



School District of New London

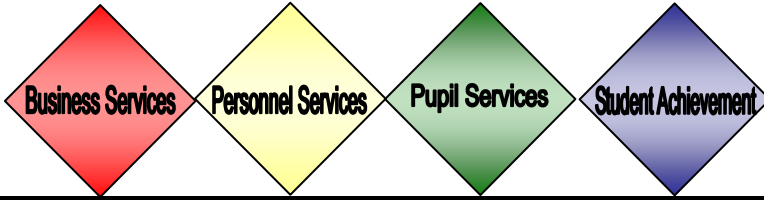
DIVISION

MONTHLY UPDATE

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Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: May 2009



Promising Programs

Earlier this year, we wrote and were awarded two Mentoring grants through the state of Wisconsin. Along with this funding, we participated in a variety of monitoring reviews to ensure appropriate implementation of programs. As a result of a very positive review in February, we were asked to apply for the state's *Promising Programs* recognition.

This week we received word that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will be adding the *New London School District Induction Program* to their list of *Promising Programs*. John Berge from DPI stated, "After speaking with you and then reading the information sent, there is no question you have developed a quality program of support for Initial Educators. Great job!" **Congratulations and thanks go out to all of our professional educators who have worked diligently to offer the systems of support that are provided to initial educators.**

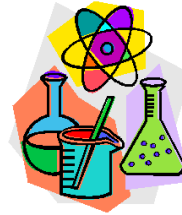


With this recognition will come the obligation for sustained improvement in our induction programs and a willingness to aid other districts as they work to start-up programs to better serve initial educators.

Technology Proficiencies:

Members of the Technology Committee are working on a Technology Proficiency Program that will provide differentiated professional development in the area of technology. During the 2009-10 school year all certified staff will be provided the opportunity to complete basic technology proficiencies. Many of our first semester Early Release afternoons will include training sectionals that will assist team members in the completion of these tasks; while learning more about technology that is available to them. Tutorials will also be available via the staff web site. We will be prepared to share the technology checklist, tutorials and training calendar during our May 20 Early Release.

STEM Grant:



resources from the Einstein Project.

A Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) grant was submitted to the DPI this past week. This is a small, but competitive, funding opportunity that would allow each fourth and fifth grade science teacher be trained and equipped with

The Einstein Project supplies exemplary science units which are developed by The Smithsonian Institution, National Academy of Sciences and the National Science Resources Center. These units are hands-on and inquiry based which match well with the Middle School's implementation of Project Lead the Way.

Training would be held in conjunction with the Einstein Academy in Green Bay. This professional development opportunity is a 'train the trainer' model.

Resources would include one Einstein science unit, teacher resources and training for each elementary school science classroom involved in this project. At grade four, teachers would implement the *Electric Circuits* unit, and at grade 5 they would use the *Ecosystems* unit.

Concepts introduced with the inquiry-based Einstein units would be reinforced through assemblies, field trips, and outreach provided by community partners. Requested funding for this project was \$4,661. Rewards should be announced by August 1. We will remain hopeful that our project is among those that are funded.

ESEA:

Although this isn't usually the most exciting part of what I do, it's essential. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides funding through various Title programs. It is that time of year when we begin to survey, complete end-of-year requirements and begin work on next year's contracts. I'll keep you informed of confirmed allocations for the 2009-10 school year.