MISSION POSSIBLE

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Special Interest Articles

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

Mission Possible Sweeps Best in Class Awards

Each year, Guilford County Schools and our local community celebrate two very significant events—Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year. This year, something very special happened. Out of the dozens of teachers and principals that competed for the "Best in Class" awards, both winners were Mission Possible faculty!

Rodney Morgan, Jr., Math Teacher at Aycock Middle School was awarded the highest honor of Teacher of the Year. Of teaching, Mr. Morgan said, "There exists no other profession that shapes the future or impacts the present like teaching. One could leave no better legacy than that of a teacher who inspired students to learn."

Dr. LaToy Kennedy, Principal at Wiley Elementary School was recognized as Principal of the Year. Under Dr. Kennedy's leadership, Wiley met 100% of their AYP goals for the very first time. "I believe the role of the principal is to make sure that the children are being taught by the best and are given dreams and the tools to succeed," said Kennedy. Wiley teacher, Sandy Madison, wrote of her principal, "The 2007-2008 school year was an experience that no teacher at Wiley will ever forget. Through Dr. Kennedy's strong leadership, she helped Wiley's students to overcome the odds."

It is an honor that our Mission Possible Schools are gifted with the talents, dedication, and efforts of such exceptional faculty.

We're in the Money...

Two years ago, Guilford County Schools was awarded a federal Teacher Incentive Fund grant in the amount of $8 million to fund the expansion of the existing Mission Possible program. In order to sustain annual funding allotments, several things are required of us:

- Monthly evaluation conferences
- Quarterly evaluation reports
- Annual Progress Report
- Annual Site Visit

This year, Mission Possible exceeded federal expectations for progress and evaluation goals. Additionally, Mission Possible was able to demonstrate full expenditure of all allocated federal resources for the 2007-2008 school year. As a result, Mission Possible has been fully funded for the 2008-2009 school year, fiscal year three of the five year grant. The total federal award for this school year is $1,789,997.

Federal funding provides for recruitment and performance incentives for 8 of the 30 Mission Possible Schools, Cumulative Effect Summer Math Institute stipends for math teachers at 10 high schools, professional development for all 600+ Mission Possible faculty, and Mission Possible program operating costs. Each year, federal grant funding will diminish as local funds and other grant funds are obtained to sustain the program.

Federal grant program administrators have lauded Mission Possible as an example of a successful pay-for-performance program that is demonstrating results in multiple areas. Composite test scores have risen, the number of schools making AYP had risen, the experience and degree attainment level of teachers has risen and faculty retention has risen. Federal funding has played a key role in these successes!

Upcoming Events

Mission Possible Orientation

A Mission Possible representative will be at your media center on the following date and time to provide you with a program orientation and 2008-2009 incentive contract:

Oct 1	4:00	Falkener, Foust
Oct 2	4:00	Gillespie Park, Fairview
Oct 6	4:00	Kirkman Park
Oct 7	4:00	Washington
Oct 8	4:00	Union Hill
Oct 9	3:15	Parkview Village
Oct 10	4:00	Wiley

Oct 6-8	National Value Added Data Presentation
Oct 13	Cumulative Effect Foundation Meeting
Oct 14	Cumulative Effect Steering Committee Meeting
Oct 17	American Association of School Personnel Administrators Conference Presentation
Oct 20	Mission Possible Executive Advisory Committee
Oct 21	Richland School District II, to visit GCS
Oct 22	VAD Meeting with Senior Staff
Oct 23	Mission Possible Teacher Advisory Committee

Mission Possible 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:

Allen Middle School, 8th Grade Math

Dudley High School, Algebra I

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

Know a great teacher who is interested in working in a Mission Possible School? Use our employee referral system to recommend them for a faculty position! Contact Amy Holcombe at 335-3294 for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I would like to qualify for the highest level incentive for teaching math. What do I need to do?

A: You must either have a degree in mathematics or be able to show 24 semester hours of math credit on a college transcript. Courses that count include math courses that begin with an MAT course prefix or education courses in math methodology that begin with an EDU prefix. To have your eligibility evaluated, send copies of your transcript to our office.

Q: When I get my Value Added Data report, I don't understand why all of my students are not listed? Why don't I get credit for all of the students I taught?

A: Value Added Data uses a mathematical formula similar to a regression equation that determines how much growth each student should make based upon their individual prior performance. In order to generate this number, SAS, Inc. needs for three criterion to be met:

1. The student must have 3 or more prior standardized test data points.
2. The student must have attended the equivalent of 140 school days during the year.
3. The student must have taken the regular EOG or EOC and not an alternate version.

These criterion are put into place to protect the teacher. Students who do not meet all three criterion are left off of a teacher's roster. This creates a situation where you have fewer students on your VAD roster than the actual number you taught. But, as long as you have 12 or more students, we can generate a Value Added Data report for you. You can expect this year's reports in February, 2009.

Course Offerings: 2008-2009

Year 1 Participant Courses:

Cooperative Learning Sessions

10/11/08, 8:30-3:30, 2 days, Washington Annex

Anti-Racism/Undoing Racism Sessions

10/11/08, 8:00-3:00, 2 days, Eugene PTA Room

3/7/09, 8:00-3:00, 2 days, Eugene PTA Room

Year 2 Participant Courses:

Differentiated Instruction

10/4/08, 8:30-3:30, 2 days, EC Training Center

10/30/08, 5:30-8:30, 4 days, Washington Annex

TESA

8/20/08, 8:30-11:30, 5 days, Aycock Middle

8/20/08, 8:30-11:30, 5 days, Union Hill Elementary

8/21/08, 9:00-12:00, 5 days, Allen Middle

8/21/08, 12:30-3:30, 5 days, Bessemer Elementary

8/21/08, 12:45-3:45, 5 days, Cone Elementary

8/21/08, 1:00-4:00, 5 days, Penn-Griffin SFA

8/21/08, 1:30-4:30, 5 days, Falkener Elementary

10/2/08, 8:00-3:00, 3 days, Hampton Elementary

Cumulative Effect Seminar Series for Fall 2008

10/2/08, 4:45-6:45, Southern High School

10/30/08, 4:45-6:45, High Point Central

11/20/08, 4:45-6:45, Andrews High School

12/11/08, 4:45-6:45, Eastern High School

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

Professional Development Requirements

Year 1 Participants:

Cooperative Learning

Anti-Racism

Year 2 Participants:

Differentiated Instruction

TESA

Year 3 Participants:

Determined by the principal and faculty at each school based upon needs assessment.

Cumulative Effect Participants:

Anti-Racism (year 1 only)

Cumulative Effect Seminar Series

Summer Math Institute

All workshops must be completed by June 30, 2009 for your current participation year.

Contact Information

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