MISSION POSSIBLE

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Special Interest Articles

Brain-Friendly Test Preparation

An All Expense Paid Trip to…Learning

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
http://www.gcsnc.com/depts/mission_possible/index.htm

Brain-Friendly Test Preparation

Want a few easy strategies for increasing your students' test scores? Look no further than brain research! We know more than ever about the brain and are better able to align our instruction to maximize the brain's ability to learn.

The brain immediately discards 99% of the information it takes in. When reviewing for a test, repeat important information multiple times and in multiple ways so that it moves into long term memory.

For most people, writing information down aids in understanding and remembering a concept. Instead of providing students a list of notes, have them create their own study guides and graphic organizers so that THEY do the learning!

There is no such thing as not paying attention; the brain is always paying attention to something. To make sure that the brains in your classroom are paying attention to learning your content, eliminate common distracters.

Stressing key points in color can boost memory retention by 25%. Teach students how to use highlighters to call attention to important information on tests. Print important information on colored paper. Even teach students how to categorize information by using different color coding systems.

Great resources for more information on the brain include authors: Pat Wolfe, Eric Jensen and Thomas Armstrong.

An All Expense Paid Trip to…Learning!

The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy is a one-week all-expense-paid intensive professional development program for third- through fifth-grade teachers. The Academy offers a five-day program designed to provide third- through fifth-grade teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary to motivate students to pursue careers in science and math.

Phil and Amy Mickelson partnered with ExxonMobil to develop the Academy in conjunction with the *National Science Teachers Association* and *Math Solutions*. The Mickelsons wanted to develop a program that inspires teachers from across the country in math and science and equips them with interactive teaching tools to ignite their students' pass subjects. They also wanted to develop a program that helps to develop the next generation of science savvy citizens who will grow up to make the next breakthrough in medicine, in energy, or in any of the growing number of fields that require a solid foundation in math and science.

Two of the nation's leading teacher-training organizations, *Math Solutions* Professional Development, founded by Marilyn Burns, and the *National Science Teachers Association*, design the curriculum, provide instructors and manage the daily activities and logistics of the Academy.
(Information taken from website)

Apply: http://www.sendmyteacher.com/index.html

Upcoming Events

May 2008 Events

1	SERVE Evaluation Team Meeting
2	Mentor Meeting, UNCG
8	Cumulative Effect Seminar Series, Discovery Learning, High Point Central, 4:30-6:30
9	Site Visit from Special School District, Missouri
13	Cumulative Effect Steering Committee Meeting
16	Third Quarter Federal Evaluation Report Due
20	WESTAT Teleconference
30	Mentor Meeting, UNCG

MP Vacancies

Do you know someone who would like to work in a Mission Possible School? Send them the following vacancies and have them contact Amy Holcombe at 336-335-3294:

Hairston Middle School, 8th Grade Math/Algebra I

Welborn Middle School, 7th Grade Math/Science

We are currently hiring Mission Possible faculty for the 2008-2009 school year.

To see upcoming vacancies, visit our Mission Possible Vacancy webpage at: **http://webapps.gcsnc.com/vacancy/search.do?MP=true**

Courses currently posted represent ALL training to be offered in 08-09. Please do not delay in signing up for your required courses!

Important Professional Development Updates

Workshop Stipends

Beginning July 1, 2008, additional stipends will no longer be provided for attending workshops on non-school and non-work days. The Mission Possible recruitment and retention incentives will serve as compensation for attending required workshops.

No Workshops on School Days

Beginning July 1, 2008, Mission Possible will no longer offer workshops on student days. This will reduce the overall number of days that teachers are out of their classrooms. As such, there will be no need for substitutes. Therefore, Mission Possible will no longer budget funds for substitutes.

Taking Courses Within Your Participation Year

Each year, we carefully budget dollars for staff development sessions, trainers, and numbers of participants. We base these figures upon the total number of faculty that are required to take a workshop within a participation year. Therefore, we require that you take your required workshops within your corresponding participation year. If you enroll in a workshop that does not correspond to your participation year, you will be unenrolled. While this has been our policy all along, we have been lenient in unenrolling faculty if there were available seats. From now on, this will be more tightly regulated in order to insure enough seats are available at all times for faculty who need to take courses.

Incentives

Remember that if you do not take all of your required courses by June 30th of each year, your incentives are stopped until you complete your courses. Back pay will not be provided for any incentives lost.

Course Offerings: 08-09

Cooperative Learning Sessions (Year 1 Course)

6/16/08, 8:30-3:30, Franklin Blvd

6/16/08, 8:30-3:30, Jamestown Middle School

7/23/08, 8:30-3:30, Washington Street Annex

7/30/08, 8:30-3:30, Washington Street Annex

8/5/08, 8:30-3:30, Washington Street Annex

Anti-Racism Sessions (Year 1 Course)

6/16/08, 8:00-3:00, Eugene PTA Room

6/18/08, 8:00-3:00, Eugene PTA Room

Differentiated Instruction (Year 2 Course)

7/10/08, 8:30-3:30, Washington Street Annex

7/21/08, 8:30-3:30, Washington Street Annex

7/28/08, 8:30-3:30, Washington Street Annex

8/7/08, 8:30-3:30, Washington Street Annex

8/11/08, 8:30-3:30, Washington Street Annex

TESA (Year 2 Course)

8/20/08, 8:30-11:30, Aycock Middle

8/20/08, 8:30-11:30, Union Hill Elementary

8/21/08, 9:00-12:00, Allen Middle

8/21/08, 1:00-4:00, Penn-Griffin School for the Arts

8/21/08, 1:30-4:30, Falkener Elementary

Cumulative Effect Seminar Series for March

5/8/08, 4:30-6:30, High Point Central High School

Summer Math Institute II (Cumulative Effect Only)

7/28/08-8/08/08, 9:00-1:00, Smith High School

For questions about Professional Development registration, call (336) 370-8010.

Professional Development

Year 1 Participants:

Cooperative Learning

Anti-Racism

Year 2 Participants:

Differentiated Instruction

TESA

Cumulative Effect Participants:

Anti-Racism

Cumulative Effect Seminar Series

Summer Math Institute

All workshops must be completed by June 30, 2008 for your current participation year.

Contact Information

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