GCS

Professional Development Newsletter

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Guilford County Schools
STRIVING. ACHIEVING. EXCELLING.

NEW SESSIONS ADDED!!!

Reading Comprehension with Interactive Strategies
Click Here

Reading Strategies for Deepening Comprehension
Click Here

Does Vocabulary Affect Academic Achievement?
Click Here

MPS Courses Available:

Year 2 Participant Courses: Differentiated Instruction
Click Here

Employee Self-Serve

What is the easiest way to check your CEU transcript and update your personal contact information? The answer is the recently added feature on the GCS website, Employee Self Serve. By simply logging in, you can determine how many and what kind of CEUs you have earned in your current renewal cycle. This allows you to keep up with your credits and have no surprises when your renewal time approaches. Not familiar with this feature? Use the link below to explore this valuable resource.
https://employeeservices.gcsnc.com/

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO PUMP UP YOUR TEACHING?

Vocabulary Enrichment: Vocabulary development and world hunger - Are they related? Free Rice combines these two problems and gives teachers a way to help students solve both. Students will love this online game that increases student vocabulary while donating food to poor communities around the world. Each word defined correctly builds the player's tally of grains of rice donated to help stamp out hunger. The game scales the difficulty of the words up or down depending on student responses so that almost any age or ability can enjoy the challenge.
http://www.freerice.com/index.php

Literary Links: This monthly calendar is packed with interesting facts to spice up your lessons. IRA, NCTE, and Thinkfinity collaborate to give teachers information about author milestones and links to resources on the web to support each one. The links include lesson plans, supporting activities, other web links, as well as additional resources.
http://www.readwritethink.org/calendar/

New Authors: What's new in YA literature? This website gives teachers a fun peek at new authors who will publish their first books this year (2009). Find out what your students will be raving about next.
http://www.classof2k9.com/

Vocabulary Minute: Students can enjoy age appropriate "minutes" set to catchy tunes which teach theme related words. K-12 students find this a fun and meaningful way to learn key vocabulary terms.
http://www.princetonreview.com/podcasts.aspx?uidbadge

Author Video and Audio Podcasts:

If you are planning to build your web resources, this is the place to start. Free video and audio podcasts from Reading Rockets offer chats with favorite authors, advice from expert educators, as well as examples of best practices in classroom settings.
http://www.readingrockets.org/podcasts/

Book Previews for Struggling Readers:

Book talks online. This website can be a handy tool for building student interest in a particular book or in providing a little more background knowledge to scaffold student comprehension. **Grades 3-8**
http://bookwink.com/wink_about_us.html

Teachers - Top 10 Ways to Help Parents Prevent Summer Brain Freeze!

Don't miss these helpful ideas you can give parents to keep their children's learning sharp during the long summer weeks!

Click to Read Article

Video and Audio: What if you could find all of those wonderful clips that you saw on TV and could use them in your classroom? Teacher's Domain is an online library of more than 1,000 free media resources from the best in public television. These short digital videos, podcasts, and lessons are sorted by grade level, topic, and content area. You must register, but after that, all resources are free. This site has plenty for literacy teachers but is also very strong in science and math.
http://www.teachersdomain.org/

Summer Conference on Differentiated Instruction, Understanding by Design and What Works in Schools

Spend three days with the experts – Carol Ann Tomlinson, Grant Wiggins, Jay McTighe, and Robert Marzano. If we understand and implement the research and works of these leading educators, we will be far more likely to ensure that every student is learning and achieving. Explore these proven approaches to school improvement - June 26-28 in Houston, Texas.

Find out more

Professional Development Stimulus Plan

What can you do to guarantee that you have the credit you need when it is time to renew your license?

S…Submit Outside GCS Events Requests for any college courses, conferences, seminars, etc.

T…Take courses that satisfy the requirements for your renewal.

I…Inspect your transcript often to ensure proper credits have been posted.

M…Make sure you have at least 3 reading credits (elementary and middle).

U…Unregister for any course you cannot attend.

L…Let your staffing specialist know about items not on your transcript.

U…Use the PD helpdesk # (370-8010) for problems you cannot solve through your CF or staffing specialist.

S…Show up on time for all classes for which you register and sign in on all session days.

ONLINE COURSES FOR NC TEACHERS:

Find Out More

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has partnered with LEARN NC to offer North Carolina teachers online professional development courses. Enrollment is now open for courses developed and taught by expert instructors whose advanced course work and/or research expertise in the content area set them apart from other teacher-trainers.

- More than a dozen new courses have been designed that focus on two critical areas of need in the state: improving the teaching in core areas and closing the achievement gap for minority students.
- All courses carry a suggested 3.0 CEUs or more and range from six weeks to nine weeks in length. For a more detailed description of course offerings and enrollment information, visit hhtp://www.learnnc.org. Schedules and registration information is included with the details for each course.
- Courses are designed to be taught asynchronously so teachers may participate at a time that is most convenient for their schedule.

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