

THE NORTHWEST NEWS

Northwest Regional Office
673 Vance Ave.
Memphis, Tn. 38126

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

AUGUST 31, 2009

Special Points of Interest:

We are entering into the month of September in a magnificent way. Wow! Please continue to push forward and we salute you for all your hard work in the opening of this new school year.

TOP NEWS:

- **Honors Teachers**-Honors teachers to attend an Honors Orientation session at the TLA, **Tuesday, September 8, 2009, from 3:30-5:30 p.m.**
- **The Advanced Placement English Language Alliance**, which is all A.P. English Language teachers, will meet **Thursday, September 3, 2009** at East High School in Room 219, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. This is the perfect opportunity to share ideas and address challenges of the A.P. curriculum.
- **Headsprout** -Elementary principals: **your schools should not attempt to set-up Headsprout accounts or enroll students without prior authorization from Dr. Kennard's office.** Student names have to be uploaded from MCS IT dept before we can enroll students (**August 31st-target date**).
- **Per Board Policy 6.604**, MCS staff must utilize the Communications Department for all media circumstances, positive and negative. If you would like to promote an event at your school, please send an e-mail to Staci Franklin, Quintin Taylor and Heather Danielson.
- **NW Compstat Data Report Outs** will begin in September. More information to come. Templates will be emailed to you along with a yearly calendar of dates.
- **Meryl Isabel, Textbooks: Friday, Sept. 4, 2009**, is the last day for teachers to order e-Appeal. Dr. Cash will be presented with a donation before the end of the school year from *The Commercial Appeal* based on our district registering to use the newspaper. This item is paid for by the district and is reflected in my budget. Digital format of the commercial appeal newspaper is available at www.commercialappeal.com/nie
- **James Q. Bacchus, Chief of Student Support, Student Support Items A-Team Process**- Students in grades K-7 that are three (3) years Overage for Grade, using the birthday date year January 1 thru September 30 can submit an A-Team application for an age appropriate setting. Students in grade 8 parents can seek the Prep Academy option only.
- **PBIS**- Students K-12 must take the Code of Conduct post test. See previous Principal Meeting handout or contact Ann Sharp.
- **Tier I and Tier II Navigational Maps** are available on the TLA website for reprinting purposes (copies were printed for your school in the 2007-2008). Please utilize these maps to help teachers structure their reading blocks and unsure that the time in the 90 minute block is used wisely. Mediasites are also available on Organizing and Planning Small Group Instruction by grade levels.
- **Title I Extended Learning Proposals** are due to NCLB by September 11th.



Pointed in the Right Direction !

Catherine Battle
Superintendent

Pamela Jackson
Director

Tameka Allen
Academic Coordinator

Femetres Gray
Professional Development
Coordinator

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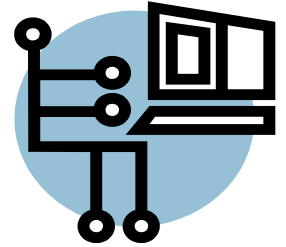
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WHATS NEW FROM REA?

- The 2009 ACT results with state comparisons are shown in the recent issue of *From 30K*. Issues are being posted each week on the REA website for principals and other school-level users. (http://www.mcsk12.net/aboutmcs_rea_home.asp)
- The new date for the **Spring 2010 TCAP test for students in grades 2-8 is April 12-16**. The state is basically locked on this same date range for the next three years, so there's finally some clarity about when we'll be testing.

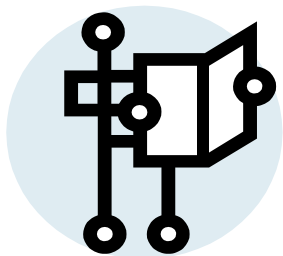


*John Barker,
Executive Director
416.5533 (office) or*

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

- **K and 1st Grade Progress Reports**- Please be reminded that all K and 1st grade teachers are to complete a Progress Report for each student on SMS. When the Progress Reports are printed and ready to be sent to families, teachers should also distribute one of the attached letters that explains what children are learning in this first nine weeks. These "letters.doc"--differ for K, and 1st grade and can be personalized by adding the school's name in the header and the teacher's name in the letter closing.
- If you have a Pre-K class in your school, please be advised that Early Childhood has notified teachers to send a Progress Report after the 6th week of school. However, they would like Prek teachers to send the attached letter to parents this week. (When you press Ctrl and right click it will open the link – if a box appears that says —connect to www.MCSK12.net|| press cancel – the document should open within seconds – you may have to press cancel twice)
<http://www.mcsk12.net/forms/ops/PreK Parent Letters.#1.doc>
<http://www.mcsk12.net/forms/ops/KK Parent Letter #1.doc>
<http://www.mcsk12.net/forms/ops/1st Grade Parent Letter.#1.doc>
- Spanish - Progress Report K – 1st grade -Progress Reports in Spanish are not yet available on SMS. Please ask KK and 1st grade teachers to complete the attached Progress Reports and send to families this week. The Letter to Parents in Spanish for PreK, K, and 1st grade will be emailed on Tuesday.
<http://www.mcsk12.net/forms/ops/2009 Progress Report k.doc>
<http://www.mcsk12.net/forms/ops/2009 Progress Report 1st.doc>

**Dr. Linda Kennard,
Executive Director, C & I**



*Suzanne Thomas, Ed.D.,
Executive Director, PreK-
12 Mathematics,*

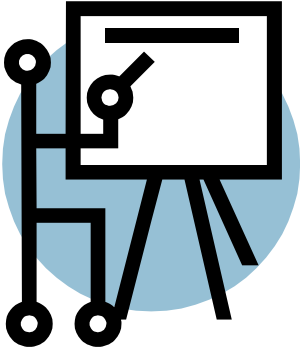
PRE K–12 MATHEMATICS

Stanford Math
The Mathematics Department and Stanford EPGY are making final preparations for the 2009-2010 district-wide implementation of MCS's only approved intervention in mathematics—the Stanford Math Program.

As enrollment data stabilizes, we encourage you to begin placing your students on Stanford Math.

Lists for intervention students will be available on the Stanford Math site and will be provided to you by Stanford Math.

Students may begin work immediately via the —default|| class, even if your school's enrollment is still in flux. Please contact Nicholas Stutzman, stutzman@stanford.edu, for more information.



*Myra I. Whitney,
Associate Superintendent
Professional Development
& Staff In-service
901.416. 5930*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The new 2010 Cohort Mentor Principals will be engaged in SREB Mentor Principal Training **September 8, 2009 from 3 pm until 6 pm and September 9, 2009 from 8 am until 11 am at the TLA** for Mentor Principals that were not trained for the 2009 Inaugural Cohort. Individual notifications will be forthcoming.

Principals can now access on Media Site the first three postings of Keynote Speakers from the June 2009 Principals Academy. Principals and their staff can view Dr. Kriner Cash, Dr. Pedro Noguero, and Dr. Freeman Hrabowski.

All new Principals in years 1 - 3 should attend the New Principals meetings on **September 1 and 2 from 4 pm until 7 pm at the TLA**. You will be trained by Diane Ricciardi.

AVATAR/PDMS INSTRUCTIONS

for teachers and administrators have been mailed to your school. Please distribute as necessary to your teachers and review the information as needed in order to input courses into AVATAR.

**Isaac Wright,
Staff Development
Coordinator -
Monitors Avatar Platform**
For questions e-mail: WrightI-
saacA@mcsk12.net

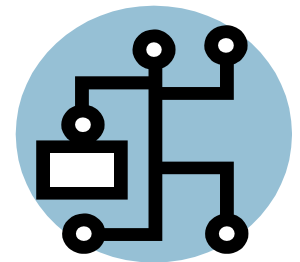
INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

- In September, Memphis City Schools will be beginning to use the Gaggle.net filtered Student Email System. Additional information and training opportunities are forthcoming.
- The system is very secure, and with Gaggle's Human Monitoring System, most problem emails will be deleted or sent on by Gaggle's staff in a short time frame. Each school does need to have a contact person (a school master) to handle emails that may require special school attention (such as a disciplinary matter) or in events that involve student health and safety (bullying, suicidal thoughts, abuse). Each school needs to identify their Professional School Counselors to receive these emails.
- **Please send these names to Jason Parrish at parrishj@mcsk12.net by August 27th.** We anticipate the load for these school masters to be very light. Most messages will be dealt with on the Gaggle level. Please feel free to contact Jason Parrish if you have any questions or problems.

**Felicia Fowler, Ed.D.,
Coordinator,
Instructional
Technology**

EXHIBITION OF STUDENT WORK

- The Fall Exhibition of Student Work will be held on **Thursday, November 12, 2009**. As a district, we will follow the same procedures that were implemented during the Spring 2009 Exhibition of Student Work.
- In grades 5, 8, and 12, the students will create a special, exit-grade Exhibition of Student Work through participation in a Capstone experience. Grades 5 and 8 will complete their Capstone projects during the 2nd semester for their Spring Exhibition of Student Work. Senior English students will participate in a year-long Capstone that will serve as both their Fall and Spring Exhibitions of Student Work. A detailed overview of the ESW Capstone Project can be accessed through the following link: <http://mediasite.mcsk12.net/mediasite5/Viewer/?peid=c06960388ea546a58c2e90a5d777526e> Please share this Mediasite with teachers in grades 5, 8, and 12.



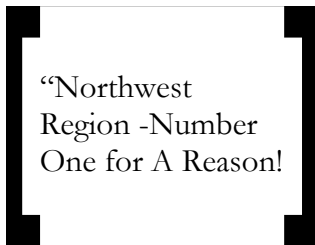
**Judy Jackson, Director,
Exhibition of Student
Work**

**MEMPHIS CITY SCHOOLS
NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE**

**Please send all KUDOS to Femetres
Gray**

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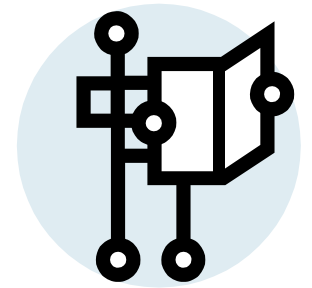


www.mcsk12.net

If you have any outstanding news for your school, please email Femetres Gray @ grayfemetres@mcsk12.net and also send your information to the MCS Insider. We want to see the NorthWest sparkle in lights!!!!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wednesday, September 2 Issue Progress Report for Period 1
- Monday, September 7 Labor Day – no school
- Wednesday, September 16 End of Progress Reporting Period 2
- Wednesday, September 23 Issue Progress Report for Period 2
- Thursday, October 8 End of First Quarter
- Friday, October 9 Fall Break
- Monday, October 12 In-Service/Parent Teacher Conference
- Wednesday, October 21 Issue Report Cards for 1st Reporting Quarter



*To view 2009—2010
School Calendar,
please visit
www.mcsk12.net*