs. Beers Language Arts Class*)

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Don't miss these weekly LEA resources…

WOW Video

Weekly Devotion by Ed Grube

The LEArning Curve Blog

What Works For Me Podcast

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Linking, Equipping, and Affirming