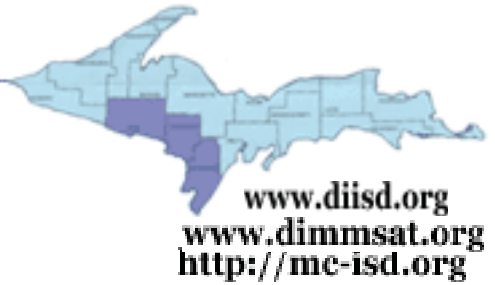


DICKINSON IRON MENOMINEE



Educational News & Upcoming Events

Volume 10 Issue 2
March 2010

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Draft K-12 Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Math

The draft K-12 Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math are now available for public comment until April 2, 2010. You may access the survey from the MI Dept. of Educ. (MDE) website at www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753---,00.html.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. Both sets of standards, college-and career-readiness and K-12 standards for Math and ELA, are expected to be finalized in early 2010. These standards define the knowledge and skills students need to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses and in workforce training programs. Since it was time to update the Math and ELA standards in our regular review/revise cycle, Michigan became actively involved with the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

Experts from Achieve, Inc., ACT, the College Board, the National Association of State Boards of Education and the State Higher Education Executive Officers provided advice and guidance on the initiative. The work group for K-12 standards development is composed of individuals representing multiple stakeholders and a range of expertise and experience in assessment, curriculum design, cognitive development, early childhood, early numeracy, child development, english language acquisition, special education and elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education.

As reported at the February, 2010 State Board of Education meeting, the content area specialists in the Curriculum Unit of MDE's Office of Educational Improvement and Innovation are reviewing the draft standards. Our understanding is that these reviews involve detailed comparisons of how Michigan's GLCEs and HSCEs align with the proposed new standards. It is also our understanding that, in general, Michigan's alignment is reasonably good due to the fact that we have been revising our standards, and working with some of the same groups, such as Achieve, that are now involved in the "national standards" development. MDE is expecting final versions of the standards in the March/April 2010 time frame and are planning for an August 2010 rollout. This time line will require that the State Board of Education act to "adopt" these new standards quickly, probably in the April/May time frame.

Dee Benjamin

Professional Development

Upcoming Professional Development

March

- 25 HS Science Teacher
- 30 HS ELA/PLC

April

- 15 HS Science
- 16 PLC Foreign Language teachers
- 21 HS Science
- 22 HS Science
- 23 Investigate the State Earth Science

May

- 5 MiBLSi
- 6 MiBLSi

June

- 14 & 15 High Scope Curriculum training
- 21 & 28 Summer Institute MSP/GPS grant
NMU & LSSU

Remember to register online at www.diisd.org and click on "workshops".



High Achievers
June 21 - July 15, 2010
Grades 9-12
Apply by April 1, 2010
Spread the word - tell your students

Looking for an early glimpse of life in college classes? Perhaps a shining achievement to separate your college application from the pack? High Achievers participants take honors-level college classes over the course of four whirlwind weeks. Taught by some of MSU's most prestigious professors, these courses expose high school students to cutting-edge research technologies and advanced university resources.

Math-Science-Technology at **Michigan State University**

Mathematics, Science, Technology (MST)
July 11-24, 2010 **Grades 7-9**
Apply by May 1, 2010
Spread the word - tell your students

Nuclear Astrophysics, Physiology, and Soccer, oh my! These are just a few of the fantastic class offerings available to students who participate in MST @ MSU, a two week long residential program on MSU's campus. The camp mixes fun with academics, giving students the chance to push themselves academically during the summer, while making lifelong friends with students who love learning as much as they do.

For more information, please visit <http://gifted.msu.edu>

Science Fair

The Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center will hold its Regional Science Fair on Saturday, April 24th at the Niagara School complex in Niagara Wisconsin. All students in grades 4th through 8th are welcome to participate. Students must submit a science experiment which will fit in a space 4ft. x 4ft. Students do not have to compete in a school science fair in order to come to the Regional Science Fair.

The State of Michigan Science Grade Level Content Expectations, which outline the science required to be taught in each grade, list using the scientific method in the 3rd through 8th grades. The Regional Science Fair will give these students an opportunity to use that knowledge in project based learning. Research shows that most students are visual hands on learners. MEAP data shows that students who participate in Science Fairs do better on the Science MEAP in 5th and 8th grade than those who do not participate.

**March is Reading Month!
Online Resources**

ReadWriteThink

ReadWriteThink, is a free website sponsored by the International Reading Association, National Council of Teachers of English, and MarcoPolo. The site features lessons, standards, web resources and student materials. Lessons are organized into three broad K-12 categories: Learning Language, Learning About Language, and Learning Through Language.

- * For the Quick Site Guide, Site Features, and Calendar go to...www.readwritethink.org
- * The calendar offers a way to find classroom activities and online resources associated with events in literacy and literature <http://www.readwritethink.org/calendar/>
- * For a primary lesson related to the Read Across America emphasis this month (Dr. Seuss), go to http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=109

MEA sponsored reading events from districts in Michigan: <http://home.nea.org/readacross/raastate.cfm?s=Michigan>

Language Arts Resources from Middle Web:

*This site includes strategies and lesson plans for building the reading and writing skills of students in the middles grades. <http://www.middleweb.com/CurrLangArt.html>

High School English Language Arts PLC

The next meeting for the High School ELA Professional Learning community will be March 30th at the DIISD Administrative Building. The group will meet at noon following the morning Literacy Council meeting. Using Technology was selected as the focus for the March meeting. Teachers are asked to bring their laptops and a list of websites they currently use to support ELA instruction. The group will be also be exploring Nettekker. Each participant is asked to bring their login information for Nettekker. If you have not registered with Nettekker, please go to the Michigan Dept of Education Website before the workshop. Click on Michigan LearnPort (bottom left hand corner of the homepage). This is where you sign in or register.

The Dickinson-Iron ISD would like to thank Pam Trask (Forest Park) for facilitating the first session. Shelly Myllyla (Norway/Vulcan) will facilitate the second session. All teachers planning on attending should register on the DIISD web site (www.diisd.org) chick on workshops. This will allow us to have materials prepared for you and to track your PD hours. Each school district is covering the cost of the substitutes for this workshop.



MDE Releases "Writing Across the Curriculum"

Be sure to check out this **GREAT** resource for Mathematics teachers! You'll find numerous ways to include writing as a highly effective teaching and learning strategy in your mathematics lessons, assessments, and projects. Your MCTM Board members provided much of the content for the mathematics section. A big "Thank You!" goes out to our members whose support keeps MCTM as the "go-to" organization in Michigan for PreK-12+ mathematics education projects like this. Visit the MDE web pages for a copy.

Area Teachers Complete Algebra for All Training



Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center, selected as one of ten centers across the State of Michigan, recently finished the eight day intensive "Algebra for All" teacher professional development program. Sixty-five teachers from Dickinson, Iron, Menominee, Delta and Schoolcraft counties completed the state wide training.

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 series was offered locally through the Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Mathematics & Science Center at two locations: Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District in Kingsford and Bay College in Escanaba. It featured a functions-based, technology-integrated approach to teaching Algebra 1 to ALL students. Teachers received TI-84 graphing calculators, projectors, and document cameras, lesson materials and binders for use in their classrooms.

Math/Social Studies/Foreign Language

From the Michigan Dept. of Education's web site . . . www.michigan.gov/mde
Check out their Instructional Resources for Teaching Mathematics

- **Writing Across the Curriculum:** Mathematics
- **Math Tools**

Math Tools is a community digital library that supports the use and development of software for mathematics education.

- **Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships by Design in High School Mathematics.**

- **National Library of Virtual Manipulative**
- **MMLA Mathematics Assessments**
- **SVSU Mathematics Internet Sites (MASER)**

Internet sites evaluated by teachers for the MCF mathematics benchmarks and general mathematics sites of games, activities, and assessments.

- **Teach Engineering: Resources for K-12**
- **Resources for Teaching Financial Literacy**
- **Fraction Lessons for the Middle Grades**

These lessons provide teachers with an alternative to the textbook scope and sequence for fraction instruction and are appropriate for students in grades 4 - 8.

- **The Michigan Teaching and Learning Sample Activities Document**

Dickinson-Iron ISD establishes P L C for Middle School/ High School Social Studies 2009-2010

Middle school and high school teachers from the area schools established a Professional Learning Community for Social Studies. The PLC met three times during the 2009-2010 year and has plans under way for the 2010-2011 school year. Day one focused on establishing the PLC, goals and outcomes, Writing Across the Curriculum and materials available through the Michigan Dept of Education. Session two was conducted by Mike Libby from the Michigan Geographic Alliance out of Central Michigan and was delivered by way of ITV. Teachers received approximately \$200 worth of materials. Day three was facilitated by Mark Pugh, Kingsford Middle School. The group explored various web resources, common assessments and pacing guides, worked on revamping the Teaching American History DIISD web pages, saw a demonstration on using a Smart Board and received updates from MDE Social Studies Consultant John VanWagner. Work on the DIISD web pages will continue over the summer. The Social Studies PLC will continue their meetings in the fall of 2010.

The Foreign Language Professional Learning Community

2009-2010 was the fourth year for the Foreign Language PLC. This group met three times each year. Last year, the group focus was on the Michigan Merit Curriculum for Foreign Language, Revisiting the Benchmarks and Standards, Alignment, Assessments and Teaching strategies. Integration of Technology has been the focus for the first two sessions of 2009-2010. On April 16th, the teachers will meet for the final session to concentrate on grant writing. This is open to all Foreign Language teachers in the three counties. The group meets from 9 a.m. until 2:30 at the Dickinson-Iron ISD. Work done between sessions is conducted via e-mail.

MEAP Science News for Fall 2010

Beginning in the fall of 2010, the 5th and 8th grade MEAP science tests will be aligned to the K-7 Science Content Expectations. The 5th grade test will have 60 items on each of the seven regular test forms. There will be 32 common items, same for each of the seven test forms. There will be 12 field test items, unique for each of the seven test forms and will not be scored. The 8th grade test will have 65 items on each of the seven regular test forms. There will be 33 common items, same for each of the seven test forms. There will be 12 field test items, unique for each of the seven test forms and will not be scored. All items are multiple-choice with four

First Day of Spring is March 20, 2010

March 20, 2010, is a date that most of us recognize as symbolic of changing seasons. As we welcome spring, people south of the equator are actually gearing up for the cooler temperatures of autumn.

What Happens at the Equinox?

Far from being an arbitrary indicator of the changing seasons, March 20 (March 21 in some years) is significant for astronomical reasons. On March 20, 2010, at precisely 1:23 P.M. EDT (March 20, about 09:00 Universal Time), the Sun will cross directly over the Earth's equator. This moment is known as the vernal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere. For the Southern Hemisphere, this is the moment of the autumnal equinox.

Equinox Means "Equal Night"

Translated literally, equinox means "equal night." Because the sun is positioned above the equator, day and night are about equal in length all over the world during the equinoxes. A second equinox occurs each year on September 22 or 23; in 2010, it will be on September 22 at 17:18 P.M. EDT (21:18 UT). This date will mark the autumnal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere and the vernal equinox in the Southern (vernal denotes "spring").

Professional Development Opportunity Writing in High School Science: Strategies for Student Success

The Dickinson-Iron-Menominee Math Science Center will conduct the training on March 25th, April 15th and April 22nd. Please forward this to all your eligible science teachers. Teachers must register at www.diisd.org.

In this year's three-part series, science teachers in grades 9-12 will:

*Take the Survey of Enacted Curriculum for the science they teach, then use their individual SEC data to identify gaps in instructional practice that directly affect students communication in science.

*Learn instructional strategies to increase students ability to write and communicate in science.

*Learn how to use a Flip video (provided) to support classroom instruction and engagement in science writing/communication.

*Receive \$100 stipend for completing work. Each district with participating teachers will receive \$200 for high school science materials.

If an 8th grade science teachers has an Earth Science Class that is taught using the HSCC and for which the student can receive high school credit, that teachers is also eligible to participate.



Science Humor

For some reason, everyone but Lenore got the wrong answer on the science test. "Tell me", the teacher asked her after returning the papers, "how did you know that heat causes objects to expand and cold causes them to shrink?" "Because I'm no dope", she said. "In the summer, when it is hot the days are longer. And in the winter, when it is cold, they are shorter".

High School Science Teaching Prize

High school science teachers who develop innovative teaching methods and who are nominated by a school administrator, have an opportunity to win \$1,000 to support the development and continuation of their proposed strategy, activity, or program; and make a brief presentation at the annual Shanghai International Forum on Science Literacy of Pre-college Students. They will be the guests of the Shanghai Association for Science and Technology. The trip alone would be a wonderful experience. Deadline: May 21, 2010. For more information, please visit: http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/hs_scied_leadership/.



Fully-Funded Teacher Program to the Galapagos Islands!

The application for the 2010 Toyota International Teacher Program to the Galapagos Islands is now available online. This is a fully-funded professional development program for U.S. educators. Funded by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., and administered by the Institute of International Education, the program aims to advance environmental stewardship and global connectedness in U.S. schools and communities.

The program will take place November 20 – December 4, 2010 and the deadline to apply is May 26, 2010. Full-time classroom teachers and librarians of all subjects for grades 6 – 12 are eligible to apply. If you are interested in applying, please visit: <http://www.toyota4education.com> for eligibility requirements, application instructions, and FAQs.

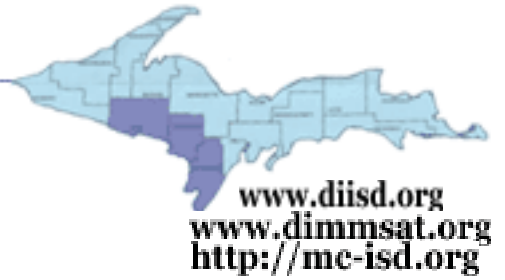
Onboard Workshop Gives Teachers Real Research Experience

Teachers in grades 4-10 and informal educators will have the opportunity to learn about and contribute to Lake Michigan science on a week-long Shipboard and Shoreline Science workshop offered by COSEE Great Lakes (Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence). The workshop aboard the U.S. EPA's 180 foot research vessel Lake Guardian coincides with the Lake Michigan Intensive Monitoring Field Year, which is part of an agreement between the EPA and Environment Canada to focus on and conduct intensive monitoring in one of the great lakes each year.

Participants will work alongside scientists to explore firsthand a variety of disciplines, including ecology, geology, geography, weather and biochemical processes. Throughout the week they will be collecting planktonic and benthic organisms, as well as performing water quality data collection and analysis. In addition, workshop attendees will have the opportunity to investigate and discuss curricula and other educational resources pertaining to great lakes and oceans.

Fifteen educators will be selected from around the great lakes basin to participate in the workshop, which will take place July 6 - 12, 2010. For more information or to fill out an application, go to: <http://coseegreatlakes.net/events/shipboard10>. If you have more questions, contact Robin Goettel at 217-333-9448 or goettel@illinois.edu. Applications are due by April 2, 2010. There is a stipend of \$250, travel reimbursement of \$150 and all housing and meals are provided.

DICKINSON IRON MENOMINEE



Dates to Remember

HS MASS IV (HS Science Teachers).....	Thursday, March 25
ELA PLC (HS English Teachers).....	Tuesday, March 30
HS MASS IV (HS Science Teachers).....	Thursday, April 15
PLC (Foreign Language Teachers).....	Friday, April 16
HS MASS IV (HS Science Teachers).....	Thursday, April 22
Investigate the State (Earth Science Teachers).....	Friday, April 23

Literacy Courses Required for New Professional Teaching Certificates

The following University courses have been approved to meet the requirements for new professional teaching certification (MCL.380.1531 (4))

Lake Superior State University = EDUC 624 Reading: Research and Methodologies

Michigan Technological University = ED 5750 Diagnosis and Remediation of Reading Problems

Northern Michigan University = ED 571 Diagnosis and Treatment of Reading Disabilities Series of ED989, ED 989A, and Foundations ED 989-96 Elementary