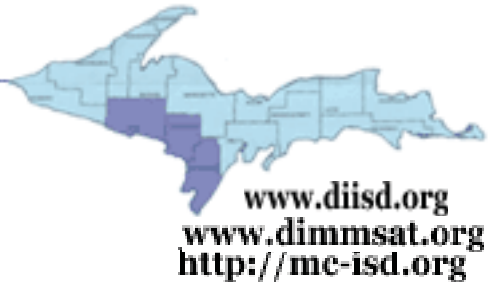


DICKINSON IRON MENOMINEE



Educational News & Upcoming Events

Volume 11 Issue 1
December 2010

What's Inside?

Professional Development.....p. 2
Social Studies.....p. 4
Math/Science.....p. 5
Dates to Remember..... p. 6

Produced by:
Dickinson • Iron • Menominee
Math Science Center
1074 Pyle Drive
Kingsford, MI 49802
Fax: 906.779.2609

Dee Benjamin
Director
Phone: 906.776.8137
dbenjamin@diisd.org

Mary Ellen Welcher
Support Services
Phone: 906.776.8110
mwelcher@diisd.org

Dickinson - Iron I.S.D. is an equal opportunity
education institution/equal opportunity
employer

Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics

The State Board of Education adopted the Common Core Standards - a set of rigorous, college and career-ready K-12 curriculum standards which are internationally benchmarked in English Language Arts and Mathematics. This formalizes Michigan's agreement to integrate the standards into the state's public education system.

The standards have been guided by the best available evidence and the highest standards across the country and globe and were designed by a diverse group of teachers, experts, parents, and school administrators. They reflect both real world requirements and the realities of the classroom.

The Common Core State Standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The standards:

- Are aligned with college and work expectations.
- Are clear, understandable and consistent.
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher order skills.
- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards.
- Are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society.
- Are evidence-based.

Michigan implemented new nationally recognized K-8 grade level content expectations in 2004 and high school content expectations in 2006 for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Both are closely aligned to the Common Core State Standards which will minimize instructional changes and adjustments.

To help teachers successfully implement the standards, the Michigan Department of Education, Intermediate School Districts and other partner groups will provide support and training starting in the fall of 2010. Teachers will begin to provide instruction related to the standards by the fall of 2012. It is anticipated that students will be assessed on the Common Core Standards beginning in 2014.

Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center will host a roll out session for **Mathematics on January 6th at 4 p.m.** at the Dickinson-Iron ISD Administration Building and at the Menominee County ISD on **December 15 at 4 p.m.** Please register at www.diisd.org. A stipend will be paid to attending teachers. (con't. back page)

Dee Benjamin

Professional Development

The Regional Data Initiative (REDI)

Twenty-three ISD's are now partners in the REDI grant project. This project is designed to give each ISD and local school district access to a fully implemented data warehouse. Both Dickinson-Iron ISD and Menominee County ISD have adopted the data warehousing tool Data Director from Riverside Publishing. Data Director is an innovative online data management and assessment solution — a powerful decision-support system that lets educator's access data, view reports, and better understand students. Unlike simple assessment systems, Data Director allows users to combine multiple data types over time to maximize reporting, and answer complex questions (MEAP, MME, Local Assessments, etc.). Data Director helps schools narrow learning targets and support teaching and learning.

Menominee Co. ISD completed their Principal, School Improvement teams, and lead teacher training on November 4th and 5th. The Dickinson-Iron ISD will host the same training on **December 9th and 10th**. This will take place at the Technical Education Center starting at 9 a.m. Please see your Principal in order to register. Target audience: Principals, S.I. Teams and Lead Teachers. School teams are asked to bring a copy of their school improvement plan and each person will need to have a laptop. Please contact Darren Schiltz (*dschiltz@diisd.org*) if you need the ISD to supply a laptop for you.

Principal Training: Power Walkthrough Informal Observations

Administrators from Dickinson-Iron and Menominee are participating in the McREL's Power Walkthrough seminar and software training. School leaders turn their regular classroom observations into "Power Walkthroughs" by using a PDA, Tablet PC, Blackberry, or iPhone device loaded with McREL's Web-based software. Strategies from the books, Classroom Instruction That Works (CITW) and Using Technology With Classroom Instruction That Works are the basis for this classroom observation software. In just a three to five-minute visit, a Principal can observe teachers' use of effective instructional strategies, level of student engagement, use of technology, and other teacher practices that research has shown to influence student learning.

McREL training session are designed to help school leaders gain a practical understanding of the Classroom Instruction that Works Strategies, why they are so powerful in improving student learning, and how to identify their use in classrooms.

Next session for Principals will be held **December 6th**, starting at **8:30 a.m.** at the Dickinson-Iron ISD Administrative building.

21 Things for the 21st Century Educator: Technology Every Educator Should Know

Dickinson-Iron ISD, Menominee Co. ISD and Marquette Alger RESA have teamed up to offer "21 Things for 21st Century Educator" training. This class has limited enrollment. It was offered over the summer, and currently we are in the middle of the second class. The course provides "just in time" training through an online interface for K-12 educators based on the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T). NETS reflect the basic technology skills every educator should possess. In the process of engaging in the 21 Things course, educators develop their own skills and discover what students need in order to meet the NETS for students. The class meets face to face only for the first session. All other work is done online. The course will be available for 12 SBCEUs or 4 graduate credits from Northern Michigan University.

The 21 modules in this course are Assessment/Evaluation/Survey Tools, Blogs, Collaboration Tools, Content Area Tools, Differentiated Instruction and Diverse Learning, Digital Citizenship, Digital Images, Digital Storytelling, Face of Your Classroom, Mentoring Online, Online Interactive Learning Tools, Online Video, Professional Organizations and Networking, Research and Reference Tools, Staying Informed, Staying Organized, and Visual Learning.

If you are interested in taking the class in the spring of 2011, please e-mail either Dee Benjamin (dbenjamin@diisd.org) or Wendy Woodworth (wwoodworth@mc-isd.org).

High School Science Priority Expectations Workshops December 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Dickinson-Iron ISD Repeat Session: January 5th from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Menominee County ISD

Participants will: (1) Understand the organization and components of the new "HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE PRIORITY EXPECTATIONS" document. (2) Learn how to evaluate instructional lessons using the document and related resources. The High School Science Priority Expectations are the result of an ISD/RESA/RESA collaboration based on the MDE High School Science Content Expectations and the Companion Document. It promotes instruction of fewer topics in depth by focusing on big ideas and core concepts of science. It emphasizes inquiry standards, instruction centered on 'doing' science, substantive conversation, and writing and evaluation of claims and conclusions based on evidence.

Please register at www.diisd.org indicating which session you will attend. A stipend will be paid to attending teachers.

Welcome to the Social Studies Alignment Project

The Social Studies Alignment Project provides information about the scope and meaning of the social studies content expectations and indicates how they will be assessed at each grade level.

The resource identifies each content expectation with either a **C** (assessed at classroom and district levels) or an **S** (assessed at classroom, district, and state levels; and may be assessed on the MEAP or the Michigan Merit Exam (MME)). Items designated as state assessable also include a code that indicates plans for assessment: **CC**, **Cc**, or **M** as defined below.

Additionally, this resource provides information about the scope of the standard as defined by the content expectations at each grade level. It also provides a focus question and accompanying short narrative Sample Response that further define the scope of each content expectation.

- C** = Assessed at classroom and district levels
- S** = Assessed at classroom, district, and state levels; may be assessed on MEAP or MME
- CC** = State assessed; Common Core; Common to all forms
- Cc** = State assessed; Common; Matrixed by form every year
- M** = State assessed; Matrixed by form over two or three years
- H, G, C, E** indicates the standard which serves as the lens through which the expectation will be assessed and reported.

Teachers and content experts developed the Social Studies Alignment documents. These teachers and experts incorporated input from committees organized by the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability. All Sample Responses were reviewed by a task force of educators/experts from across the state. This has been completed for K-8th as well as World History & Geography, US History & Geography, Civics and Economics.

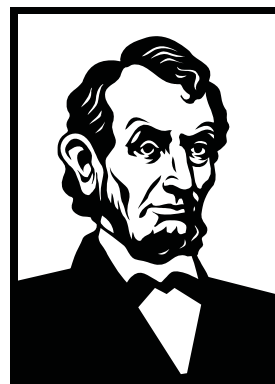
For more information see the Michigan Department of Education web page (<http://www.michigan.gov/mde>) go to Social Studies page or call 517-335-3678.



Geography Awareness

National Geographic's Geography has a new website at www.cst.cmich.edu/mga. The site has information on both NGS activities, and Michigan Geographic Alliance activities, including a new downloadable tile map of the Great Lakes Watershed with student activities, and a Walk for Water project for classrooms.

John Beechard and Mr. Lincoln – Free materials from MDE



This play is a work of fiction based on actual historical events and written for the Bicentennial of President Abraham Lincoln's Birth. Written by Michigan teacher Sam Sicilia, the play follows John Beechard a native son of Kalamazoo, Michigan from his introduction to Abraham Lincoln's ideas as expressed in a speech made by Lincoln in Village Park in Kalamazoo, to his enlistment in the 6th Michigan Cavalry, under Colonel George Gray of Grand Rapids and participation in the Battle of Gettysburg. Schools and community organizations in Michigan are freely granted use of this script for classroom, school and community performances. For more information and the script go to <http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/BeechardandLincoln>.

5a. Fun Science Activities to Do at Home

<http://www.nsta.org/sciencematters/websites.aspx>

Activities include: Bernoulli's Cans (grades 4-8); Counting Your Heartbeat (grades K-5); Density Determination (grade 3); Electromagnetism (grades 4-6); Exploration of Static Electricity (grades 6-8); Flight (k-adult); Getting Familiar with Fingerprints (grades K-4); Habitat Box (grade 4); Hanging by a Thread (grades 2-7) and many more.

6a. Attend the MSTA Conference for FREE

Want to attend the MSTA (Michigan Science Teachers Association) 58th annual conference for **FREE!** The stipend is sponsored by MEEMIC Insurance Company to attend the MSTA Annual Conference on February 25 - 26, 2011 in Grand Rapids, MI. The stipends that will be awarded, are for \$250 and will cover one year of MSTA membership, two day registration to the conference, and sub reimbursement or travel expenses while you are gone. The application for the scholarship must be completed by December 15, 2010. To apply, go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mstameemic>.

The Dickinson-Iron-Menominee M/S Center will match the \$250 for qualifying teachers.

6b. Toshiba America Math and Science Grants

Toshiba America Foundation offers grants up to and over \$5,000 to 6-12 grade math and science teachers. Funds must be used to engage students in positive and challenging learning experiences. Instructional equipment request are considered. It is important that proposed project are creative and innovative and designed to engage students, especially those who typically are not enrolled in science and math classes. Projects that engage under served students have an advantage. For more information, please visit: http://www.toshiba.com/taf/12_apply.jsp. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2011.

6c. Sea World/Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards

The Sea World/Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards, sponsored by Sea World, Busch Gardens, and Fuji film, recognize the efforts of K-12 students and teachers who are working to protect and preserve the environment. Awards are \$10,000 to benefit existing projects, 100 T-shirts to share with their schools and communities, award trophy, a participation certificate for the project leader and a trip for three students and one adult leader to a Sea World or Busch Gardens parks. Eight projects will be chosen. One outstanding environmental educator will receive an additional \$5,000, a trip to a Sea World or Busch Gardens parks and trip to the NSTA National Conference. The deadline to apply is December 1, 2010. For more information, please visit: <http://seaworld.org/conservation-matters/eea/index.htm>

6e. Toyota Tapestry Program Now Accepting Entries

Celebrating its 21st anniversary, the Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program, the largest science teacher grant program of its kind in the nation, is now accepting entries for the 2011-2012 program year. Sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, (TMS) U.S.A., Inc., and administered by NSTA, the program offers \$10,000 grants to K-12 teachers for innovative science projects that enhance environmental science education in their school and/or district over a one-year period.

Fifty-\$10,000 grants totaling \$500,000 will be awarded this year. Applicants must either by an elementary teacher who teaches science in the classroom or a middle or high school science teacher, with a minimum of two years teaching experience. Individual science teachers or a team of up to five teachers can submit proposals. Since the program's inception in 1990, Toyota TAPESTRY grants totaling more than \$9.2 million have been awarded to science teachers across the country.

For more information about the Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Science Teachers program or to learn how to apply, visit the TAPESTRY website at: <http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/> Applications must be submitted no later than February 23, 2011, to be considered.

8b. Four Free Videos from NOVA and the Teachers Domain

Mystery Mud: Exploring Changes in States of Matter, Grades 3-8 <http://www.teachersdomain.org/resource/phy03.sci.phys.matter.mud/>

Evolving Ideas: How Do We Know Evolution Happens, Grades 6-12 <http://www.teachersdomain.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.evo.howhappens/>

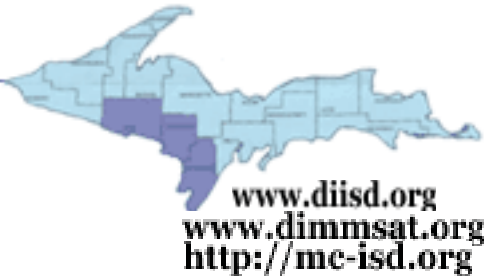
Robofly, Grades 6-12 <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/teachers/space/robofly.html>

Cave Formation: Biogeochemical Cycles, Grades 6-12 <http://www.teachersdomain.org/resource/ess05.sci.ess.earthsys.cavebiogeo/>

8c. Get Scientific Explanations for Everyday Phenomena

Have your students ever wondered why a camel has a hump? Or if they can really tell the weather by listening to the chirp of a cricket? Or why our joints make popping sounds? Everyday Mysteries will help your students get the answers to these and many other of life's most interesting questions through scientific inquiry. All of the questions presented on this Web site were asked by researchers and answered by librarians from the Library of Congress's Science Reference Services. Please visit <http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/>

DICKINSON IRON MENOMINEE



con't.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Michigan's Timeline for Transitioning

2010 – 2011	2010 MEAP/2011 MME remain the same. State focus will be on technical assistance.
2011 – 2012	Implementation of CCSS in classroom. 2011 MEAP/2012 MME remain the same. State focus will be on instruction/professional development.
2012 – 2013	2012 MEAP minimally modified as necessary to reflect CCSS. 2013 MME remains the same. State focus will be on student learning.
2013 – 2014	2013 MEAP based on 2012 model. 2014 MME remains the same. State focus will be on preparing for new assessments.
2014 – 2015	Full implementation of CCSS. Instruction and assessment base on the CCSS.

Menominee Co. ISD is finalizing plans for the **ELA** Roll Out (late Jan. or Feb.) and will be posted online. Principals will be notified. Dickinson-Iron **ELA** Roll Out will be part of the work of the **ELA** Professional Learning Community with Sue Mielcarek. More information will be sent to Principals.

Potted Plant Project - Science Inquiry 3rd & 4th Grade

The Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center will be distributing posters, data charts and “inch plants” (scientific classification family name “zebrine”) to all 3rd and 4th grade classes in Dickinson, Iron and Menominee Counties on **December 7th**. Project focus is to have classes conduct the experiment in order that students learn how to formulate a hypothesis, make observations, collect data and analyze information. These are steps in critical thinking and the basis for doing experiments.

Along with the posters and data sheets, the classes are being given two potted plants. One plant will serve as a control and will be treated as a normal plant; exposed to sunlight, watered on a regular basis and kept away from exposure to cold. The other plant will be watered but covered with paper bags to keep out the sunlight. Children will be able to observe the difference in the plant growth and condition. Students will chart growth, leaf orientation, color changes and condition of the plants.

The Math Science Center started this project in order to help teachers address the Grade Level Content Expectations in Science. Scientific inquiry is also a part of both the MEAP and Michigan Merit Exams.

Dates to Remember

- December 6: Power Walkthrough Admin. Training
- December 9 & 10: Data Director Training
- December 10: Algebra 4 All
- December 14: H.S. Science Priority Expectations - DIISD
- December 15: Math Common Core - Menominee
- January 5: H.S. Science Priority Expectations - Menominee Co. ISD
- January 6: Math Common Core - Dickinson - Iron ISD
- January 11: MSP/GPS - 3rd - 5th grade grant participants
- January 12: MSP/GPS - 6th - 9th grade grant participants.