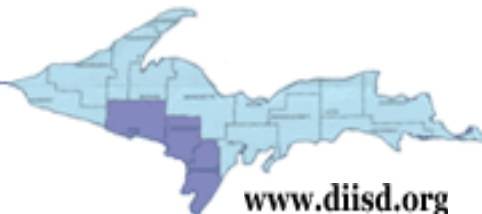


# DICKINSON IRON MENOMINEE



[www.diisd.org](http://www.diisd.org)  
[www.dimmsat.org](http://www.dimmsat.org)  
<http://mc-isd.org>

## Educational News & Upcoming Events

Volume 9 Issue 1  
September 2009

### What's Inside?

Professional Development.....	p. 2
Math.....	p. 4
Science.....	p. 6
Tech Tips.....	p. 7
Upcoming Events.....	p. 8

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](mailto:dbenjamin@diisd.org)

Mary Ellen Welcher  
Support Services  
Phone: 906.776.8110  
[mwelcher@diisd.org](mailto:mwelcher@diisd.org)

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

Welcome to the Dickinson Iron Menominee “Educational News & Upcoming Events”. This is our ninth year of publication. Research demonstrates that the quality of the teacher is the most important in-school factor that explains student achievement. Our focus and purpose has stayed the same: to keep teachers informed of upcoming professional development opportunities, new state and federal programs, curriculum materials and resources and other pertinent information. The professional development offered will be designed to strengthen content knowledge and pedagogical techniques. It will be (1) Intensive and Ongoing, (2) Job Embedded, (3) Job Relevant, and (4) Linked to School Improvement Plans.

This year, we have several federally funded grants in mathematics and science. We will be offering Saturday morning “Technology Tune Ups” to keep you a step or two ahead of your students. We will continue the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) for the Foreign Language teachers and H. S. English Language Arts Teachers. Pending funding approval, we will be starting a PLC for Social Studies. A complete PD calendar for 2009-2010 has been sent to all Principals and Superintendents.

Please be sure to register for workshops at [www.diisd.org](http://www.diisd.org) click on workshops. You set your own user name and password. This really helps with the planning of materials, lunches, and space. It also allows us to help you track your PD hours through our offerings.

On behalf of the Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center, the Dickinson-Iron ISD and the Menominee county ISD, we wish you much success and satisfaction in the coming school year.

*Dee Benjamin*

# Professional Development

## LearnPort Announces Stipend Opportunities for Online Professional Development

Michigan LearnPort is the statewide professional development portal developed through a partnership between Michigan Virtual University (MVU) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). To encourage teachers, administrators and other instructional personnel to experience the value and effective nature of online learning first-hand, Michigan Virtual University is offering \$105 stipends for enrolling in and completing selected curriculum content courses and requirements through Michigan LearnPort.

Enrollment is now open and limited to the first 30 participants for each section. The goal is to meet the needs of ISDs and their constituent districts, professional organizations and individual educators through expanding the use of Michigan LearnPort.

Courses are MMC World History and Geography for Teachers and MMC U.S. History and Geography for Teachers. These courses are instructor-led and provide teachers with resources and strategies to meet the needs of diverse students required to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Upon completion, participants will earn between 1 - 3.5 State Board Continuing Education Units (SB-CEU).

Interested educators who wish to enroll in one of the online courses should log onto Michigan LearnPort <http://www.learnport.org>, and search for the keyword "MMC" in the Courses Catalog. Specific course content details are available in a syllabus embedded in each course, accessible by clicking on a course's information icon in the Catalog. For more information about the Michigan LearnPort 2009 Online Stipend Program, please contact [eelliott@mivu.org](mailto:eelliott@mivu.org).

## 21st Annual Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education

(MAEOE) Conference October 8 - 10, 2009, at U of M Dearborn. Over 100 environmental education sessions will be offered. The theme is "Urban Environmental Education." Registration materials are posted at: <http://www.michiganenvironmentaled.org>.

Scholarships/Teacher Stipends are available from the Michigan Alliance for Outdoor and Environmental Education (MAEOE). Visit the MAEOE website for scholarship and teacher stipend forms at: <http://www.michiganenvironmentaled.org/MAEOE> is also offering a stipend to help support teachers attending the conference.

## Browse Michigan Online Resources for Educators

The following are FREE resources for Michigan teachers which can be found at <http://more.mel.org/SPT-BrowseResources.php?Editing=0>. Please check the resources for lesson plans, charts/graphs and articles and information to help in your classes.

- Assessment Items
- Best Practice Information
- English Language Arts
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social Studies
- Visual, Performing and applied Arts
- World Languages and more...

## SAVE THE DATE

Pending the approval for funding, the first meeting for the Social Studies Professional Learning Community (middle/high school) teachers will take place October 27th. Meeting will take place at the DIISD Administrative Building, Large Conference Room. Schools will be responsible for substitutes and travel. Please check with your principal for more information. Watch the DIISD web site for registration.

# Professional Development

## High School

### Writing and Math Scores Improve on Michigan Merit Exam

High school writing and math scores have shown an increase, according to results for the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) released today by the Michigan Department of Education. High school juniors were tested this past spring on the MME. The percentage of Michigan public school 11th graders who scored at the proficient or advanced levels in writing improved from 40 percent in 2007, to 41 percent in 2009, to 44 percent in 2009.

Math scores increased from 46 percent last year to 49 percent this year. Scores for other subjects over the past three years were virtually unchanged. For more information check out Office of Assessment and Accountability MEAP/MME information on the MDE website [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov).

### What's Going On with Earth's Ice & Snow Cover?

Take a tour of some the coldest places on the planet - courtesy NASA's fleet of Earth-observing spacecraft - and chat with a NASA scientist about changes to ice sheets and sea ice in the Arctic and Antarctic. Get an up-close view of the new HD video "Tour of the Cryosphere 2009". <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/nasa-television>

### Lending Resource Rooms

The Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center stocks a Lending Resource Room at both the Dickinson-Iron ISD and the Menominee Co. ISD. Check out the web sites [www.dimmsat.org](http://www.dimmsat.org) for complete listings of materials. These are materials to help in the teaching of mathematics and science. In addition, both ISDs have Professional Development Libraries for General Education. There is no charge for using the materials.

### From State Superintendent Mike Flanagan:

Reaching Out...Before they Drop Out!

Earlier this month, State Superintendent Mike Flanagan invited every school district statewide to participate in the Superintendent's Dropout Challenge. Essentially, by schools using existing data they can identify students with high risk factors and provide support to help prevent thousands of students from dropping out.

"With one out of every four Michigan children now not graduating with their class, we must begin to turn the tide and think actively to support and engage every student to succeed. I can't think of any reason for all Michigan schools not to participate. This Dropout Challenge, coupled with our dedicated teacher's efforts statewide, will allow us to lead together and embrace the one true purpose of education, which is putting our children first," noted Flanagan. For more information go to [www.mi.gov/dropoutchallenge](http://www.mi.gov/dropoutchallenge).

### Dates and Deadlines

October 11 - 17, 2009: Earth Science Week. For more information, please visit: <http://www.earthsciweek.org>

October 31, 2009: Deadline for Project Learning Tree Greenworks Grants. For more information, please contact Ada Takacs at: [takacs@michigan.gov](mailto:takacs@michigan.gov)

November 15, 2009: Deadline to apply for the Seeds of Education Grants. For more information, please visit: <http://www.for-wild.org/seedmony.html>

January 18, 2010: Deadline to apply for the Toyota Tapestry Grants for K-12 Teachers. For more information, please visit: <http://www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry>

2009: The Year of Science. For more information, please visit: <http://www.yearofscience2009.org>

**Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center selected as one of ten Centers around the State of Michigan to host the state wide “Algebra for All” Teacher Professional Development Program.**



In Governor Granholm’s State of the State address, she mentioned that “...our Algebra for All initiative will give teachers across the state the professional development

they need to teach algebra in a proven way that ensures all kids master it, whether they are math whizzes or not.”

The State has created an intensive 8-day workshop series for all teachers of ALGEBRA I. Middle School, High School General Education and Special Education teachers are the target audience. Algebra I has been determined to be a pivotal course for students as part of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. The series will be offered locally through the Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Mathematics Science Center at two locations; Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District (Kingsford) and Bay College in Escanaba. It features a functions-based, technology-integrated approach to teaching Algebra 1 to **ALL** students.

The series began August 28th and will continue through March 2010. Seventy one teachers completed the first session. **The second workshop will be Oct 2nd starting at 8 a.m. Central 9 a.m. Eastern time.** SB-CEU's and graduate credits are available for a fee through the University of Michigan, Dearborn and Northern Michigan University. Teachers will receive the new Nspire graphing calculator, the Nspire software teacher edition and other technologies for use in their classrooms.

**Congratulations Renee Yakes!  
Mathematics State Finalist 2009  
Presidential Awards for Excellence in  
Mathematics and Science Teaching**

Finalists will be announced in the spring of 2010. “These educators use innovative and interactive teaching methods that reach their students and engage them in learning,” said State Supt. of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan.

The program, established in 1983 by the White House, is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Recognition for Presidential Awardees includes a citation signed by the President; a \$10,000 honorarium from the NSF and gifts from a broad range of donors; and a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend special recognition events, meet with leaders in government and education, and attend professional development programs.

Renee teaches at Iron Mountain High School. She was a facilitator for the math sessions for the Center's HS Math & Science Success project and is currently involved in the State wide "Algebra for All" program.



## \*\*\*\*\*2009 MATH MEAP\*\*\*\*\*

### **K-8 Mathematics Grade Level Content Expectations New Core and Extended Designations**

In 2004, the K-8 Mathematics Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) was released. Recognizing that educators needed time to adjust curriculum and instruction to reflect the shift from assessing at grade span around broad benchmarks to assessing at grade level around specific expectations, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) decided to designate some expectations as "future." MDE, working with the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) identified those expectations which represented content that was not typically taught at the grade level. Those expectations were designated "future" for five years in 2004. The future expectations were assessed but not included in proficiency measures for adequate yearly progress (AYP).

The time has come to incorporate the future expectations into the **Fall 2009 MEAP** assessments and score them as part of the AYP. MDE also faces a need to shorten the test to accommodate the one-day window for assessment. A work team from MDE and MCTM decided to reorganize the core and extended designations using the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) 2006 Focal Points ([www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org)) as guide.

What resulted are Michigan Focal Points, which represent the focus of instruction that should surround the GLCE. Core GLCE are now those GLCE linked to a Michigan Focal Point and as such will

be tested with two items on the MEAP. Extended core GLCE will be tested with 1 item. Those expectations either not linked to a Focal Point at that grade level or are a subset of a core expectation will also have 1 item.

None of the GLCE were changed or eliminated. The GLCE have always represented the measurable skills and concepts that result from a good curriculum. The Michigan Focal Points represent the organization of curriculum and instruction; they identify those big mathematical ideas that should be considered when planning instruction at each grade level. Thus the assessment should be weighted toward those expectations linked to an important mathematical idea. More information on Michigan's Focal Points can be found at [www.michigan.gov/glce](http://www.michigan.gov/glce).

## **Black Hole Math**

Many aspects of blackholes can be understood by using simple algebra and pre-algebra skills. Use Black Hole Math as a classroom challenge activity, an assessment tool or an enrichment activity. The problems in this booklet investigate black hole science and mathematics concepts including parts of a simple black hole and calculating gravitational potential energy. Each word problem has background information providing insight into black holes. The one-page assignments are accompanied by one-page answer keys. To download the materials, please visit: [http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Black\\_Hole\\_Math.html](http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Black_Hole_Math.html).

## **Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math/Science Center Receives Second U.S. Department of Education Math/Science Partnership Grant**

The Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Technology Center has been awarded a \$575,036 two year MSP grant. The focus is on professional development in the area of Earth/Environmental Science and will involve Middle School/High School Science Teachers. This two year project entitled, "Investigate the State: Air, Water and Energy" will be an expansion of the 2009 MSP grant. The original Math Science Partnership (U.S. Dept of Education Title II funds) "Greater Proficiency in Science" was funded for \$858,994 and involves 3rd through 7th grade teachers of science in an intense and sustained professional development program. The Centers participating in the programs are the Glenn T. Seaborg, Northwoods Math Science Center serving the Delta Schoolcraft area, Eastern UP Math Science Center, and the Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center. Dee Benjamin, Director of the Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center will serve as overall Project Director for both grant projects. There will be six workshops conducted during the school year. The Math Science Centers are partnering with the University of Michigan for the Investigate the State: Air, Water and Energy. The integration of technology to increase student motivation and learning is imbedded throughout the project. The project addresses the new Science Curriculum Content Expectations as well as Technology standards. Teacher applications (M.S and H.S. Earth/Environmental) are available through your Principal. Deadline for teacher applications is September 15th. The first workshop is **September 22nd starting at 8:30 a.m.** at the Dickinson-Iron ISD Administrative office, 1074 Pyle Drive, Kingsford. For more information, e-mail Dee Benjamin at [dbenjamin@diisd.org](mailto:dbenjamin@diisd.org).

---

### **\*\*\*\*\*2009 SCIENCE MEAP\*\*\*\*\***

The 5th and 8th grade science MEAP tests will be taking place in October and these are the last MEAP tests correlated to the Michigan Curriculum Framework. Please note that there will be no constructed response questions on the test. This is a major change from previous tests. All questions will be in multiple choice format.

---

### **Greater Proficiency in Science (G.P.S./M.S.P.) (Year II U.S. Dept of Education Title II grant)**

**Mark your calendars:** First workshop for Year Two of this continuing grant is Thursday, September 24th. **Time:** 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** DIISD Admin Building Large Conference Room.

Please bring your work from the Summer Institute and video clips to share. Share rides where possible. Substitutes, travel and materials are covered by the grant. Register at [www.diisd.org/workshop](http://www.diisd.org/workshop).

## FREE 4-1-1



Just leave it up to Google to come up with something like this!!!

Here's a number worth putting in your cell phone, or your home phone speed dial: **1-800-goog411**. This is an awesome service from Google, and it's **FREE!!**

How does it work. Just dial or speed dial 1-800-goog411, once the voice at the other end says, "City & State.." You say the city and state you are looking for. The voice says, "Business, Name or Type of Service." Give them the business or name of type of service you are looking for. The voice will then say, "Connecting" and the information you were requesting answers the phone. This is nationwide and it is absolutely free!

For a quick demonstration check out <http://www.google.com/goog411>.

## Technology Trainings

**Come explore the world of MOODLE!**  
How to use it in your classes to make life easier.

Date: Saturday, October 3rd  
and  
Saturday, October 17th

Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Central

Location: Dickinson-Iron ISD Technical  
Education Center  
300 North Blvd. Kingsford.

Please register at [www.diisd.org](http://www.diisd.org) under workshops.

---

### What's a Wikki and Why Would We Want It !

Date: Saturday, October 24th  
and  
Saturday, November 7th

Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Central

Location: Dickinson-Iron ISD Technical  
Education Center  
300 North Blvd. Kingsford.

Please register at [www.diisd.org](http://www.diisd.org) under workshops.

# DICKINSON IRON MENOMINEE

---



[www.diisd.org](http://www.diisd.org)  
[www.dimmsat.org](http://www.dimmsat.org)  
<http://mc-isd.org>

## Dates to Remember

MSP Investigate the State.....	Tuesday, September 22, 2009
MSP Great Proficiency in Science.....	Thursday, September 24, 2009
English Language Arts.....	Tuesday, September 29, 2009
Technology Training Part 1 Moodle.....	Saturday, October 3, 2009
Technology Training Part 2 Moodle.....	Saturday, October 17, 2009
Technology Training Part 1 WIKKI.....	Saturday, October 24, 2009
Social Studies for Middle/High School.....	Tuesday, October 27, 2009

---