



ACTION

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JEFFERSON COUNTY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

1941 Bishop Lane, Louisville, KY 40218 ♦ 454-3400 ♦ 452-2794 (fax) ♦ www.jcta.org ♦ May 24, 2006

WHAT'S HAPPENING

All meetings are at the JCTA office unless otherwise specified.

MELISSA PAYNE RECEIVES AWARD

JCTA is pleased to share that teacher member, Melissa Payne, a science teacher at Jeffersontown High School Magnet Career Academy is a Presidential nominee for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She is among only 100 nominees for the nation's highest honor for mathematics and science teaching. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

PERSONAL DAYS

As we head into these final days of the school year, please be aware that the contract does not allow for personal days to be used during the last five days of the school term. This means that during the last five days of school, you CANNOT USE PERSONAL DAYS IF YOU MUST BE OUT OF THE BUILDING! Exceptions can be made to this for teachers who are attending their children's graduations out of state; however, you must obtain permission from the District.

RE-EMPLOYMENT AFTER RETIREMENT

Teachers, be very careful about re-employment after you retire. The laws surrounding teacher retirement benefits and re-employment of teacher retirees are VERY complicated. Be sure that you know what you are doing and call KTRS 1-800-618-1687 if you are considering working after retirement.

ITINERANTS

For purposes of planning, inventory, and storage of equipment and supplies, itinerant teachers NOT returning to a school should not be scheduled for classes the last duty day at the school. Itinerants returning to their school the following school year should be free of classes at least half of the last duty at that school.

TEACHING CONTRACT

If you have signed a teaching contract for the 2006-07 school year, and you must break that contract **FOR ANY REASON**, it must be done at least 30 days prior to the start of the 2006-07 school year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On occasion, I turn over my President's Message to a "guest" writer so that they can share information with you. As this school year draws to a close, I felt it was important that you have as much information about the GE Foundation College Bound District Program as possible: where we've been, and where we are going. As a result, I'm turning over my "space" to another teacher member, Karen Cash, who serves as the co-project manager for the program. A special thanks to Karen and all of the other GE-released teachers giving of their time and talents to this project.

Brent

As most of you are probably aware, in September of this school year, JCPS received a \$25 million grant for the GE Foundation College Bound District Program. The goals of the project are:

- To improve student performance in math and science
- To close achievement gaps
- To increase the number of students entering college.

Since that time, JCPS and JCTA have engaged in some exciting work and have big plans for the year ahead. During the current school year, JCTA identified and the District released from the classroom six teachers and a JCTA Co project manager (also a teacher). They joined the project in late January and immediately began work on existing committees and reviewing curriculum materials that could support mathematics and science programs in our schools. At the same time, the steering committee began meeting 2-3 times per month to oversee the work being done.

In the months following, the math and science departments held a series of curriculum review nights in which broad feedback was solicited from teachers throughout the district. Science modules were chosen for elementary and middle school use and are designed to align instruction to "world class" standards and best practices in science teaching.

While the science modules seemed a good fit for the project, the decision was ultimately made to develop our own math curriculum to align with JCPS' "world class" standards. Ten committees were formed to support the development of this curriculum system and representatives from JCTA serve as co-chairs on each committee. Pearson Achievement Solutions (PAS) visited extensively with the district and the committees in order to develop a proposal for how they can assist the district in its pursuit of a customized curriculum system. Their initial proposal focused on creating student materials that support mastery learning, assessments that guide practice and inform teachers of the need for interventions, and extensive professional development.

As the school year comes to a close, there is still much work to be done. The JCPS world class standards, developed collaboratively among JCPS and JCTA representatives, will now undergo a national validation process. Math standards are already available for teacher review through their department chairs or teacher leads. The work teams and committees will spend the summer working with a publishing consultant to determine what the mathematics materials should include. In addition, approximately eighty persons including teachers, administrators, association representatives, and GE released teachers will attend a four day conference in Orlando focused on science and math teaching and learning. This conference, sponsored by the GE Foundation, will include national experts in the area of standards, pedagogy, and professional development.

Training will also be of the utmost importance. The science department will be responsible for training all elementary and middle school science teachers in the use of the science modules. Teachers new to the materials can attend summer trainings and all teachers using modules can participate in ongoing training

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President's Message Continued...

throughout the school year to answer “just in time” questions, boost skills necessary for upcoming units, and develop collaborative learning communities of teachers who will support each other in the implementation of the modules. Math professional development will be offered throughout the school year and will focus on Kentucky Core Content version 4.0 standards, with an emphasis on filling in any gaps necessary to prepare students to use JCPS “world class” standards in the future.

This grant has provided a wonderful opportunity for the district and its teachers to look at student learning and instruction in a new light. The reduced number of topics in the JCPS “world class” standards should allow teachers the time they desperately need to teach topics more deeply and meaningfully. The use of research based and custom materials will also assist teachers in teaching the way many never had the time or resources to do before. While we don't always agree with JCPS about the best way for kids to learn, we do all believe that through this collaborative project, we will in fact be able to improve school and learning for kids.

I would like to extend a special “Thanks!” to all JCTA members who have volunteered their time or feedback as we continue to develop this project. We appreciate that you continue to bear with us as we stumble to keep you up to date on the latest developments in our quest for better math and science for all students. And most of all, we thank you for all you do on a day to day basis to make our schools a better place for our children.

*Karen Cash, Co-Project Manager
GE Foundation College Bound Program*

THANK YOU Professional Representatives!

What makes JCTA so strong? Our members. We'd like to offer a special thanks to the following members who serve as Professional Representatives or PR Alternates from **Region III and IV:**

Region III

Bates Elem – Arivia Parks

Blake Elem – Jennifer Alexander

Blue Lick Elem – Carmella Esarey

Buechel Metro. HS – Bonnie Snellen, Patricia Patton

C.B. Young – Karen Parsons, Cathy Pittman

Carrithers MS – Charlotte Nellis

Chancey Elem – Leah Catlin, Susan Glenn, David Wallen

Fern Creek Elem – Kimberly Stillwell, Melissa Dorris, Bonnie Henshaw, Sarawit Asfaw

Fern Creek HS – Linda Johnson, Deborah Cruze, Martha Emmott, Kathryn Alley, Marina Gutierrez, Rebecca Bean, Danna Wilson

Gilmore Lane Elem – Sharon Goodhue

Hartstern Elem – Karen Reynolds, Mary Bensing, Anne Chady

Indian Trail Elem – Julie Cameron

J'town Elem – Julia Lawrence, Shawna Stenton

J'town HS – Michael Amburgy, Sandra Jaworski, Patricia Lewis, Sarah Weaver, Paul Cestaric

Knight MS – Charlotte Jackson

Laukhuf Elem – Dana Vinson, Billie Miller

Liberty HS – Joseph Snyder

Luhr Elem – Greg Armstrong

Minors Lane Elem – Theodore Lesley, Cecilia Lokits, Robin Bolt

Moore Trad School – Diana French, Gary Crume, Erik Nicholson

Myers MS – Jennie Capitini, Gail DeVine, Elisha Wimsatt

Newburg MS – Deborah Eye, Lisa Fossett, Cynthia Smith

Peace Academy – Debbie McGuire

Price Elem – Deborah Dale-Quarles, Laura Beth Akers

Rangeland Elem – Judy Smith

Slaughter Elem – Nancy Armstrong, Susan Lawson

Smyrna Elem – Wendy Stoll, Kathy Hudson

Southern HS – Jerri Byrum, Deidre Beckley, Cindy Kustes, Zoraida Chilko

Thomas Jefferson MS – David Hill

Tully Elem – Kelly Schroering

VanHoose (Released Teachers) – Kelly Schroerlucke

VanHoose/New Wing – Kenneth Kolb, Glenn Mills, Dennis Wiseman

Watterson Elem – Rolanda Williams

Wheeler Elem – Linda Ferro

Wilt Elem – Karen Peak-Willen

Region IV

Atherton HS – Connie Schlieker, Raymond Wilcox, Thomas Gilmour

Audobon Elem – Vera Parks

Ballard HS – Kimberly Barber, Edward Fossett, Susan Hanks

Barrett Trad MS – Gregory Murja

Binet School – Sean Pfeiffer

Bloom Elem – Amy Biggs, Cindy Ogden

Bowen Elem – Mary Kennedy

Breckinridge/Franklin Elem – Lisa Thurman, Joan Beal, Kathleen Drehmel

Camp Taylor Elem – Jacquelyn Frost, Doris Temple, Linda Wilson

Chenoweth Elem – Jane Melillo, Linda Bingham, Peggy Eklof

Dunn Elem – Tioka Ivory, Hope Holland

Eastern HS – Benjamin Rademaker, William Cox

Goldsmith Elem – Laurel Lammers, Kathleen Evans

Greathouse Shyrock Elem – Mary Vito, Eileen Hershberg, Doug Jones, Cheryl Hughett

Hawthorne Elem – Rhonda Swann, Allison Priddy

Highland MS – Shirley Stoll, Tracie Adams, Kathleen Neely

Hite Elem – Kristen McNair

Kammerer MS – Ronald Borman

Lowe Elem – Lauren Dickey, Cheryl Jackson

Lyndon Edu. Ctr – Carolyn Heckmann

Meyzeek MS – Shelli Medley, Mary Colston, Emily Gadd, Timothy Hollman

Middleton Elem – Suzann Hundley

Rice/Audubon – Myrna Brame

Seneca HS – Susan Davis, Nancy Esarey

Shelby Elem – AE Doyle

Southpark TAPP – Stephen Whitus

St. Matthews Elem – Rebecca Seebold, Elke Speevak

Traditional MS – Marsha Tinch

Waggener HS – Tammy Berlin, Robert Smither, Kathryn Cannon, Alexander Johnson, Mark Wehrley

Westport MS – James White, Wendy Hames, Rita Owens, Jeffrey Gumer

Westport TAPP – Raymond Willits

Wilder Elem – Bessie Giles

Zachary Taylor Elem – Paula Miller

Boys Haven – Gene Hedgespeth