

WHAT'S NEW FROM THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

NYS Education Department Virtual Learning System (VLS) Enhanced and Expanded:

The NYSED VLS has been enhanced and expanded with interesting visuals and additional content. Recent changes include updated home pages with added informational items. Thousands of lesson plans and instructional tasks are available by exploring the learning standards and performance indicators in the seven content areas. In response to several suggestions, a new VLS Resource Search has been implemented. A user can easily access VLS resources and related information with a few mouse clicks (two-to-three). Additional search options continue to provide quick access to SED and GEM (Gateway to Educational Materials) resources. Please visit: <http://eservices.nysed.gov/vls> for the NYSED Virtual Learning System that displays sample tasks for pre-kindergarten through grade 8 performance indicators.

PreK-8 Mathematics Toolkit:

The following tools are posted in the toolkit and can be found at: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/3-8/guidancecpk8.htm>:

- Mathematics Core Curriculum (March 2005);
- Overview of Mathematics Core Curriculum: Power-Point Presentation;
- Crosswalk between the Core Curriculum 1999 and

Core Curriculum, March 2005;

- Template for Analysis of Mathematics Programs and Series;
- Glossary of Mathematical Terms for Teachers;
- Suggested Lists of Mathematical Terms for each Grades PreK-8;
- Pre-Post March Alignment Guide.

English Language Arts:

The revised English Language Arts Core Curriculum 2005 provides grade-by-grade delineation of the performance indicators: what students should know, and be able to do, in pre-kindergarten - grade 12, as a result of skilled instruction. The four ELA learning standards approved by the Board of Regents in 1996 remain the same. The Core Curriculum also features a literacy strand, pre-kindergarten through grade 8. This literacy strand will be extended through high school and be posted when available on: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/cores.htm>

The Grades 3-8 2005-06 English Language Arts Sample Tests are now available online at: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/3-8ela-sample/home.htm>

The 2006 Statewide Summer Reading Program:

Books: *A Treasure*, is getting underway. The official kick-off will be in early June. More information about

Books: *A Treasure* can be accessed on the New York State Library's web site. Go to: www.nysl.nysed.gov and click on Statewide Summer Reading. A manual for those planning summer reading programs can be found online at: <http://www.summerreadingnys.org/planners.html>

Physical Setting/Earth Science Performance Test - Part D - Materials List:

A new form of the laboratory performance test is currently in the test development phase and will be administered for the first time in June 2007. A link to the materials list can be found at: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/scinote.htm>

Life Safety Education: Section 808 of State Education Law was revised, effective September 1, 2005, to require that every school in NYS must provide instruction in injury prevention and life safety education in grades K-12. The change in law is effective for the current school year. The law originally included only instruction in arson and fire prevention. Resources are available at: http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/facplan/HealthSafety/child_safety.html

The US Department of Education's:

Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative has 32 video courses available online and free of charge through the following e-Learning Website: <http://www.paec.org/teacher2teacher/>

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

As the school year winds down and planning for 2006-2007 begins, take a moment to reflect on the Catholic Identity of your school. Reflect on the what elements must be preserved for Catholic education to remain authentic in mission, excellent in quality, and accessible to all. Have a discussion with faculty and staff about the Catholic Identity goals for next year. What areas need work - mission, excellent quality or accessibility? How can each area be improved? What makes a school Catholic? Discuss with the faculty specific ways they are going to improve Catholic Identity in the classroom. Is there a routine, prayer services, or activity that can be improved?

There is an excellent article in the October, 2003 Today's Catholic Teacher about Catholic Identity, it can be found at: <http://www.peterli.com/arehive/tct/491.shtm>, a thrifty teacher may also have the hard copy in their classroom!

This summer is a good time

