



Spring

NEWSBYTES 2002

Publication of the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative

Ovec-hosted teacher academies set for June

OVEC will host an Elementary Math Academy and a Middle School Science Academy this June. Each academy will support 30 classroom teachers for the 5-day intensive workshop with follow-up activities throughout the 2002-03 school year. Teachers of special needs students and Limited English Proficient students are encouraged to attend. Funding for the academies comes from the Kentucky Department of Education.

The **Elementary Math Academy**, to be held June 10-14, focuses on the content strand "algebraic thinking." The academy will address "How does the elementary teacher develop algebraic thinking with students?" The academy is designed for five teacher teams from a school with a teacher representing each grade area, 1-5. The June event will focus on hands-on, technology-based activities. During the follow-up next year, teachers will continue to meet as a team, with OVEC staff providing support in applying new teaching skills.

The **Middle School Science Academy**, to be held June 17-21, will center on environmental and earth science with an emphasis on chemistry. Teachers will participate in inquiry-based activities during the 5-day event with attention on "What does inquiry science instruction look in my classroom?" There will be an emphasis on student-initiated experimental design, with teachers having time to discuss and problem solve barriers to inquiry-based science. Academy presenters will provide exercises to refine teaching skills needed to coach students in designing experiments. Follow-up activities will permit teachers to delve into the practical application of inquiry-based strategies in the classroom.

Both academies will provide teachers with stipends, technology and instructional materials. Food will also be provided. Both sessions will be held at the OVEC Office. Since participation is limited to 30 teachers in each academy, registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration, to start by late March, will be online on the OVEC web site. Look for it under the "For Teachers" section.

Continuing Education Option provides teachers alternate route to rank change

The Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative is helping teachers take an alternative route to earn a Rank II, an equivalent to a master's degree.

The Kentucky Educational Professional Standards Board endorses the Continuing Education Option (CEO), as it is called, and has set standards to guide ongoing professional development for practicing teachers.

The CEO program is based on the Kentucky Experienced Teacher Standards.

Carol Wright, OVEC's director of special initiatives, said the cooperative provides coaches for candidates to insure that the guidelines are followed and appropriate documentation is submitted.

OVEC will be holding an orientation session in May following the standards board's

completion of online modules. These modules contain numerous units designed to help teachers develop their plan and guide them in the selection of their area of study. Applications will be accepted in early summer.

CEO also provides teachers the opportunity to earn a Rank I, following similar guidelines, as well as certification renewal.

"Teachers are required to submit a portfolio to show evidence of their work," Wright said. "It's essential that the portfolio contain components of a professional development plan, including narratives and artifacts, to demonstrate that it has increased student learning and led to continuing growth."

Wright said that teachers can engage in various activities to help them with their design, such as attend workshops and conferences, take university

courses, do research, and shadow teachers who have achieved their ranking.

Wright said it can take two years for teachers to complete their professional growth and assemble a successful portfolio, which is scored by the standards board. In 2000, more than 70 percent succeeded in completing their portfolios within one year.

Why choose CEO? Wright explained that teachers can focus on their own design, rather than a university or district design, earn a salary rank increase at their own pace, and enjoy the unique experiences of their own creation.

"It could also lead to national board certification," she added.

For more information, please call Carol Wright at OVEC, 502-647-3533, or e-mail her at cwright@ovec.coop.k12.ky.us.

State standards board gives OVEC approval to provide mentors to candidates for national certification

The Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative received approval from the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board to implement a model streamlining the process in helping teachers become nationally certified.

Under the direction of Carol Wright, director of special initiatives, OVEC has been in the forefront promoting to teachers the value of obtaining certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. (See *Commissioner of Education Gene Wilhoit's related column on page 4.*)

OVEC's commitment to advance the professionalism of teachers convinced the state standards board to approve a proposal to provide one nationally certified mentor to every six candidates.

Wright said that prior to this

year, candidates worked alone, with each other, or on a one-to-one basis with a content area specialist, or certified national board teacher, as their mentor.

The mentors would meet with their candidates for 12 three-hour sessions throughout the school year, guiding them through the process of developing portfolios for submission.

Wright said seven national board certified teachers have been hired to provide mentorship to the candidates from the OVEC districts. They are: Jon Saderholm, science teacher at Spencer County High School; Ellen Sears, art teacher at Anchorage Independent Schools; Roger Newton, English/language arts teacher at Bullitt Co. High School; Beth Dunn, math teacher at Shelby East Middle School; Sarah Going, math teacher at Henry

County High School; Rae McEntyre and Sharon Parker, science teachers at Gallatin County High School.

Ann Larson, language arts professor at the University of Louisville also works with the candidates.

"The Standards Board likes this service model for National Board candidates and is planning to formalize the process, using OVEC's plan, so that all the cooperatives may offer this service to their districts," Wright said.

Go to www.ovec.org for all your PD, & other resources

CEO Message

A New Look!

If you have recently visited the OVEC web site



(www.ovec.org) you would have noticed its new appearance. The big “O” on the splash page that welcomes you to our site, of course stands for OVEC! That symbol appears on many of our internal pages. We redesigned our site primarily to improve its “look” and increase its functionality. The changes include a navigational column on the left side of most pages that takes the user to major sections of our web site. Each page introducing a major topic, like Programs, Job Postings, has a navigation bar at the top of the page that displays links to related pages. The pages also have a “Back, Next and Up” links to provide smoother transitions between pages. We hope these changes will assist you in finding posted information in an efficient manner.

Upcoming events this spring include our annual Spring Teacher Recruitment Fair on April 9 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. In early June, the first of two Personnel Evaluation Training sessions is scheduled. Also in June, OVEC will host two Teacher Academies for member districts, and if room is available, others from Region 4. See the story on the academies on page 1.

The Migrant Technology Project 72 online courses developed are now being marketed by OVEC. OVEC districts and schools will continue to have free access to these courses. We have already had non-member districts in Kentucky and other states purchase subscriptions for the coming school year. Meanwhile, we are in discussions with commercial companies about licensing and reselling the courses. Our goal is to achieve a sufficient revenue flow to keep staff so that our courses can continue and expand.

John Rosati, Ed.D.
CEO, OVEC



Third graders performing skit on one of the virtues taught.

KIDS teaches Trimble County school kids to be honest

Brandon: Honest. What exactly do you mean by Honest?

Nikki: Like our teacher says, “If you don’t know what that means, look it up.”

Brandon looks up the word. It means, he says, “not lying, stealing or cheating. Being just what it appears to be. Genuine.”

Brandon and Nikki are students at Bedford Elementary School in Trimble County. They were among third graders performing skits that centered on one of the school’s five guidelines for success: always be **honest**. The others are “be **responsible**, exhibit **cooperative behavior**, **respect** myself and others, and set **high goals**.” Every six weeks, each grade takes a turn demonstrating one of these virtues.

“It’s really important to be honest so that people can rely upon you and trust you,” principal Sharon Rowlett said.

The five guidelines are the school’s centerpiece in creating a safe and disciplined environment. The behavioral management program is called Kentucky Instructional Discipline and Support (KIDS) funded by the state Department of Education and the Kentucky Center for School Safety. The two agencies have provided teachers with intensive training and technical assistance to implement school-wide positive instructional strategies. Bedford Elementary is one of 50 elementary and middle schools in the state chosen for the KIDS program. The goal is to build a statewide network of schools that deal effectively with student behav-

ior and discipline, and demonstrate the value of proactive school-wide approaches and models that are research-based and prevention-oriented.

“It’s helped make my job easier, because if the kids are behaving, then they’re going to learn,” said third-grade teacher Debbie Browne of KIDS.

Browne said the key to successful learning is to establish routines of expected behavior not only in the classroom, but also in the hallway and lunchroom, and plunge right into these expectations at the start of the school year.

“The first six weeks of school are critical,” Browne said. “You’ve got to have an orderly classroom by then to be able to teach effectively.”

“The teachers successful with KIDS are the ones who were consistent at the beginning of the year and have embedded it in their classrooms,” Rowlett stressed.

Good behavior has its rewards. Any faculty or staff member of the school who sees a child behaving in a noteworthy manner awards the student a golden ticket. On Fridays, one of the tickets is drawn for a prize.

Bedford’s program is in its second year, and Rowlett is pleased with the progress that has been made in establishing a relaxing learning environment. She said there has been a significant improvement in classroom management and, consequently, a notable reduction in referrals to her office.

“We’re continually working at making this school a supportive learning environment for all our students,” Rowlett said.



George W. wouldn’t tell a lie, would he? Cory Hensley re-enacts cutting down the cherry tree. The W., of course, is for Washington.

OVEC Teachers’ Fair to be held April 9

OVEC’S spring Teachers’ Fair will be held Tuesday, April 9 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at its offices in Shelbyville.

For directions go to www.ovec.org. No pre-registration required.

OVEC districts are expecting critical shortages of teachers in most subject areas and grade levels including, but not limited to:

- Special Education (all levels, all areas)
- Math, Science, Social Studies Teachers, Middle & High School
- Foreign Language (French, Spanish, etc.)

- Guidance Counselors
- Language Arts, Middle School
- Primary Teachers
- Elementary Teachers
- Middle School Teachers
- High School Teachers

Interested teachers and teacher candidates are encouraged to bring their resume and portfolio.

OVEC school districts are: Anchorage, Bullitt, Carroll, Eminence, Franklin, Gallatin, Grant, Henry, Oldham, Owen, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble and West Point.

Upcoming OVEC events:

June 6 & July 21: Personnel Evaluation Training — registration online on the OVEC web page.

July 21-23: OVEC Summer Leadership Conference & PD Workshops: Online registration to begin in April.

June 10-14: Teacher Academy #1: Elementary Math

June 17-21: Teacher Academy #2: Middle School Science.

Information and online registration for both academies to begin in late March on OVEC web site.

Bullitt County teacher engages students in cutting edge technology

Dr. Christine McIntosh's world is deeply immersed in technology.

"It is fascinating to learn new ways to implement technology into the classroom," said the media specialist at Bernheim Middle School in Bullitt County.

Fellow educational colleagues, inspired by her work, recommended Dr. McIntosh as a candidate for a Distinguished Educator with Apple Computers.

Not only did she earn the award, she recently returned from an intensive two-day West Coast conference on computers sponsored by Apple, Inc.

"It was part training, part networking, part experience," she said of the trip to Cupertino, California, the headquarters for Apple computers. "The best part was that the training was for all grade levels, and I made a lot of contacts that will help our students."

Dr. McIntosh said she was flattered when she learned how she was nominated for the award and the conference.

"When I found out several teachers gave me references for the award, I was quite humbled," she said. "Being recognized by your peers is among the most special of honors."

Circuits and wires are not what drive her mental modem. This teacher is utterly engaged by the challenges of keeping students on track with the most sophisticated, cutting edge technology in today's market.

Thus, her students at Bernheim were prepared to tackle new ideas after her conference in California.

The current trend - computer created and delivered music.

"Students at Bernheim have been working on digital video-editing on



Christine McIntosh works with Bernheim Middle School students Brittany Little and Chris Morris on video editing.

computers for the last four years," Dr. McIntosh explained. "Digital music is a weak area for me, so everything I can learn about it will help me introduce students to it."

The trend in music today is to create and record music via computers, which eliminates much of the equipment that has been standard in that business for last few decades. As with digital video on the computer, the music is of great quality and more easily manipulated. While increased technological perspective is important, Dr. McIntosh said keeping students up to date is not easy.

"Between equipment and the rapid rate of change, students no longer learn the latest before it quickly becomes outdated," she said.

Since 1987, Dr. McIntosh has presented at least two sessions or workshops at technology conferences annually. One of the benefits as an

Apple Distinguished Educator is that she gets to borrow some wonderful equipment from Apple Computer, such as a high-end laptop, digital video camera and Apple Computer's iPOD.

Despite the district's alliance with IBM products, Shepherdsville Middle School and Bernheim Middle School have had a two-platform network environment—Apple Macintosh and Windows computers—for almost two decades. Dr. McIntosh said the conversion process between the two is actually very easy for students. They do not have the fear of technology that many adults still experience. Students are more than willing to try new software and computers.

"The transfer process is more conducive than you might expect," she said. "While Apple Macintosh computers are especially strong in the

areas of graphics, video editing and music, once you understand the concepts involved, the user can adapt to and use the software on the other platform when necessary," she said.

Apple Macintosh, however, is especially strong in education.

"There is an easier end use with the Apple Macintosh computer in the classroom," Dr. McIntosh observed.

Her goal at Bernheim is simply to teach students to use what is in front of them to the best of their abilities. "Whatever the platform is, the students should be versed well enough in technology that he or she can apply their ideas and be successful with the software," she said.

Flexibility is another key for students and technology.

"Certain businesses use a certain platform," Dr. McIntosh said. "Some businesses use both major platforms to accomplish different tasks. Since the computers of today will not exist as we know them when today's students leave school, they have to be ready to adapt to and use the technology available."

Basically, people who use computers relearn certain things all the time, and it is the student who can learn on the spot for short-term jobs who will adapt comfortably to the ever-changing world of technology, she pointed out.

Although technology is taking bold steps into school systems, Dr. McIntosh said full implementation is still at least one generation away.

"Technology is a tool to get the job done, but we are still at a transition stage at the school level," she said. "It is still being taught as a separate subject, rather than being assimilated into all aspects of learning. That will change in the future."

Grant County students win state bookmark contest, head for nationals



Sarah Anderson and Heather Devore (left) and Felicity Schaffer and Kayla Norris (right) flank their teacher Cynthia Wiggins and school resource officer Rita Bierly. Winning bookmark speaks against drinking and driving.

By Sandra Adams
Grant County
Public Relations Officer

Wild squeals came suddenly from the group of four middle school girls. No, they didn't see a teenage rock star or even a favorite movie star. These girls were excited at the news that the school resource officer for Grant County High School, Rita Bierly, gave them. Their bookmark entry had won state honors and would be entered into national competition.

When Miss Rita, as the students call her, entered the art class at Grant County Middle School to ask if someone would be interested in creating a bookmark for an anti-drinking and driving contest sponsored by the Youth Crime Prevention Coalition, little did she imagine that in April the four young ladies would be receiving an all expense paid trip for them and a sponsor for winning the state contest.

Kayla Norris, Heather Devore, Felicity Schaffer, and Sarah Anderson, all sixth graders, poured

their creative minds into the anti-drinking and driving message that will eventually be printed and distributed for many young people to use (and read) in their books. The girls used the program Microsoft Publisher to put together the ideas that they had for color, design and message.

"Since it's for kids, we decided to use cartoons," quipped Kayla while bouncing up and down on the chair in the school library. "Yeah," added Sarah who came up with the idea on the bookmark, "My mom really helped us too."

The girls will be accompanied by their teacher, Cynthia Wiggins, to the national meeting of the Youth Crime Prevention Coalition meeting in Orlando, Florida in April.

After my interview with them, they were headed to the Internet to look up the site (www.ycwa.org) to check on the conference agenda. Such are the ways of middle school girls these days.



Crestwood Baptist Church will be transformed to enhance the arts.

Oldham County Schools to develop Center for the Arts

The Oldham County Schools will be developing an Arts and Education Center to serve students and others in the community interested in the performing, design and visual arts.

Through an agreement with Dynegy, Inc. and Oldham County Fiscal Court, the Oldham County Board of Education has contracted to purchase the buildings and land of Crestwood Baptist Church, next to Crestwood Elementary School, for \$1.6 million. Funding for the project is being provided by Dynegy through Fiscal Court and will cover the costs of maintenance and operation of the facility as well as acquisition. The church will continue to use and maintain the buildings and grounds until January 1, 2004 when the district will begin renovating the property. During this transition period the facility will be open for school and community educational activities, performances, workshops, conferences, receptions and exhibits on a scheduled basis.

“Concurrently, detailed plans will be developed to transform the facility into a home for a center for the arts and life long learning,” said David Thurmond, the district’s director of arts and humanities.

“Developing a state of the art facility for arts instruction, performances and exhibits will also require a community wide capital campaign,” Thurmond said. “The Oldham County Education Foundation has made a long-term commitment to assist the district with this effort.”

The arts are an important component of the curricular and extra curricular program of the school district. Its elementary schools employ full time specialists in music and art. Middle and high schools employ specialists in band, vocal music, visual art, humanities and drama.

“Parent-teacher organizations offer financial and other programming support to every school in the district, and the Oldham County Educational Foundation has identified the arts as a special area of support,” Thurmond said. “We make abundant use of local and regional arts and cultural resources to provide enrichment opportunities for our young people.”

High quality community resource organizations such as the Oldham County Arts Association, the Oldham County History Center, and the Oldham County Free Public Library, as well as such excellent organizations as the Louisville Orchestra and Stage One. partner with the schools to bring enrichment and learning in the arts to students and families. The Greater Louisville Fund for the Arts has awarded the Louisville Orchestra a three-year, \$50,000 grant to provide low cost programming in music for Oldham County Schools students.

“This is clear evidence that the arts are highly valued by our schools and our community and that we are ready to move to a higher level of excellence, opportunity and achievement in the arts for our students, schools and our community,” Thurmond stressed.

Valuing the arts and humanities comes with a price - growing pains. Thurmond cited lack of sufficient space for rehearsals and less than adequate venues to showcase school productions.

“The district’s capacity to add new arts programs that support continuous improvement in student achievement is limited,” Thurmond noted. “The arts center will provide us with the opportunity to develop new academic and extra curricular programs in the design arts, dance, orchestra and drama.”

Co-op support for National Board certification of teachers is more important than ever

By Gene Wilhoit
Commissioner of Education

“The process enabled me to better understand not only how I teach but why I teach toward certain concepts. My belief in my profession and its importance is restored. My teaching style is more focused and purposeful. The direct correlation with Kentucky’s education goals enhances student learning potential and analytical thinking.”



With those heartfelt words, one Kentucky teacher evaluated her experience after achieving certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This teacher (Cynthia Turner of Stonewall Elementary in Fayette County) is one of 145 nationally certified teachers in our state. While I haven’t had the opportunity to speak with all of them, I have no doubt that they share Ms. Turner’s point of view.

The certificate itself is only a piece of paper. It is the certification process that lifts these education professionals to new levels of excellence. Each of these 145 teachers completed a rigorous process that required them to analyze every aspect of their teaching, reflect on their own effectiveness, and document results evident in student work. They presented evidence of their effective interactions with students, families and colleagues, and they passed a series of computer-administered tests.

While the national certification process is demanding and time-consuming, these teachers agree that it pays off – not just because it results in a Rank I teacher classification (for those candidates already at Rank II) and \$2,000 more in annual salary, but because it makes them better teachers. To quote a few of the teachers: “The process teaches you to look at yourself as a teacher, day in and day out. I reflect now on everything I do, constantly analyzing and refining. You can’t

get that from textbooks in a college classroom.” Said another, “The national certification process is the most intense yet rewarding professional development a teacher could hope to experience. [It] helped me to love teaching again.”

The quest for National Board certification takes more than a teacher’s time, effort and commitment. It takes money. The fee is \$2,300, and there are other costs involved as well. Help is available to some teachers and their districts through NBPTS, the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board, school districts, local business partners and, of course, educational cooperatives.

As I write this, some of the state support authorized by the 2000 General Assembly is in jeopardy because of budget shortfalls. Even so, the legislature’s goal remains to have at least one NBPTS-certified teacher in every Kentucky public school by the year 2020. By working toward this goal, we can go a long way toward meeting our goal to get every school to proficiency or beyond. I encourage you to continue supporting Kentucky’s National Board certification candidates. In fact, I hope you will expand that assistance in innovative ways, such as matching teachers with sponsors representing area businesses.

Imagine where we can go on our road to proficiency and beyond if more teachers earned national certification!

For More Information . . .

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; www.nbpts.org; (800) 22-TEACH

Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board; www.kentuckyschools.org/otec/epsb/Legislative/; Kevin Skeeters at (502) 573-4606 or kskeeter@kde.state.ky.us

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