

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

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Technology Tools

SMMUSD SMART Board Educators Network Formed

Over one hundred teachers and administrators make up the newly created SMMUSD SMART Board Educators Network. The goal of the network is to encourage the most effective use of the new SMART Board technology through cross-site collaboration, communication and planning. Network teachers receive periodic emails updating them on best practices and resources for SMART Board use. They are also invited to attend monthly "playdates" on a variety of SMART Board and technology integration topics. Tristen Macon is currently in the process of setting up an online share space for network teachers to share SMART Board lesson ideas, participate in online discussions, and access resources. For questions related to the SMMUSD SMART Board Educators Network, call Tristen Macon at 70-283.

The next SMART Board "playdate" is Thursday, November 29th, in Room 29 at Roosevelt.

Educational Services Website

Check out the SMMUSD Educational Services website where teachers can easily download standards-based lessons; Math, English and Science curriculum maps; lessons on teaching social studies vocabulary; writing rubrics; reading pacing plans; Lesson Link documents and completed lessons; *DataDirector* resources and much more. In addition, web links lead teachers to resources for teaching specific writing genres and grammar, with more added all the time. To check out these resources, visit www.smmusd.org, click on **District Information, Educational Services, Teacher Resources**, and the subject area in which you are interested.

Technology and Curriculum Integration Committee

The Technology and Curriculum Integration Committee (TCIC) had its first meeting of the school year on October 9. TCIC consists of LACOE and city officials, classroom teachers, school administrators, an ROP representative, site tech support personnel, librarians, parents, as well as Ed Services and Information Services staff. Committee members work closely with teachers and administrators on a number of technology enhanced initiatives, such as EETT, CTAP, *DataDirector*, *Horizons* library system, Standards Based Report Cards, Pinnacle, and the K-12 Voucher program.

The group is currently planning revisions to the district's Technology Use Plan (TUP). Our existing plan will sunset in June and a new one must be in place, as required by the state. In preparation for this venture, teachers and administrators from across the district will be asked to participate in the on-line EdTech Profile survey. The data from this survey will help inform the committee's work on the TUP. The TCIC team aims to align the TUP with district-wide goals and initiatives, such as 2025. Contact Maureen Bradford for more information: bradford@smmusd.org.

National Board Certified Teachers Serve SMMUSD!!

Each year our National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT), in return for an annual stipend, provide service hours in the area of Professional Development for colleagues in the school district. This year, our 41 NBCTs have taken on a variety of ways to serve our district. From acting as BTSA Support Providers, to facilitating Lesson Link teams, to planning and implementing Professional Development at sites, our NBCTs are already hard at work serving colleagues and sites with their expertise. We are excited with how SMMUSD NBCTs are supporting the district, and look forward to seeing some great results at the end of the school year.

Are you already an NBCT and interested in checking in with other NBCTs around the country? Log on to www.nbpts.org, click on the "For NBCTs" section and then click on to "NBCTLink." This will take you to an entire network of NBC teachers!

Do you have NBCT questions? Contact Susan Samarge-Powell, Coordinator of Teacher Support in Educational Services: ssamarge@smmusd.org or 70-341.

SMMUSD Reading & Writing Workshop Forum

This group of teachers meets voluntarily once a month to support each other in best practices in reading and writing instruction. So far this year the group has met at Franklin and Will Rogers. The meetings are from 3:30-4:30 p.m., with some teachers staying longer for additional support. All teachers are welcome!

Tentative upcoming dates: 11/13 (McKinley), 12/18, 1/15, 2/19, 3/11, 4/15, 5/13, 6/10. For more information, please contact Chrysta Wyse at wyse@smmusd.org.

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**Mathematics Teachers--
Your Input Is Needed!**

All district math teachers and sites' ELL and Special Education leaders will be receiving a Needs Assessment to help with this year's mathematics textbook adoption. In early November, the State will finalize the approved list of mathematics texts from which K-8 must choose. This year, high school algebra and geometry will also participate in the adoption process. Besides written feedback, site representation will also be enlisted from lower and upper elementary, gr. 6, 7, 8, high school algebra & geometry teachers. Inquiries may be addressed to Rosa Serratore: serratore@smmusd.org

New Addition to STAR For Special Education Students

2007-2008 will see a new assessment program added to STAR. The California Modified Assessment (CMA) will be operational for grades 3-5 this spring. This standards-based assessment may be given in lieu of the California Standards Test (CST) for students who have an IEP and have previously scored Below or Far Below Basic on last year's CSTs.

The CMA has several built-in modifications that make it more accessible to students with disabilities. The question stems and answer choices, for example, are read aloud to the student. Students must read passages on their own, however.

Students who take the CMA will count toward participation rates for testing under NCLB. Up to 2% of students who score at the proficient or advanced levels on the CMA may be included in the "proficient" category for AYP purposes.

IEP teams will determine the most appropriate assessment (CST, CMA or CAPA) for students with disabilities.

Results for Fall Revised Emerging Literacy Survey (R-ELS)

Kindergarten teachers recently completed their *Revised Emerging Literacy Survey* administration for each student. Ed Services scanned the ELS data into *DataDirector*, and kindergarten teachers can now see their students' ELS results in *DataDirector*. Log on to *Data Director*, select **REPORTS**, scroll down to "**5 Most Recent Shared Reports,**" and choose the name of your report: *2007-2008 Revised-ELS Kindergarten (English or Spanish) (Sep 2007)*

Samohi English Teachers Administer Common Assessments in Grades 9-11

During the week of Nov. 5-9, English teachers at Santa Monica High School will administer the Holt End-of-Year Test for Grades 9-11 in all core 9th-11th English classes. This common, standards-based assessment will enable teachers to review standards met and spot weaknesses and gaps in student learning early in the year, so that instruction may be adapted or adjusted for the remainder of the school year.

Results of the Samohi **2007-2008 English Midterm Exam** will be in *DataDirector* by Nov. 17. See the article to the right on *Holt Middle School Assessments* for directions on how to access your students' results in *DataDirector*.

Secondary Mathematics Mapping Continues

Secondary math teachers are reminded to give feedback to their site representatives on the Algebra I, II, and Geometry curriculum maps drafted October 4. Site math leaders in this venture will be meeting with Coordinator of Secondary Teacher Support Rosa Serratore to complete the draft guides and develop common assessments to further inform our curriculum and instruction: Nov. 6—Algebra II, Nov. 13—Geometry, Nov. 15—Algebra I.

Holt Middle School District Literacy Assessments in *DataDirector*

During September, middle school English and Humanities teachers administered the *Holt Entry-Level (Diagnostic) Assessment* to identify student strengths and weaknesses in reading comprehension, writing strategies and language conventions. By Oct. 4, teachers could access results in *DataDirector*, including analysis by California content standards, item analysis, and correlation to the CST.

If you teach middle school, log into *DataDirector*, select **EXAMS**, and scroll down to find the Holt Entry-Level Test for your grade level: e.g., **2007-2008 Holt LLA 7th Grade Entry-Level Test (Sept 2007)**

Once you have clicked on the Exam's name, check out these exam reports:

- ❑ **Classroom Performance Summary Report** (shows how each student did on each standard and subtest of the Holt exam).
- ❑ **Classroom Exam Report (Response Matrix)** (item-level analysis for every student on every question tested)
- ❑ **Parent Letter** (an individual letter for each student/parent on that student's results by standard)
- ❑ **Exam Student Feedback** (individual results for each student –questions and standards missed with correct answer given)



Future Editions of EdServ Update to Be Sent Electronically

We want to be green, so we're phasing out the hard copies of *EdServ Update* and sending only electronic versions from now on. **For this issue, you should receive an e-mail copy of the Update, as well as a hard copy. If you don't get the e-mail version, check with your site tech person or call Information Services (70-312) to be sure that your e-mail address is current in the system and on your school's list serve.**