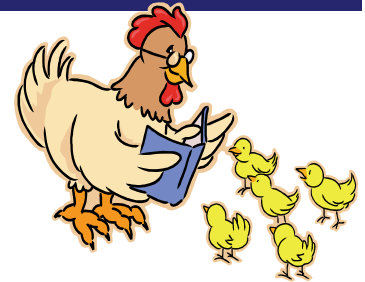


Terrebonne Parish School District

Curriculum Update

“The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery.”—Mark Van Doren



Sponsored by NCLB Title II Professional Development funds.

Provided by:

- Carol Davis
- Kathy Tamplain
- Roslyn Dempster
- Cindy Matherne
- Curriculum Specialists
 - Tonya Allen
 - Paul Johnson
 - Geri Schexnayder
 - Rochelle Walker
 - Flordine Williams

Schriever Elementary Extends Curriculum News

Each month, Master Teacher, Alesia Blanchard, creates a curriculum newsletter called “Curriculum Corner” to give teachers information about topics the school is focusing on especially for their SIP. As a former classroom teacher, she knows that a lot of information and terminology is thrown at teachers at once with little follow-up.

She thought a newsletter each month that focused on things that have been presented to the faculty might help them retain it. This way they can revisit the informa-

tion on their own, which will in turn hopefully spark ideas and allow them to make connections.

She also provides a link to PD360. Teachers are instructed to watch the video clip(s) and then discuss them at grade level or faculty meetings. It’s her way of reviewing and clarifying the information with them so that it’s not totally lost.

She also puts the newsletter on her personal website with the hopes that other teachers that happen upon the site might find some useful information.

Reading Workshops to Take Place in July/August

Trainings in reading interventions and in guided reading will be offered to K-3 teachers during late July and to 4 & 5 teachers on Aug. 3.

K-3 teacher training will be offered July 27-30. Two 3-hour sessions will be offered for each grade level—one on Tier II Intervention Training and one on Guided Reading.

Fourth & Fifth grade training is Core Reading Training.

Registration for all of these trainings is available at <http://eval.doe.state.la.us>.

Teachers should follow log-in and registration instructions included in the recent memo from Tonya Allen.



Up-Coming Training

INTECH

- K-6 & 7-12 June 1-5
- June 8-11
- Tech Train July 6-10
- July 13
- July 17
- July 18

Gator Gab Keeps STHS Teachers, Parents Informed

Master Teacher, Madge Gautreaux, keeps STHS teachers and parents informed by publishing an email newsletter. Topics addressed include: information on Released Test Scores and links to technology resources; available tutoring and other testing help; info about the LA

Comprehensive Curriculum; the school’s attempts to analyze test scores and how parents can use that information to help their children; career training resources, announcements of teacher and support person of the year, etc.

Kickin' It Up a Notch at DMS



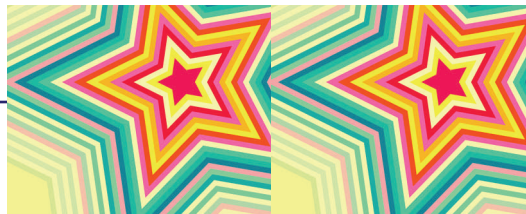
Dularge Middle School Master Teacher, Amanda Robertson, does a monthly newsletter to parents and faculty members. She also provides a monthly calendar to all faculty members so they are aware of upcoming events. Biweekly meetings are held and include discussion of strategies in place at the school. Topics in-

clude:

- Differentiated Instruction
- PD360
- Deep Curriculum Alignment

(i.e., Test Construction, Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships, Depth of Knowledge)

These strategies have been so successful that principal, Cheryl Degruise and Amanda recently presented at a Louisiana Department of Education Superintendent's Retreat in Alexandria, LA.



Instructional Strategies That Raise Rigor & Relevance

1. Vary Instructional Strategies
2. Hands-On Activities
3. Show Practical Applications
4. Encourage Students to Investigate
5. Integrate Information and Communication Technology (computers, Internet, etc.)

Specific goals provide a clear direction for behavior and a clear indication of desired performance, and as such they serve as motivators.

—R. Marzano

Instructional Strategies Affect Student Achievement

The following best practices have proven to affect student achievement by significant amounts. Percentile gains are noted for each category.

- Identifying similarities and differences using metaphors and analogies—45 point gain.
- Summarizing and note taking—34 points
- Reinforcing effort and providing recognition—29 points
- Homework and practice—28 points
- Nonlinguistic representations—27 points
- Cooperative learning—27 points
- Setting objectives and providing feedback—23 points
- Generating and testing hypotheses—23 points
- Questions, cues, and advance organizers—22 points

Marzano, R., Pickering, D., & Pollack, J., Classroom Instruction That Works, 2001

