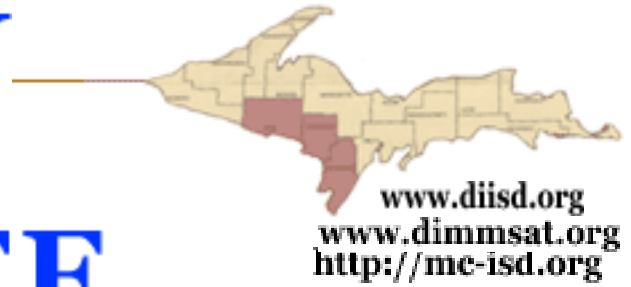


DICKINSON IRON MENOMINEE



Educational News & Upcoming Events

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Changes and Miracles

"I know it seems crazy when everyone else in the world wants to be a film director, but for me, teaching is one of the few heroic jobs left. All the biggest miracles take place in classrooms. Nothing happens without teachers."

Stephen Frears British film director

New Grade Level Content Expectations Subject Area Content Expectations Framework for Teaching New High School Reform Legislation New School Improvement Indicators

In December, 2005, the Michigan State Board of Education approved the Michigan School Improvement Framework to provide a cohesive foundation to develop, review or revise school and district school improvement plans. The Framework is based on current research that identifies proven practices for effective and continuous school improvement. This framework can be individualized and used in multiple ways to develop, support and enhance school improvement plans. The framework was also developed to support the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title I, and the Michigan school accreditation system, Education Yes! The final document is now here and will be implemented in the fall of 2006.

The School Improvement Framework has Five Strands and 12 Standards: **Teaching and Learning** (Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment), **Leadership** (Instructional Leadership, Shared Leadership, Operational Resource Management), **Personnel & Prof. Learning** (Personnel Qualifications, Professional Learning), **School/Community Relations** (Parent/Family Involvement, Community Involvement), and **Data & Information Management** (Data Management, Information Management).

The Michigan Department of Education has now developed a one stop school improvement web page at www.michigan.gov/schoolimprovement. In addition to the new School Improvement Framework, the site also has links to the Grade Level Content Expectations, High School Content Expectations, Mi-Map and a good deal more. These are the documents that will greatly influence education this fall and in the coming years.

Please check out the professional development opportunities listed inside. I would also encourage you to check our web site www.diisd.org for continuing information and workshops. We will continue to update and add events. As in the past, the Math Science Resource Rooms at the Dickinson-Iron ISD and the Menominee ISD will be open all summer for your use.

Dee Benjamin

MDE Web Site Update

Last year, we sent out a list of the MDE office websites that had shorter, easier to remember web addresses. Since we published the list, the number of shortened site address has grown quite a bit. One of the newest changes is for the High School Content Expectations page. The new address for that page is www.michigan.gov/hsce.

These shortened addresses are wonderful for putting in letters or directing someone on the phone. DIT does ask though, that when you are making a hyperlink in a document to use the original URL. You can list the shortened URL address, but when using the hyperlink function to append the link please remember to use the original address.

Donors Choose

Donors Choose is a not-for-profit Web site, where teachers can submit project proposals describing the education materials or experiences their students need. These ideas are posted online at www.DonorsChoose.org, where concerned individuals can read them and choose a project to fund fully or partially. In exchange donors receive feedback, student photos, thank-you notes, a teacher impact letter, and an expenditure report showing that their tax-deductible gift was spent as directed.

NEWS FROM MDE

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT IN MICHIGAN

The April 27, 2006 School Improvement Conference brought to practitioners a sense of what will be expected of all Michigan schools as the state continues its quest to comply with the mandates set out by the No Child Left Behind Law. In the past, all buildings reported on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as a measure of accountability and also included a self-assessment based on eleven indicators of school improvement. The latter measure is set to be eliminated in favor of a measure against rubrics connected to the Michigan School Improvement Frameworks document. By spring of 2007, it is projected that schools will be utilizing the rubrics to assess progress toward appropriate improvement. The rubrics will be available on-line at the MDE website as well as power point presentations.

The intent of the rubrics is to assist with a system of internal accountability as well as to facilitate a common language of school improvement which will be understood by all. To extend and enhance the process, a set of tools has been or is in the process of being developed.

School Improvement has long been a part of the educator's vocabulary. Michigan's work with the process is intended to enrich and extend the understanding of the concept in a way that will benefit the students we all serve while helping all educators to be able to use a common language to talk about their efforts to affect such benefits.

Sharon Stockero
MDE Field Service Representative

Governor Signs Bills Establishing Rigorous High School Curriculum



LANSING - Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed legislation establishing a rigorous high school curriculum in Michigan, calling it an essential step in building a diverse economy that will help keep young people in the state. The Governor also renewed her call for a \$4,000 scholarship for all students to receive education or training beyond high school.

"If Michigan is to compete in a global economy, we must have the best educated workforce in the nation to attract jobs and investment to our state," Granholm said. "This new challenging curriculum will help ensure that every student in Michigan is prepared for college or technical training when they finish high school.

The requirements will be in place for incoming eighth graders in the fall of 2006. The foreign language requirement, which can be fulfilled by coursework completed prior to high school, will be in place for students entering third grade in the fall of 2006.

"Ensuring that students graduate from high school with the tools they need to succeed in college or technical training is just the first step," said Granholm. "Now we must ensure that financial barriers don't prevent students from getting the education they need. We can do that by giving every student a \$4,000 new Merit Award Scholarship."

Many Thanks!

Many thanks to the Regional Science Fair Committee.

This marked the 10th year with 4th - 8th grade students participating. Experiments and inventions continue to be outstanding.

Committee members are: Dan Carey, Kathryn Girard, Darren Petscher (Breitung); Pam Bednarz and Milt Wirth (Iron Mountain); Tracey Stockel (North Dickinson); Norma Raboin (Norway/Vulcan); Bo Winkler (DACs); and Jayann Erkkila (Niagara).

MEEMIC INSURANCE COMPANY

MEEMIC Insurance Company is insurance for school employees in Michigan and now Wisconsin. MEEMIC Insurance Company offers auto, home, boat and umbrella insurance. MEEMIC Insurance Company not only sells insurance to school employees, they also donate monies back to the schools through the MEEMIC Foundation where you can apply for a mini grant up to \$2,500 to help with additional monies for an innovative idea for a program, event, or project that could enhance your students' classroom experience. The MEEMIC Foundation for the Future of Education, a nonprofit organization created in 1992 by the MEEMIC Insurance Company, offers financial assistance to schools and educators in the form of mini-grants. The MEEMIC Foundation acknowledges the lack of available funding for outstanding enrichment programs and is dedicated to advancing the future of education in Michigan and Wisconsin. The next deadline will be August 31, 2006 and can be applied for on paper application (from your local agent) or by going on www.meemic.com and clicking on "Especially for Educators".

Lenore Nelson and MEEMIC Insurance Company sponsor this newsletter each quarter (see their ad on the back cover). Your local agent is Lenore Nelson and she can be reached at 774-6088 or by e-mail at Lenore.nelson@meemicagents.com.





Journey Through the UNIVERSE

The Mathematics, Science and Technology Center completed its fourth year as a Journey Through the Universe community. A team of science researchers and science educators from NASA, Carl Sagan Center for Earth and Space Science Education, and the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education conducted a teachers workshop for high school and middle school science teachers. They also presented three Family Science Night programs; in Iron River, Menominee and Kingsford and visited over 6,000 students in the three counties as part of a program entitled Journey Through the Universe. Focus for this year was “Voyage Through Our Solar System.”

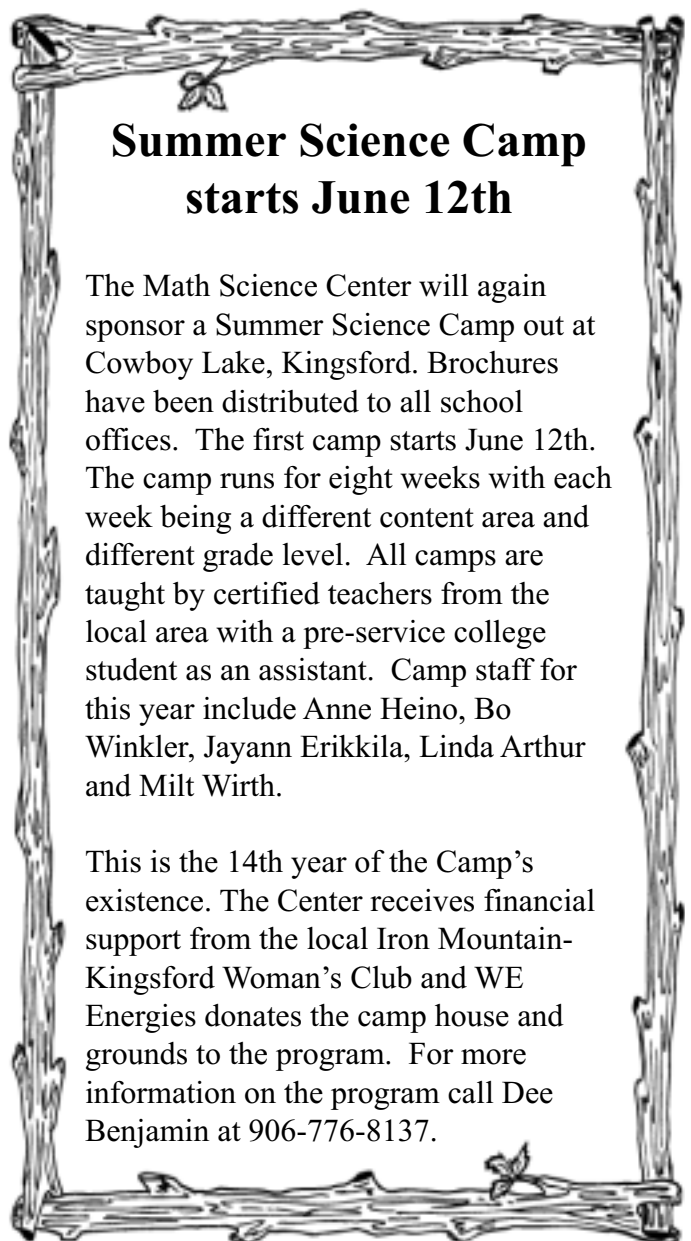
Journey Through the Universe was launched in 1999 to take entire communities on a journey to the frontiers of space. The program was first launched by the Challenger Center created by families of the astronauts tragically lost during the Challenger space shuttle mission. The National Center for Earth and Space Science Education is now coordinating the program and applications to become a Journey Community. The National Center has also created a series of award winning classroom programs that have been used by more than four million students. “We believe that to continue the legacy of scientific exploration, every generation must be inspired to learn what we know about our world and the universe, and how we have come to know it.” The National Center is located in Washington D.C. and works in cooperation and with support from NASA and the Goddard Space Research Center.

Many thanks to all the teachers who helped coordinate classroom presentations.

Just launched!

The website below can be a great supplement to environmental lessons.

<http://www.knowyourtrees.org>



Summer Science Camp starts June 12th

The Math Science Center will again sponsor a Summer Science Camp out at Cowboy Lake, Kingsford. Brochures have been distributed to all school offices. The first camp starts June 12th. The camp runs for eight weeks with each week being a different content area and different grade level. All camps are taught by certified teachers from the local area with a pre-service college student as an assistant. Camp staff for this year include Anne Heino, Bo Winkler, Jayann Erikkila, Linda Arthur and Milt Wirth.

This is the 14th year of the Camp's existence. The Center receives financial support from the local Iron Mountain-Kingsford Woman's Club and WE Energies donates the camp house and grounds to the program. For more information on the program call Dee Benjamin at 906-776-8137.

Opportunities for Science Mentors and Mentees

There has been a lot of interest in the Building a Presence opportunity to become a mentor during the 2006 - 2007 school year. All mentors will receive a \$1400 stipend. The deadline to apply is May 26, 2006. Applications can only be done online. To apply, please visit:

<http://emss.nsta.org/mentor/application.aspx?state=MI>

Michigan is limited to 20-25 mentors. It is not a first come, first serve situation. All applications will be reviewed and selection will be made based on the quality of the applications.

Mentees can apply beyond the May deadline. Mentees can be either first, second, or third year science teachers. A veteran teacher, who will be teaching science for the first time, may also apply. Applications can be found at:

<http://emss.nsta.org/mentee/application.aspx?state=MI>

Michigan is limited to 25-30 mentees. The quality of the application along with early submission will lead to success in being selected for the program. Each mentee will receive a \$500 stipend.

New Program for Michigan Physics

There is a new two-part program called "Project Photon" and "Project Photon2". It is a group of 21 lessons in optics developed in 2001 and revised in 2004 with a grant from the National Science Foundation. While the opportunity to join the NSF funded project has passed, it is still available to schools.

While developed for high school and community college, the units have been used in middle school. These units are in-depth and would be a benefit to accelerated classes or rigorous physics classes. Two districts in Michigan, Caladonia and Middleville, are using the program.

For more information, please contact Brian Zatzke at Lumen Flow at: 269.795.9007 or go to <http://www.nebhe2.org/photon2/photon2team.html>. There are materials available from Brian that are not on the website.

Science Curriculum Update

On April 20, 2006, Governor Jennifer Granholm signed legislation establishing a new high school curriculum in Michigan. This new legislation begins with pupils entering grade 8 in 2006. In summary, here is how the new High School Reform impacts Science Education:

A pupil must successfully complete at least 3 credits in science that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board. Completion must include at least biology and either chemistry or physics. The legislature strongly encourages pupils to complete a fourth credit in science.

The Michigan Department of Education not later than 3 years after the effective date of this legislation, will develop and approve assessments that may be used by school districts and public school academies to determine whether a pupil has successfully completed a credit required under the Michigan Merit Standard. The Department will develop or select and approve assessments for at least Earth Science, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry.

Science credit requirements are not subject to modification as part of a personal curriculum. For a copy of the legislation, please visit:

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2005-2006/publicact/htm/2006-PA-0123.htm>

The high school draft science expectations for grades 8-12, are expected to be presented to the State Board of Education on May 9. If the draft form is accepted, they will be released for public review shortly afterwards.

Many people are wondering what is happening with the elementary and middle school science expectations. The draft form of these expectations are not expected to be released until March of 2007.

MEAP



You are now able to access the most complete information about the Michigan Merit Exam. If you visit: <http://www.mi.gov/mme>

you will be able to access the newest information, general information, assessment accommodations, assessment administration, ACT general information on ACT and Workkeys test, as well as letters and memorandums.

Registration information for the Fall 2006 MEAP Test Centers (for nonpublic school 7th grade, 8th grade, and 12th grade students whose own school does not offer the MEAP assessments) will be posted online by May 26. Go to: <http://www.mi.gov/meap> and then look for “MEAP Test Centers” near the bottom of the page.



AIMS

(ACTIVITIES INTEGRATING MATH & SCIENCE)

WORKSHOPS

5th Grade Math Grade Level Content Expectations

Wednesday, June 21st
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

6th Grade Math Grade Level Content Expectations

Wednesday, June 21st
Noon - 3 p.m.

7th Grade Math Grade Level Content Expectations

Thursday, June 22nd
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

8th Grade Math Grade Level Content Expectations

Thursday, June 22nd
Noon - 3p.m.

The workshop will center on hands-on activities and materials to teach concepts with which kids struggle to master. Michelle Cline is a master teacher from AIMS. AIMS books and materials will be given to attending teachers. Limit 20 teachers per session.

All sessions held at the Dickinson-Iron ISD Admin. Building. Please register by June 9th at www.diisd.org. Click on the left hand column under workshops.

Michigan Environmental Education Workshops

Aligned with Science and Social Studies Content Standards and MEAP assessment

August 16th– Air Quality (Suggested for Grades 7- 9)

Explore the health effects of air pollutants and examine current MI air quality issues through lessons such as : “Why Should We Be Concerned About Air Quality ?” and “How Can We Tell What the Quality of Air is Today?”

August 17th Energy Resources (Suggested for Grades 7- 9)

These materials cover topics such as energy consumption and use, electricity generation, renewable and non-renewable energy resources, energy conservation and efficiency, pollution prevention, ecological footprint, stewardship and sustainability.

August 18th Land Use (Suggested for Grades 4-5)

Designed to teach students how to analyze and understand issues regarding land use and the impacts people have on it with lessons from “Classifying Land Use” to “Solving Land Conflicts.”

Each workshop will be available for .5 credits through Northern Michigan University.

Please register at www.diisd.org by August 8th.

All materials, binders, C.D. and lunch will be provided by the Math/Science Center.

Note: Limited to 20 registrations. Workshops run from 8:30 - 3:00 p.m. and are held at the DIISD Administration Building.

Writing Workshop

The Collins Writing Program has been used successfully over the last twenty years. Its core elements are using cumulative writing folders, oral reading, focus correcting, and using past papers to teach new skills. The Nation’s Report Card on Writing, conducted by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (1998 and 2002 NAEP reports), reaffirmed key aspects of the Collins Writing Program as having significant positive effect on student writing achievement: frequent informal writing about thoughts and observations, writing across the curriculum regularly, planning and organizing ideas before writing, keeping compositions in a cumulative writing portfolio.

The Collins Writing Program is designed to use the methods and instructional focuses that comprehensive research shows have the greatest positive effect on writing improvement. (1) Presentation: teacher discusses and shows examples of good writing (2) Natural Process: teacher stresses free-writing, usually with student-selected topics (3) Focused Practice: teacher structures writing experiences to apply and practice specific writing skills (4) Skills: teacher isolates and practices component parts of writing

Collins Writing Program Workshop will be held at the DIISD on June 14 & 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Administration Building. This is limited to 35 teachers in grades 4th through 8th. Please register at

www.diisd.org.

Coming Attractions: Watch the DIISD website for dates, times and locations

***Hot Topics and skills in the Technology arena: Blogs, Wikis, Podcasting, Skype and Streaming vVideo.**

***GIS/GPS - waiting to hear on a grant from International Paper.**

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www.diisd.org
www.dimmsat.org
<http://mc-isd.org>

Dates to Remember

Writing Workshop (4th & 8th).....June 14th & 15th
AIMS Math Workshop..... June 21st & 22nd
Environmental Workshop (science/social studies).....August 16th, 17th & 18th

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