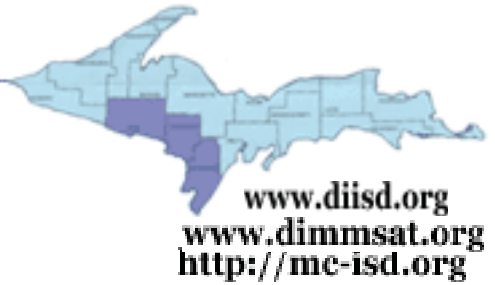


DICKINSON IRON MENOMINEE



Educational News & Upcoming Events

Volume 11 Issue 2
February 2011

Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Regional Science Fair

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The Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center will host its annual Regional Science Fair for all area 4th – 8th grade students. The Regional Science Fair will be held Saturday, April 30th at Woodland Elementary. 2011 marks the 17th year for this regional event.

Money for Science Supplies

The Math Science Center is offering each school district that hosts a "in-house" science fair **\$250** for materials and supplies to support that event. To qualify for the **\$250**, a district must notify Dee Benjamin (dbenjamin@diisd.org) of the date of the school science fair. The Center would also like pictures or flyers which are announcing the event. In addition, the Center will be giving out **\$500** per school district for supplies or materials to support Science education to the teacher who has the highest percentage of their students participating in their school science fair. It is the school's responsibility to track which teacher, from their own district, has the highest percentage of students participating. In case of a tie or more than one teacher, all names from that district go into a drawing to determine who gets to order the materials. A **\$500** check will be sent to the district against which that teacher can write purchases. The Science Fair Committee will be distributing informational packets and forms for teachers, students and parents in February to area teachers. Students do **NOT** have to win a 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their school science fair to go to the Regional Science Fair. We hope you will encourage all students to participate. Doing science experiments supports the Science Inquiry Standards, and science vocabulary.

It is through doing science that students learn to ask questions of the world around them and to use a structured process to examine those questions. Students also use math skills to prepare and present data, critical thinking skills to interpret the data and communication skills to report on what they've done and what they've learned. It is a chance to apply in real world terms what they are learning in school. Data shows those students who participate in Science Fairs, exhibiting their projects do better on both the grade school MEAP Science tests given in 5th and 8th grade and the High School Michigan Merit Exam.

Dee Benjamin

Michigan Schools' MEAP & MME Proficiency Standards to be Raised

The State Board of Education today approved a plan to set the bar higher for determining what's considered proficient on state achievement exams.

The approval came a month after the board first considered the plan and the changes will be in effect for the 2011-2012 school year.

The plan would have the Michigan Department of Education raising what are called cut scores. The cut scores essentially are the cutoff point for how well a student needs to perform to pass the exams. Current cut scores are too low, state officials have said, and lead to more students being considered proficient who really aren't. The new plan would establish the cutoff to be consistent with what skills students need to be prepared for college and careers. The current cutoff is based more on basic understanding of material. Fewer students would pass the exams under the new plan.

For instance, if the proposed cut scores were in place in 2009, just 34% of third graders would pass the math exam, compared with 95% who passed under the current guidelines. At the high school level, 20% would pass, compared with the 50% who passed in 2009, the latest year for which figures are available.

The impact would be even more dramatic for meeting the academic standards outlined by the federal No Child Left Behind law. Under current guidelines, 86% of schools meet the academic goals, but if the proposed cut scores were in place, only 34% would meet the goals.

Detroit Free Press 2/8/2011

Document Library

Great resource for Social Studies/History teachers: www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/
This Document Library contains a list of letters, speeches, documents, web sites, books, and articles on significant people and events in American political thought and history. Rather than being a comprehensive list of available resources, it is meant to be a list of the best resources available on the given subject.

- Colonial Era
- Founding Era
- Expansion Era
- Civil War Era
- Progressive Era
- American Between World Wars
 - Civil Rights
 - Modern Era
 - Constitution
- Legislative Branch
- Executive Branch
- Judicial Branch

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Archives of Michigan: www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-54463_19313---,00.html

Library of Michigan: www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-54504---,00.html

Mackinac State Historic Parks: www.mackinacparks.com/

Michigan Historical Center: www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-54463---,00.html

Michigan History Magazine: www.hsmichigan.org/mhm/

Formative and Summative Assessments in the Classroom

by:

**Catherine Garrison and Michael Ehringhaus,
Ph.D.**

Assessment is a huge topic that encompasses everything from statewide accountability tests to district benchmark or interim tests to everyday classroom tests. In order to grapple with what seems to be an overuse of testing, educators should frame their views of testing as assessment and that assessment is information. The more information we have about students, the clearer the picture we have about achievement or where gaps may occur.

In a balanced assessment system, both summative and formative assessments are an integral part of information gathering. Depend too much on one or the other and the reliability of student achievement in your classroom becomes unclear.

Summative Assessments are given periodically to determine at a particular point in time what students know and do not know. Many associate summative assessments only with standardized tests such as state assessments, but they are also used at and are an important part of district and classroom programs. Summative assessment at the district and classroom level is an accountability measure that is generally used as part of the grading process.

The key is to think of summative assessment as a means to gauge, at a particular point in time, student learning relative to content standards.

Formative Assessment is part of the instructional process. When incorporated into classroom practice, it provides the information needed to adjust teaching and learning while they are happening. In this sense, formative assessment informs both teachers and students about student understanding at a point when timely adjustments can be made. These adjustments help to ensure students achieve targeted standards-based learning goals within a set time frame.

A companion article "New Assessment Beliefs for New School Mission" is also available on the SCAS website (www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709_45003---,00.html)

Rick Stiggins examines a new way of thinking about assessment and describes classroom assessment practices that will improve learning and help student succeed.

For a free copy for your school, please contact Kimberly Young in the Office of Educational Assessment & Accountability. Phone: 517-373-0988 or email youngk1@michigan.gov.

FREE Resources from MDE

Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) has specific manuals for Science, Math, Social Studies & English Language Arts. These can be located on the MDE web page www.michigan.gov/mde

What is it?

In response to the need of students to learn content using a variety of strategies and their need to practice writing in a variety of contexts, many teachers have adopted the strategies associated with WAC. The following principles underlie WAC:

- *Writing promotes learning,
- *Integration of writing and the writing process promotes student participation, a diversity of student voices, and engage students as critical thinkers while promoting their texts as important resources and thinking tools,
- *Effective writing instruction integrates disciplines,
- *Opportunities to write in every class develops good writers,
- *Using writing as part of instruction can be used in every classroom,
- *Only by practicing the thinking and writing conventions of an academic discipline will students begin to communicate effectively within that discipline.

What's In It For Teachers and Students?

Including writing in instruction has short and long-term benefits. In the short term, students and their teachers are better able to appraise how well they grasp information and where deeper elaboration of key concepts is needed. Students are able to take small pieces of content and analyze it for patterns and connections. In the long run, students who use writing as a technique to learn content have their skills as thinkers developed. Organization, summary, and analysis of content become easier for students, producing richer understandings. Students become more practiced at using writing to communicate their learning and thinking.

Writing is used to initiate discussion, reinforce content, and model the method of inquiry common to the field. Writing can help students discover new knowledge--to sort through previous understandings, draw connections, and uncover new ideas as they write.

WAC is divided into two parts Writing to Learn & Writing to Demonstrate Knowledge. There are practical and effective strategies in both sections.

Update on the Common Core Standards in Science

In an update released last week, Helen Quinn, chair of the Board on Science Education of the National Research Council (NRC), described the ongoing efforts of the 18-member study committee to revise the draft conceptual framework for new science education standards based on feedback received during the public comment period last July. At that time, more than 2,000 people responded to the online survey, and hundreds more participated in discussion groups across the country, including those conducted by NSTA. The revised draft will go through an external review process before being released some time in the spring.

Funded by the Carnegie Corporation, NRC began work early last year to develop a conceptual framework to guide the development of the next generation of science education standards. When the final framework is complete, Achieve, Inc., will begin the science standards writing process based on this framework. To read the update, visit the National Academies website at: http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bose/Standards_Framework_Homepage.html

Pass This on to Parents - Science Homework Help

Motivate your child to explore the sciences by providing the help he/she needs with science homework. Visit: <http://www.education.com/topic/science-homework-help/> and browse resources on getting involved with your child's science homework using activities to develop his/her scientific knowledge and understanding. Featured articles include:

- Helping Your Child Learn Science: The Basics
- Helping Your Child Learn Science: Developing Your Child's Scientific Understanding
- Helping Your Child Learn Science – Activities: Introduction
- Helping Your Child Learn Science: Resource List Helping Your Child Learn Science – Activities: Science in the Community
- Developing a Love for Science: Parents Make the Difference
- What Makes a Good Science Fair Project?

HIGH SCHOOL ART TEACHERS!!

NASA Future of Flight Art Contest

NASA's Future of Flight Art Contest invites students to imagine what spaceships, rockets or aircraft will look like 100 years from now. High school and college students from all areas of study are encouraged to enter. Artists are encouraged to collaborate with science and engineering students. Any full-time student can enter, regardless of major or area of study. Team entries are accepted, but team size is limited to eight students. Entries will be accepted in the following categories: two-dimensional art, three-dimensional art, digital (including music and video) and literature (poetry and short stories). Entries will be evaluated on creativity and artistic qualities. Prizes include awards and exhibit opportunities. Entries are due April 15, 2011. For more information about the NASA Future of Flight Art Contest, visit: <http://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov/>

Celebrate the International Year of Chemistry

The theme of the International Year of Chemistry 2011 is “Chemistry – our life, our future.” The goals of this year of global celebration are to:

- 1) Increase the public appreciation of chemistry
- 2) Increase the interest of young people in chemistry
- 3) Generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry
- 4) Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Madame Curie’s Nobel Prize and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies.

Check out all the excitement at the International Year of Chemistry website: <http://www.chemistry2011.org>

Climate Kids: NASA's Eyes on the Earth

Climate Kids is a website designed by NASA to provide kids with information about climate change in a fun and easy to understand way. The website includes games, educator resources, short movies and information on green careers, green technologies, climate phenomena and other points of interest. website: <http://climate.nasa.gov/kids/index.cfm>



TV Show "Fringe" and the Science Olympiad

FoxTV and Science Olympiad have collaborated on lesson plans for students in grades 9–12 that mix the science of the television series, “Fringe” with Science Olympiad events. The lessons can be incorporated as special projects tied to curriculum or as Friday brain teasers. Each lesson includes learning objectives, online resources, a hands-on activity, extensions, relevant episode scenes, and alignment to national science standards. Topics addressed include communicable diseases, information encoding, and fossilization.

website: <http://soincorg/fringe>

Science 360 News Service

NSF’s Science360 News Service presents breaking science news from around the world. The website compiles news from scientists, college and university press offices, popular and peer-reviewed journals, various NSF science and engineering centers, and other funding sources. It also features a science picture of the day, video and radio broadcasts of the day, and a section highlighting “what the blogs are saying today.”

website: <http://news.science360.gov/files/>



Hurricanes: Science and Society

This comprehensive website from the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography offers information about the science of hurricanes and how to lessen their impacts. In addition to in-depth, peer-reviewed science content, it includes case studies and a historical storm interactive. Information is tailored to middle school through undergraduate educators and students, the general public, and the media.

website: <http://hurricanescience.org>

Science

Teachers! Have you heard about the Space Probe Challenge?

How many planets make up our solar system? What's the difference between an inner and outer planet? How do the other planets compare to Earth? We all teach the solar system. This year, you can teach it in a new and exciting way through the Space Probe Challenge.

By entering this out-of-the world contest, your students will soar through the solar system. Along the way, they will get the standards-based content you need them to learn.

Entering is easy. Go to www.wildestweathershow.com for educational materials, rules, and how to enter. Enter today. All entries must be received by March 4, 2011.

Investigate the Reasons for the Seasons

In the Mystery Class global game, students search to uncover the secret locations of ten "mystery" sites hiding around Earth. To guide the investigation, students track changes in day length at the mystery sites and at their hometown, and use other "clues" along the way. As they take this journey, students unlock the essential questions behind the reasons for seasons and the dramatic changes in day length that result. The game starts on January 31, 2011. Find information for observing Earth's daily and seasonal cycles as well as lessons, activities and journals on the game's Website at: <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/mclass>.

Attention "Algebra for All" Participants

In addition to the document camera, projector and calculators you have received through this grant, you will also be receiving a flip video camera. These will be given out March 11th at the workshop.

National Environmental Education Week

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) is an annual celebration of teaching and learning about the environment. Held each year the week before Earth Day - April 10 -16, 2011 EE Week provides educators with resources to promote K-12 students' understanding of the environment. This year, EE Week will focus on the theme Ocean Connections, providing resources, teaching tools, lesson plans, webinars, and activities to help teachers and students across the country explore their connections to and dependence upon the ocean. Learn more at <http://www.eeweek.org>



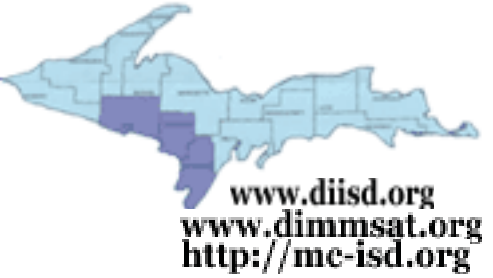
Deadlines

March 1, 2011: Deadline for boys and girls aged 8 - 18 to enter the Engineer Girl! Essay Contest. For more information, please visit: <http://www.engineergirl.org/?id=13161>

March 15, 2011: Deadline for 6-12th Grade students to enter the NASA Space Settlement Design Contest. For more information, please visit: <http://settlement.arc.nasa.gov/Contest>

April 15, 2011: Deadline for High School Students to enter the NASA Future of Flight Art Contest. For more information, please visit: <http://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov>

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Dates to Remember

Foreign Language Teacher - DIISD at 9 a.m.....	February 25
Algebra for All (A4A) - Tech Center at 9 a.m.....	March 11
MSP/GPS Grant Workshop: - DIISD Administration Building	
3rd - 5th Grade - 8:30 start time.....	March 8
6th - 9th Grade - 8:30 start time.....	March 9
Principals' Power Walk Through Training (McREL) - 8:30 a.m. DIISD....	March 30

Coming Attractions

21 Things for 21st Century Educators - Summer Session
Online class (12 SBCEU's) through Menominee County ISD, Dickinson County ISD and Marquette Alger RESA. If interested e-mail: Wendy Woodworth - wwoodworth@mc-isd.org or Dee Benjamin - dbenjamin@diisd.org. For more information on the class google *21 Things for 21st Century Educators*.