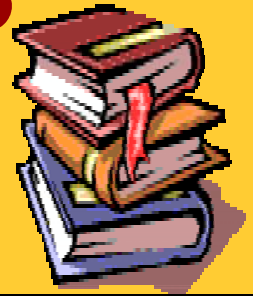




Subject Matters

Connecting Curriculum to the Classroom

Klamath County School District



Inspiring Today's Students To Meet Tomorrow's Challenges Issue # 1 : November 2002

Coming to an Internet Connection Near You . . . PLATO

Looking for an extra set of hands in your classroom? The answer may be as close as your computer. Plato, a comprehensive K-12 learning curriculum, is now available on the internet. This teacher friendly tool will allow classroom teachers to individualize instruction according to student needs while meeting state standards and classroom goals. Delivered over the web, Plato's online curriculum can be used to identify skill gaps, diagnose individual student needs and provide individual and group work in a fun and interesting setting. Plato addresses core subject areas with a research-based math and reading curriculum and comprehensive projects and problem solving activities that offer real world content to extend what you do in your classroom every day.

Plato can be used at school during the regular day to complement your regular classroom work, after school in an extended day program to remediate basic skills and challenge those students who need advanced work, and even at home, to give students an opportunity for paper-free extra practice outside the regular school day. In fact, Plato can be used anywhere there is a student ready to learn and a computer with Internet access.

Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due

Please remember that all requests for district credit must be approved prior to attending the class or workshop. The following guidelines will determine eligibility for district credit:

- **District credit is only available if college credit is not available**
- **Classes offered through Southern Oregon ESD do not need prior approval and credit will be awarded when a certificate and/or verification is presented to Loretta McCulley in the Superintendent's office.**
- **District sponsored classes, workshops, and activities such as computer classes may be eligible for district credit. Prior approval is required from the personnel office.**
- **10 hours of seat time is required for each credit received.**
- **District credit is not allowed when a teacher is being paid by the district to take the class and/or workshop**

Please also note: College credit toward advancement on the pay scale will be allowed for hours taken towards an advanced degree, or hours taken in your teaching field.

**For more information contact :
Michelle Crawford
Staff Development Coordinator
883-5000 ext 221**

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Writing and Problem Solving Assessments Available

The Southern Oregon ESD is offering a regional scoring center for writing and math problem solving. The SOESD center will provide assessments in these content areas for grades 5 and 8. The assessments will be administered in the same manner as traditional state assessments and utilize prompts secured from the state department. Scored papers may be used as portfolio work samples.

Teachers from grades 5 and 8 will have an opportunity to receive scoring training and score student papers from our region. One certified participant will be needed for each fifty student papers submitted for scoring. The one day training and scoring sessions will be held locally with substitutes provided.

A district level writing assessment will also be available for grade 3 teachers and their students. The assessment will follow the same format as the Grade 5 and 8 assessments but will be scored at the district level instead of the regional level. The one day training in the Benchmark 1 scoring guide and a scoring session will be held at the district office with substitutes provided. If you are interested in participating and have not signed up please call Michelle Crawford at the Title 1 Office, 883-5000, ext 221.

Staff Development Committee

Research on highly effective schools stresses the importance of high quality staff development programs that provide teachers and staff members with information and training on research based programs and instructional strategies. In order to provide local staff development opportunities the curriculum department has established a staff development committee.

The goal of this committee is to provide input on staff development issues, research programs and/or opportunities to meet district staff development needs, and develop a long term staff development plan for the district. Administration of an online, staff development survey to gather information regarding staff development needs will be one of the first tasks for the committee.

Committee members, representing elementary, middle, and secondary areas, are Mike Reeder, Molly Hurtado, Susan Kandra, Karen Aquinas, Rob Nierath, Linda Kehr, and Michelle Crawford

Reading Groups For Staff Development

Book study clubs, which have become very popular over the past few years, are providing a new source of staff development for educators. Teachers and administrators are centering monthly staff development sessions around a book study. These topics range from specific instructional resources such as Comprehension Strategies That Work, to topics that affect school climate such as poverty. Groups may also be formed between colleagues from different schools and meet outside of the contract day. If you or your staff is interested in developing a book study group please contact Phyllis in the Staff Development Office, 883-5000 ext 233, regarding funding options.

Intel Teach to the Future

Intel has teamed up with Microsoft to provide teachers with a free 40-hour course in the integration of technology. Throughout the Teach to the Future course, participant teachers will create a unit that includes student samples of newsletters, multimedia presentations and web sites. Participants will also make presentations, web sites, newsletters, and other documents to assist in the teaching of the unit. Participants who complete the course will receive Encarta 2002, Microsoft Office XP, thorough instruction manual, and resource CD. Graduate credit is offered through PSU, 4 credits for \$168.

Teachers, K-12, are invited to join the next (and final) class for our district. Scott Preston will teach the class at Shasta Elementary on the following dates: Wed., Dec. 4; Sat., Dec. 7; Wed., Dec. 11; Sat., Dec. 14; Wed., Dec. 18. Each session will be 7:30-3:30. Substitutes will be provided on the Wednesday sessions. Space is limited, so sign up today. <http://www.intel.com/education/teach/>

Parent Pages

The back page of this newsletter highlights articles and tips for parents that may be reprinted in your parent newsletters. If you are interested in more parent connections or in Spanish translations of these articles contact the Staff Development Office.

SOUTHERN OREGON ESD STAFF DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following classes are available through the SOESD. Please note that registration needs to be completed through the SOESD, or through online registration on the SOESD website, <http://www.jacksonesd.k12.or.us/>.

Web-Based Curriculum Units	Instructional Technology	Klamath	1/28/2003
Technology in the Math Curriculum	Instructional Technology	Klamath	11/12/2002
DreamWeaver: Build a School Website	Instructional Technology	Klamath	11/4/2002
Graphics Introduction	Instructional Technology	Klamath	11/6/2002
Word 1 Introduction	Instructional Technology	Klamath	10/29/2002
Word 2 Continued	Instructional Technology	Klamath	1/23/2003
Excel 1 Introduction	Instructional Technology	Klamath	1/16/2003
PowerPoint 1 Introduction	Instructional Technology	Klamath	10/30/2002
PowerPoint 2 Continued: From Buttons to Bloom's	Instructional Technology	Klamath	1/14/2003
Digital Camera Introduction	Instructional Technology	Klamath	1/13/2003
Windows Preventive Maintenance	Instructional Technology	Klamath	12/9/2002
Macintosh Troubleshooting	Instructional Technology	Klamath	1/27/2003
Sound Practices: Text-to-Speech	Instructional Technology	Klamath	1/15/2003
Multimedia: Graphics, Movies, Audio, File Formats	Instructional Technology	Klamath	11/14/2002
Online Learning: an Introduction	Instructional Technology	Klamath	10/28/2002
Technology in the Math Curriculum	Instructional Technology	Online	11/25/2002
Technology in the Language Arts Curriculum	Instructional Technology	Online	10/21/2002
Lewis and Clark: Preparing for the Celebration	Instructional Technology	Online	11/12/2002
SOESD Weather Website	Instructional Technology	Online	12/2/2002
K-2 Technologies in the Classroom	Instructional Technology	Online	11/4/2002

STARLAB: IT'S MUCH MORE THAN A PLANETARIUM

How did the sky appear to Lewis and Clark during their 1803 expedition?

What constellations are named after Greek gods?

What do the earth's atmospheric circulation patterns look like?

Starlab, a newly acquired portable teaching system in the SOESD media and technology department, can answer these and other questions. It consists of an inflatable plastic dome, a large blower fan, a high-intensity halogen projector and various projection cylinders. The dome inflates in about 10 minutes to a dimension measuring 16 feet in diameter and 10.5 feet in height. It can comfortably accommodate 25 adults or 35 children.

The interchangeable, computer-generated cylinders project such images as the night sky, the inside of a biological cell, a global projection of the earth or colorful Greek or Native American mythological characters. "Starlab is much more than a planetarium. It is a truly multicultural, multidisciplinary tool for all grade levels," says Kelly Bryant, SOESD library materials specialist.

In order to check out The Starlab Planetarium through the SOESD teachers must attend a training session. The site and date of the training are still being processed, however teachers that are interested in the training may contact Michelle Crawford, 883-5000—ext 221.

Parents Can Help With Homework Without Doing It

"Mom, what's the capital of South Dakota?" your child yells from his desk. Without even thinking, you answer, "Pierre."

You've just been dragged into doing your child's homework. And you're not alone. Talk to parents anywhere and you'll find the same situation.

How can you give your child the right kind of help without actually doing the homework yourself? Here are some ideas:

- Teach your child to plan. It's a skill your child will use all through life. At the start of each homework time, sit with your child. Step by step, figure out how he'll do what he needs to. Even if his book report isn't due until next Tuesday, talk about what he can do today.
- Help your child get organized. Together, fix up a box that will hold all homework supplies. Then make sure everything goes back into the box when studies are done. Encourage him to have a regular place for everything. For example, have him put his backpack in the same place every day.
- Give your child a chance to pay attention. Kids can't study when the TV is blaring. One positive way to help is to create a quiet time when everyone does some work.
- Help your child create internal rewards. You don't need to give your child a prize for studying every day. But you can teach him to take pride in what he's done. Say things like, "Doesn't it feel good to get all that work finished?"

Source: "YMCA Parent Tips: Homework Solutions," YMCA.net, http://www.ymca.net/programs/fam_ily/p/homework.htm.

Try 'Small Numbers' if Math Problems Confuse Your Child

Solving word problems isn't easy. When they include many large numbers, the task gets harder. Kids can't always see past those big numbers to figure out what steps to take to find the right answer. Use "small numbers" instead. Your child can see how to solve the problem. Then it's easy to try the same method again with larger numbers.

Suppose she is asked to restate $35/61$ as a decimal, and she's stuck. Try using 1 and 4 instead. How would she find out how to state $1/4$ as a decimal? She'd divide 4 into 1. The answer is .25. So in the first problem, divide 61 into 35. The answer is 0.57.

Source: Kathy A. Zahler, *50 Simple Things You Can Do to Raise a Child Who Loves Math*, 1998 (Peterson's, P.O. Box 67005, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, 1-800-331-6531), ISBN: 0-028-61766-5, paperback, 162 pp., \$11.95.

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