Message from Sandy Mayrand, Director of the Regional Science Resource Center:

As we begin the second half of the school year, please think of the Regional Science Resource Center as a place to turn to for support, resources, and professional development as you do the important work of educating our next generation. We are always here to help you in any way we can. We wish you a very productive and rewarding 2010!

Mark Your Calendar!!!
Upcoming 2010 Dates:

- AP Biology Network*: January 12, March 23, 3:30-5:00 PM
- Curriculum Coordinators Network*: February 23, 8:30-11:00 AM
- AP Chemistry Network*: March 7, 3:30-5:00 PM
- High School Chemistry Network*: February 3, 3:30-5:00 PM
- Frontiers in Science, UMMS, March 31, 8:30AM-1:00PM

*LOCATION: Regional Science Resource Center

The MTEL Preparation Course will be offered for teachers preparing for the middle school math licensure test. The class is designed as an intensive review course, with additional practice to be completed outside of class time. Nancy Swanson, retired from Leominster Public Schools, will instruct the course. Sessions will be held in Shrewsbury at the Regional Science Resource Center on Thursday afternoons from 3:30pm to 6:00pm. Classes will be held on 2/25, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, and 4/29, leading up to the May 8th MTEL test date. We will also be offering a High School Prep Class in late June/early July, 2010. Contact Wendy at 508-856-5348 for more information or to register for the course.

To inquire about student lab visits, contact Karin at 508-856-1529

Check out our Curriculum Resource Library!
All materials are available to borrow.
To schedule a time to visit, contact Wendy at 508-856-5438

Visit our website at: www.umassmed.edu/rsrc
MLC Materials Available Online

The Regional Science Resource Center, in partnership with the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, has developed Mathematics Learning Community (MLC) curriculum materials which are available online to download for free. These materials are designed to help schools and districts implement MLCs by providing both the structure and the math content to facilitate school-based discussions about how students understand, express and think about mathematics.

Using these materials, schools or districts can implement MLCs in order to make more productive use of common teacher planning time. MLCs allow groups of teachers time to uncover and explore how students think and learn about specific mathematical concepts. With this deeper understanding of how students perceive and apply a concept, teachers are better able to further develop students’ understanding in a classroom setting.

To view and download the MLC Materials online, visit: http://www.doe.mass.edu/omste/instructional.html

(The MLC sessions are at the bottom of the webpage.)

Mathematics Learning Community (MLC)
Facilitator Training
Spring 2010
Shrewsbury, MA

Facilitator Training Overview

The Mathematics Learning Community is an exciting form of job-embedded, ongoing professional development that is focused on student learning. The MLC uses student work as a means to connect professional development to the classroom and stimulate authentic discussions about how students learn mathematics with the goal of improving students’ understanding of mathematics.

During Facilitator Training, you will become a member of a model MLC in which you will experience the format and math content of MLC Sessions 1 – 10 and engage in thoughtful discussions about math metacognition and problem solving strategies. In addition, you will also view video clips of MLCs in action, discuss facilitation dilemmas, and learn how to select student work samples to share with your MLC. Opportunities for practice facilitation and district collaboration will be available throughout the training.

You will attend MLC Facilitator Training with math teacher leaders, coaches and specialists from other schools and districts. You can also receive both electronic and on-site support as you implement the MLC back in your own school.

Training Session Details

Sessions will be held on the following Wednesdays from 8:30am to 3:00pm: 3/17, 3/31, 4/28, 5/19 and 6/2/10, with a snow date on 6/9/10.

Total MLC Facilitator Training Fee: $1000 per participant

For more information, contact: Wendy Cleaves at 508-856-5348 or wendy.cleaves@umassmed.edu

MLC Webinar
"Building Mathematics Learning Communities: A Focus on Looking at Student Work"

Click on the link to watch the MLC Webinar

http://www.kaputcenter.umassd.edu/special/streaming/
RSRC Highlight on Technology

At the Central MA Curriculum Coordinators Meeting held on 12/17, the topics discussed were: Sharing Instructional Technology Best Practices and E-learning in Classrooms and in Professional Development. A very lively discussion took place, and many great websites and tools were shared. Here are just a few interesting software programs, online applications, websites and tools that were shared that may be beneficial in your classroom. For a full list, please contact Karin Spahl at karin.spahl@umassmed.edu

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RSRC SPOTLIGHT ON:

NANCY SWANSON
MTEL Prep Course and P.D. Institute Instructor

Nancy spent over 35 years working for the Leominster Public Schools where she taught mathematics, from grade 7 to AP Calculus. Now retired, she continues to work as the instructor for the MTEL Prep Courses for both MS and HS Math. She is also an instructor for the Increasing Accessibility to Algebra & Geometry for Special Education Students institute.

Central MA STEM Network TV Program

Over the summer, Charter TV 3 from Worcester filmed a half-hour TV show for the Central MA STEM Network about STEM Careers that is currently airing on Channel 3. The TV show highlights positive STEM experiences for middle school students which model what it is like to do the work of a STEM professional. Research shows that it is critical for middle school students to have positive opportunities to explore possible careers at this age.

In the TV show, both students and activity leaders give their perceptions of the STEM experiences. The TV show also includes a panel of representatives from business and higher education sharing advice to middle school students. Panel members represent EMC, Intel and UMASS Medical School, and the panel is moderated by Ted Coghlin. For the STEM Career Awareness TV show times, please visit www.chartertv3.com and for more information about the TV show visit: www.chartertv3.com/STEM.