



Pointed in the Right Direction!

Kevin P. McCarthy, Regional Superintendent

Terry L. Brown, Regional Director

September 28, 2009

- Northeast News:** Sadly we have recently lost two members of our Northeast Region family. Please send your thoughts and prayers out to the families of Tonya Johnson and Gwen Terry. Tonya was a 3rd grade teacher at Brownsville Rd ES.. Gwen was a student at Kingsbury ES for many years and had recently moved to Shrine School. Keep both school families in your thoughts and prayers.
- Absence Requests in Lotus Notes:** All absences must be properly documented in Lotus Notes. Be sure you complete the "Requestor's Comments" section to give me the information I need to respond accordingly.
- Fall Student Exhibition:** We have two student exhibitions under our belts, so the expectations for high-level student work and presentations are immense. I trust planning is well underway in your buildings and you have made the necessary improvements in the process that gives students choice and ownership in the project. **The date of the Fall Student Exhibition is November 12, 2009.**
- School Improvement/SACS Plans:** Please note that schools in Good Standing and Target **DO NOT** have to submit to the state this year. However, your current data should be analyzed and your action plan updated and available for review at walkthroughs. **Please send Angela Nichols the year you are due to complete SACS.** Make note of the attached SACS timeline in the email and the following schedule:
 - Schools in High Priority:** Dr. Nichols is taking the lead on this effort and has sent you a timeline leading up to the due date of November 1st for your SIP's.
 - Middle and High in Good Standing and Target:** SIP due to the state on May 15, 2011 (and every third year thereafter).
 - Elementary Schools in Good Standing and Target:** SIP due to the state on May 15, 2012 (and every third year thereafter).
- Professional Development Opportunities:** The following professional development sessions for 5th, 8th, and 11th grade reading and language arts teachers are being offered at the Northeast Regional Office:

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 3:30-5:00 PM, Effective Writing Instruction-8th grade (1935.2637)
Thursday, Oct. 1, 3:30-5:00 PM, Effective Writing Instruction-11th grade (1936.2638)
- Science and Health Textbooks:** Schools may now log on to the mainframe and place their science and health textbook orders. The textbooks have arrived, but we are still waiting on teacher editions, teacher resource kits and workbooks to ship. However, it is important for schools to go ahead and place their orders for these items. Once these items are shipped to the warehouse, they will be delivered to all schools. **Family and Consumer Sciences Textbooks:** Family and Consumer Sciences textbook orders will be placed by Meryl Isabel's office. Contact Ms. Willie Slate's office if you have any questions or concerns. Please reference the email you received via Dr. Richmond via Meryl Isabel on 9/17/09 for 3 important attachments.
- AP Biology, Chemistry, Literature and Language One Day Workshops from Sandy Lewis:** **Increased rigor through improved advance placement instruction is one of Dr. Cash's major initiatives.** On **October 2, 2009** we are fortunate to have two College Board consultants with us who have developed relationships with Memphis City Schools. We are offering the College Board one day workshops for your discipline with extra emphasis on last year's exam, redesign elements for the AP science courses, and writing techniques that will help blend the free responses into the curriculum enhancing free response skills. In addition, the consultants have extensive experience teaching AP in the block schedule and will bring that information to us. **This workshop is available for all AP teachers, new or experienced, as it is more in depth than the usual AP One Day Workshop.**

The workshops are listed in Avatar as follows:

3364.4218 Preparing for the Redesign in AP Biology and Chemistry

3366.4221 AP English Language and Literature Workshop



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Secure a substitute through the MCS sub line. The substitute is provided through the Absentive Grant. If you are not able to register in Avatar, please send your name and school to Sandy Lewis by 10/1/09. Accurate registration in Avatar will confirm the need for the sub code to be released.

8. **Calendar Math Online PD:** *(All teachers should have participated in this PD by now. 100% fidelity of implementation should now be a reality in every classroom. If this is not the case in your school, this is a very important PLC agenda item until 100% is realized).* You have received a welcome letter and instructions for logging on to this Calendar Math PD. Make sure your teachers are taking advantage of this resource. Our walkthroughs have revealed some inconsistencies in implementation and delivery of the curriculum. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Suzanne Thomas at the Bond Building.

9. **Elementary Algebra Institute:** The Elementary Algebra Institute has been created to prepare 5th grade teachers to teach algebraic concepts and algebra in elementary and middle schools. The Institute will be an in-depth professional development program intended to meet the needs of licensed elementary teachers who desire to extend their mathematical and pedagogical knowledge in introductory algebra. The program, modeled after the *Tennessee Algebra I Employment Standards State Approved 5 Day Training*, will consist of 16 two-hour sessions specifically designed to provide a broad mathematics background appropriate for teaching algebraic concepts to students in grades 4-8. See the email attachment for the most up-to-date information provided by Suzanne Thomas.

Dates: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – November 5, 12, 19 – December 3, 10
Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm
Location: Central High School
Audience: 20 5th grade teachers

10. **Indoor Environmental Quality Training from Joyce Woods:** Thursday was the Indoor Environmental Training (IEQ). The notification for this training was sent to all principals September 9, 2009. Attendance at the training was disappointing at best. There will not be training for this information this year. All reports for the **IEQ plan are due to Risk Management before January 30, 2010**. Please note the IEQ is also on the school's audit report listing.

11. **Behavioral Intervention Workshop for HIV/STD and Teen Pregnancy Intervention from Dr. Hamer:** In an ongoing effort to provide professional development for HIV/AIDS and Teen Pregnancy prevention education, a workshop will be conducted Monday, October 12, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the TLA Multipurpose Room. Registration will be processed through Avatar in the Professional Development Management System. The Course Code is 3368 for "Reducing the Risk: Pregnancy, STD & HIV Prevention." CEUs will be offered. Contact your PDSCC if assistance is needed. For any other questions, you may contact Susan Lee Adekpuitor at 416-0474 or Sudie Cushman at 416-1327 or by email.

12. **Emergency Management Training from Dr. Richmond:** All principals and assistant principals must be able to show proof of emergency management training. This training is for new principals and assistant principals who have not been trained. The training will take place at the Memphis Education Association building behind the BOE. The training dates are October 6th from 8:00 to 4:30 and October 7th from 8:00 to 12 noon. Please review the file attached to this email for more details.

13. **Kingian Training from James Bacchus:** Every middle school and high school must send a counselor or designee to the training at the MEA office on September 29th from 8:00 to 11:30. Reference the email reminders and letters you have received from James Bacchus' office regarding the training.

14. **Suspension/Expulsion of SWD Students from Dr. Toarmina:** Our district is out of compliance with the state regarding the suspension and expulsion rates of our students with disabilities. Dr. Toarmina has diligently



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provided you with updates and reminders regarding MCS policies for suspending SWD students. Refresh yourselves on those policies and contact your special education supervisors if you have any questions.

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➤ **NorthEast News**

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SEND US SOME NEWS FROM YOUR SCHOOL!!

Coming Up.....Important Dates

Tuesday, September 29	Kingian Training at the MEA office from 8:00 – 11:30; send a counselor or designee
Wednesday, September 30	Deadline for submitting PBIS documents to Ann Sharp (NE PBIS Coach)
Friday, October 2	AP Biology, Chemistry, Literature and Language One Day Workshops at TLA from 8-3 (Lunch Provided)
Saturday, October 3	Northeast Town Hall Meeting at Douglass HS from 12-4.
Tuesday, October 6	Facing History Presents- Dr. Alvin Poussaint (More information to follow)
Tuesday, October 6	Emergency Management Training for New Administrators at MEA building from 8 – 4:30
Wednesday, October 7	Emergency Management Training for New Administrators at MEA building from 8 – 12 noon
Thursday, October 8	Read for the Record (<i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>)
Thursday, October 8	End of First Quarter
Friday, October 9	Fall Break
Monday, October 12	In-Service/Parent Teacher Conference
Tuesday, October 20	Parent Assembly Meeting at TLA from 5:30 – 7:30
Wednesday, October 21	Issue Report Cards for 1st Reporting Quarter
Tuesday, September 29	High School Redesign Grant Meeting at BOE in Room 260 at 3:30
Monday, October 12	Workshop on Behavioral Intervention for HIV/STD and Teen Pregnancy Prevention from 8:00 – 11:30 in the TLA Multi-purpose Room
Thursday, November 12	Fall Student Exhibition
Tuesday, November 17	Parent Assembly Meeting at TLA from 5:30 – 7:30 (National Parent Involvement Day)
Tuesday, December 15	Parent Assembly Meeting at TLA from 5:30 – 7:30 (Culture Celebration)
January 4-15	DIBELS Benchmark Dates
Tuesday, January 19	Parent Assembly Meeting at TLA from 5:30 – 7:30



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DIBELS Benchmark Dates

January 27- May 14

Tuesday, February 16

Tuesday, March 16

Tuesday, April 20

Tuesday, May 18

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