GCS

Professional Development Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 5 March, 2009

Guilford County Schools
STRIVING. ACHIEVING. EXCELLING.

GCS-PROFDEV: Unique Strategies to Instruct & Motivate Elementary Boys-070102-Additional Sessions Now Online

Based on brain function research, boys learn differently than girls and certain instructional strategies are more conducive to learning in males.
As a result of this course, participants will gain a practical understanding of the special issues of teaching boys and take home strategies for creating boy friendly classrooms.

http://www.solutionwhere.com/guilford/cw/showcourse.asp?1493

NEW SESSIONS ADDED!!!

Does Vocabulary Affect Academic Development?
http://www.solutionwhere.com/guilford/cw/showcourse.asp?1596
Reading Comprehension with Interactive Strategies
http://www.solutionwhere.com/guilford/cw/showcourse.asp?1595

MPS Courses Available:

Year 2 Participant Courses:

Differentiated Instruction

http://www.solutionwhere.com/guilford/cw/showcourse.asp?1634
3/21/09, 8:30-3:30, 2 days,
sWashington Annex (open)
5/2/09, 8:30-3:30, 2 days,
Washington Annex (open)

Critical Issues in Professional Development:

When preparing workshops, these are essentials to consider.

- Providing More Time for Professional Development
- Terms of Engagement—Rethinking Teachers' Independent Learning Traits
- Providing Professional Development for Effective Technology Use
- Evaluating Professional Growth and Development
- Finding Time for Professional Development
- Realizing New Learning for All Students Through Professional Development
- Educating Teachers for Diversity

Teampedia Wiki

This site needs to be in your favorites if you do staff development at your school. **Teampedia Wiki** offers dozens of team-building activities and icebreakers for meetings and trainings, everything from name games to diversity exercises:

http://www.teampedia.net/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page

21st Century Education

Are you teaching 21st century writing skills?

Students are writing e-mails, Facebook posts and text messages. The National Council of Teachers of English recommends That teachers must connect to this new approach and move away from the standard five-paragraph essay method of writing. This more interactive approach to writing in schools is expected to better engage students in the writing process.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (2/23)

NC Educators put iPod Touch to work in classrooms

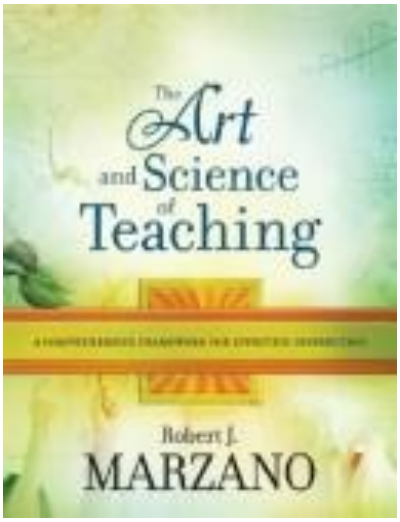
Culbreth Middle School teachers have found that these 4-ounce devices can be used to enhance student learning. Students view online videos, take class notes, and practice math skills. Read more…

The Herald-Sun (Durham, N.C.) (free registration)

A Teacher's Take on *The Art & Science of Teaching*: Chapter 1

If you remember, in our last newsletter, we mentioned Dina Strasser, a middle-school English/language arts teacher and blogger who is creating a chapter-by-chapter series on Marzano's *The Art and Science of Teaching.* This link will take you to the first installment. Look for future chapters and responses.

View the post.



Marzano's First Response: "I can think of no strategy every teacher should use."

View the post

"The ART of teaching is quickly becoming the SCIENCE of teaching."

…Marzano

Instruction That Works for the 21st Century Learner

Many of us in GCS are or will be involved in Marzano's Classroom Instruction That Works. The nine core instructional strategies examined and discussed in this best-selling book, are influencing instruction, classroom management, assessment, grading, technology use, etc., around the world. An ASCD blog post asks readers what they would change if they could help rewrite Classroom Instruction That Works today. Here is your opportunity to offer your thoughts and opinions on this far-reaching work.

View the post.

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 CEU's 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/

"All Teachers Can Learn"

We have embraced the tenet that "All students can learn." What about the teachers? We need to remind ourselves that educators should be models for life-long learning. There are many ways that educators can improve their practice and refresh their mind-set regarding their profession. The latest issue of Educational Leadership examines various ideas offered by ASCD book author, Robyn Jackson, including participating in professional learning communities. This article examines the PLC as an effective tool for propelling all teachers toward the mastery level.

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