

EdServ Update: News You Can Use from Your Colleagues in Ed Services

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SMARTBoard Educators Academy (SEA) a Big Success!

In August, over 70 teachers and administrators attended SMMUSD's SMARTBoard Educators Academy to learn strategies for integrating technology into their classrooms and schools. Sessions were offered to promote three main goals for technology integration:

1. Using technology tools for instruction
2. Communication through technology
3. Building (teacher and student) technology literacy skills

Teachers and administrators alike commented on how much they enjoyed the format and content of the academy. Comments on conference evaluations included, "I'm very glad I came here!," "It was great being able to choose sessions based on interest and my level," and "Let's have more of these!" Plans are already in the works for next year's academy.

Contact your site technical staff or Tristen Macon (tristen.macon@smmusd.org) in Ed Services for SMARTBoard help.

Curriculum Maps Unveiled for Science, Mathematics, and English

This summer, teachers from around the district participated in curriculum mapping projects in K-8 Science, 6-8 Mathematics and 6-8 English. During one week in the summer, representatives from elementary and middle schools met with Ed Services Coordinators or Directors to analyze and select key content standards for their grade level; map out a sequence for teaching those standards, using the district-adopted materials; and develop or adjust district assessments to align with the map.

The Key Standards Charts and Curriculum Maps were distributed to teachers on August 31st at the District Professional Development Day and posted on the Educational Services website. Teachers on the mapping committees worked with their grade-level colleagues on August 31st to help them understand the rationale behind standards selection, the curriculum map, and the various resources available to teachers.

Click on the **Ed Services link from the SMMUSD website**. Under **Teacher Resources**, find your content area and grade level for specific Curriculum Maps. Last year's maps are also available for K-8 Social Studies and K-5 Math.

Welcome, New Teachers to SMMUSD!

For the 2007-2008 school year, Educational Services put on our annual Teacher Academy for teachers newly hired by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. With over 70 teachers hired this year, it remains vital that we share our district mission, vision and initiatives with teachers new to the district.

For three days in August, Coordinators Jessica Rishe and Susan Samarge-Powell led new SMMUSD teachers through activities such as a Central Office Scavenger Hunt, work sessions such as "Classroom Instruction that Works," "Special Educators Orientation training," "Understanding your Health Insurance and TSA's," "Actively Learning the California Standards for the Teaching Profession," "An Introduction to *Houghton Mifflin and Harcourt Brace*," "Grading Considerations in Secondary Classrooms," "Using Critical Thinking Research Projects" and more. Each session was designed so that teachers could walk away from the week more informed about SMMUSD, and with a few more tools to begin the school year on a positive note.

Jessica and Susan thank all the coordinators, administrators, and veteran teachers who contributed to the knowledge-sharing at Teacher Academy!

We look forward to a wonderful 2007-2008 school year with some terrific new hires! Welcome aboard!

Upcoming BTSA Meetings:

For Santa Monica Year 1 and Year 2 Participating Teachers and Support Providers:

Monday, September 10
4-6 p.m.
PDLC, 2802 4th St.

Malibu BTSA will meet soon.
Stay tuned.



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DataDirector 2.0 – SMMUSD’s Data Warehouse

So you have not logged into *DataDirector* (DD) all summer and have long ago forgotten your username and/or password. What do you do? Go to the DD website (www.achievedata.com/santamonica) and click on the Forgot Password link. You can also find detailed instructions at www.smmusd.org/edservices. Click on the DD link and then on the Forgot Password link. Follow the same process even if you are a new teacher this year and need a new login.

2007 CST data has been available for last year’s students for quite sometime. Use the **CST Scaled Score** pre-built report or the **CST Cluster Scores** report to see scores by cluster. If you want to see how last year’s students did, select 2006-07 academic year when filtering. For incoming students, check the box for the 2007-08 academic year.

New to SMMUSD? Data Director training opportunities: Monday, Oct. 1—12:15-3:00 (half-day sub), **District Tech Laboratory Malibu date--TBD**

Want to learn how to **make your own standards-based exam** in DD? It’s easy! This training will be coming, but you can get a jumpstart by clicking on *DataDirector Help* in the upper-right-hand corner in DD. You can print teacher and student test booklets and even the student answer sheets. **Advanced training** will also be coming for secondary teachers and administrators who want to see students by course and grade received.

Lastly, notice that DD has a **new face** with version 2.0! You can see that and all the new features by clicking on the PDF link on the front page in DD.

To **schedule group training**, be sure to e-mail Hank Kratzer (hank.kratzer@smmusd.org). Enjoy!!

Kindergarten Teachers Help to Revise Early Literacy Assessment

Kindergarten teachers throughout SMMUSD have begun using the newly-revised *Emerging Literary Survey* to assess their incoming kindergarten students. The *Emerging Literacy Survey (ELS)* has been administered one-on-one to SMMUSD kindergarten students three times a year since the 2003-2004 school year. Last year, kindergarten teachers worked with Literacy Coordinator Cindy Kratzer to revise the ELS to make it more information-rich for teachers.

The newly-revised ELS contains a new section on letter-sound correspondence, a sentence-reading section (for the end of kindergarten) and more student-friendly versions of the Rhyme and Beginning Sounds sections. Kindergarten teachers are currently receiving training in administering the revised and added sections of the ELS.

A special thanks to Susan Scheer at Cabrillo, who helped develop the Revised ELS, and the K teachers who piloted the changes in June: Anabella Large and Patti Mehring from Cabrillo, Catherine Handelman and Holly Scholder from Roosevelt, Cindy Thatcher and Shanti McComas from Rogers, Susan Suomu from McKinley, and Lauren Berman from Franklin. Your help was invaluable in creating this new-and-improved ELS!

Attention 1st/2nd Grade Teachers and Reading Specialists!

If you're new to your grade level and need training on the **Leveled Reading Passages Assessment Kit (LRPAK)**, contact Cindy Kratzer to arrange for training: kratzer@smmusd.org

Lesson Link Facilitator Training

In August, 20 new and returning facilitators participated in Lesson Link Facilitator Training in preparation for leading Lesson Link teams this school year. **The make-up training will take place on September 14**, with over 20 additional facilitators in attendance.

Coordinators Amy Teplin and Cindy Kratzer led new facilitators through the process of experiencing Lesson Link both as a participant and as a facilitator, using summer school classrooms as a laboratory. Teacher-facilitators co-planned a lesson, each took a turn teaching the lesson that day, and the team revised the lesson in between. New facilitators also learned about using the Lesson Link protocols to guide the planning and debriefing sessions.

Returning facilitators participated in a text-based discussion from *The Facilitator's Book of Questions* and discussed strategies for data collection during the Lesson Link process.

Each of the 40 teachers attending Lesson Link Facilitator Training will lead a group of 2-3 colleagues at their school sites through 3 Lesson Link cycles. This school year we will have 40 or more Lesson Link teams at 13 school sites in SMMUSD.

Check out the **Educational Services** website for a host of Teacher Resources, including:

- ❖ **DataDirector** help documents
- ❖ Rubrics and resources for the District Writing Assessment (see **Writing Instruction**)
- ❖ Curriculum maps for K-8 **Math**, K-8 **Science**, 6-8 **English**
- ❖ Refined lessons taught by SMMUSD **Lesson Link** teachers.
- ❖ And much more!