



THE ADVOCATE

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A Communication for Members of the Aurora Education Association

August, 2009

Welcome Back to the '09-'10 Year!

Now that you have been back for a couple of weeks (or is it closer to three), I would like to say welcome back, or if you are new to the district, welcome to APS. Hopefully your summer break was a relaxing one and things are running smoothly at your worksite.

Thank you for your commitment to the students who attend APS. It is the work you do every day to help students succeed that makes the difference in their lives.

Thank you for your continued membership and support of AEA. Your commitment is critical in our quest to make APS a great public school district. A special "thanks" goes to our first time members! Over 200 of our new colleagues chose to join AEA at the New Teacher Orientation.

I think we can all expect an unprecedented year, full of changes, challenges, and some opportunities. Some events have already begun with the Race to the Top committee meetings at the state level, implementation of the Colorado Growth model to determine student growth on CSAP and the soon to be implemented teacher identifier.

Here in APS we will be working to develop a teacher evaluation system that truly is a tool to help teachers improve their instruction. The Instructional Advisory Group will meet to address issues related to instruction, and a new TOSA committee will be seated to address issues related to Teachers on Special Assignment. The new P-20 campus groundbreaking will occur next week, and the APS Board of Education will embark on a new governance model called Policy Governance.

As you work to make every day a meaningful one for your students, I hope you will keep something in the forefront of your thoughts.....teaching is truly the greatest of professions because everybody who is anybody was taught how to be somebody by a teacher. That is what you are doing every single day!

I hope you are enjoying getting to know your new students and colleagues, and I look forward to seeing you during my visits to buildings. Best wishes for a spectacular year! *Brenna*

AEA Professional Development

The AEA SPED, ELA, and Tech Integration caucuses are offering professional development again this year and the first sessions are coming up soon! For more information see the flyers on the next three pages and contact the person indicated to reserve your spot at any or all of these sessions.



Attendance is free for AEA members, and some of the sessions have been approved for salary advancement while others can be used for relicensure.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these sessions, developed for teachers by teachers.



Aurora Education Association/ Special Education Caucus

Why Do Some English Language Learners Struggle with Reading?

Distinguishing Learning Disabilities from Language Acquisition

**August 24 4:30-6:30
ESC 4, Conference Room C**

Presented by Janette Klingner

Janette Klingner is a professor of education specializing in bilingual multicultural special education at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She was a bilingual special education teacher for ten years, in California and Florida. To date she has authored or co-authored more than 80 articles, books, and book chapters. Her book with Beth Harry, "Why are so many minority students in special education? Understanding race and disability in schools," is a Teachers College Press best seller. In 2004 she won the American Educational Research Association's Early Career Award. Research interests include reading comprehension strategy instruction for culturally and linguistically diverse students, Response to Intervention for English language learners, and the disproportionate representation of culturally and linguistically diverse students in special education.

Register now!

RSVP to Vicki Reinhard at VLREINHARD@aps.k12.co.us

Snacks will be provided

No fee for AEA members - \$10 per session for non-members

Upcoming topics:

September 21 - Phonics presented by Lynn Kuhn M.A., CCC-SLP (LANGUAGE! Trainer, Colorado LETRS and DIBELS trainer)

October 19 - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome presented by Pam Gillen (Project Director, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Prenatal Substance Abuse Prevention Outreach; University of Colorado Health Science Center)

November 16 - Pediatric Dyslexia presented by Katie Johansen (Manager, Learning Services at The Children's Hospital)

.5 Adams State Credit is available for \$27.50 if attending all 4 sessions

Making the Most of ELD Instruction



Closing the Achievement Gap for English Language Learners

*Professional Development for Teachers,
by Teachers*

Now that you have met your English Language students, do you want to learn more about meeting the needs of your English Language Learners in your classroom? New or veteran teachers this class presented by Linda Bay, Rosana Trujillo, Denise Alcala and Gwynn Moore is for you!

You will build upon your knowledge of ELL students from best research-based Language Development, Culture and Equity practices in the classroom. Come and develop your understandings and strategies in a collegial atmosphere.

When: September 12 & October 3

Time: 8:30 am-3:00 pm, *Continental Breakfast and lunch provided*

Where: Virginia Court Elementary

395 S. Troy St (*just north of Aurora Hills Middle School*)

Cost: AEA members-\$25.00 *refundable upon attendance of both classes*

Non-members-\$25.00

Participants are eligible for CDE credit and ADAMS STATE credit for \$55.00/1 credit
Send registration form and check made payable to AEA to *Gwynn Moore, Paris Elem.*

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR ELD INSTRUCTION REGISTRATION

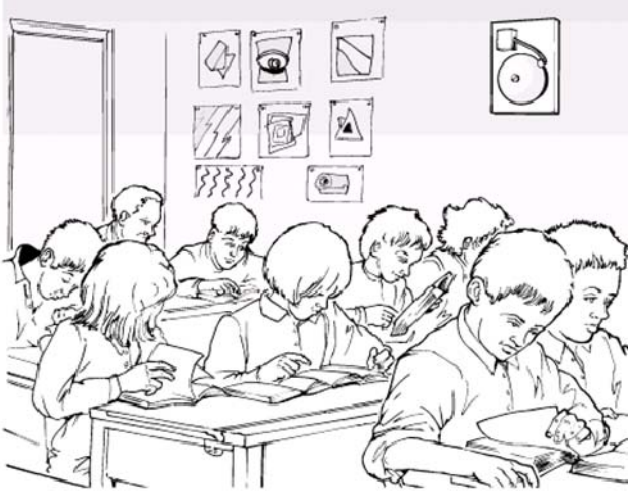
Name _____ School _____

Contact Phone Number _____ Grade Teaching _____

Are you a member of AEA? YES NO

Technology Integration In Your Classroom

Sponsored by AEA Technology Integration Caucus



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The school year has begun, and you are looking for resources to provide resources for your students so that they will engage in their learning. There is a resource that is available to all staff and students that is a "One Stop Resource Mall"—Discovery OnePlace to find resources for Mondo, Discovery Education including Discovery Science, World Book, NetTrekker, CultureGrams, and Prome-thean Planet.

Elementary, K-8, Middle School, and High School teachers can find this tool a simple resource tool for the classroom regardless of your experience level with technology.

Come join fellow teachers to add resources that can support your lessons to build that engagement for student learning and support

for English Language Learners.

WHEN: Thursday August 27, 2009

TIME: 4:45 pm-6:00 pm

WHERE: Sixth Avenue Elementary

PRESENTERS: Shannon Wentworth, Sixth Ave. Elem.,
Gwynn Moore, Paris Elem.

COST: AEA Members-A benefit of your AEA Membership,
this workshop is free

Non-AEA Members-\$10.00

CREDIT: Credit information will be available at the workshop



So that we can plan for participant resources, please fill out the registration form and check if applicable made out to AEA to Shannon Wentworth, Sixth Ave. Elementary OR Gwynn Moore, Paris Elementary by August 26.

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TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION IN YOUR CLASSROOM REGISTRATION

Name _____ School _____

Contact Phone Number _____ Grade Teaching _____

Are you a member of AEA? YES NO



Article 13—Teacher Plan Time Q & A

Below is a Q&A on teacher plan time which will hopefully address questions you may have about what activities can be expected to occur during the 30/70 split of teacher noncontact time. Our intent in this language is to ensure that teachers have the time they need during the duty day to be prepared to offer quality instruction to their students while allowing time for all the other “time” requirements during the duty day.

Q: Is there a general rule of thumb for what counts in a principal's 30% and what doesn't?

A: If your principal is requiring an activity, and there is a consequence for not participating, the event should count as part of the principal's 30%. If the principal is recommending, suggesting, or encouraging participation in an activity, but it's up to the teacher to decide, and there is no consequence for not participating, the event does not count in the principal's 30%.

Q: If participating in a CCL group is a requirement in my building, and there are required readings as part of the CCL, shouldn't the needed reading time be part of my principal's 30%?

A: Unless other accommodations are made for required reading time as part of required CCL participation, the reading time should count as part of the principal's 30%. Principals should determine a specific number of minutes they believe the reading should require and include those minutes in their weekly 30% calculation. If principals do not want to count reading time as part of their 30%, some accommodations might be:

- 1) work with the DOI's Professional Learning department to offer credit for professional reading to be completed outside of the duty day (similar to book studies), or
 - 2) don't require the reading.
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Q: My principal asks us to participate on at least one committee each year. If the committee meets during the duty day, shouldn't that count towards the principal's 30%? If the committee meets after the duty day, shouldn't that come from the time

allowed by Article 13, section 16 and 17?

A: To answer this question, it's important to be clear whether the principal is "asking" or "requiring." Principals can and do ask teachers to be involved in the activities of the school beyond the classroom. However, if the participation is not required, and there is no consequence for not doing so, the principal does not need to count the activity as part of their 30% for the week. If participation is required, and there is a consequence for not participating, the activity should count in either the 30%, or should come from the time allowed in Article 13, section 16 or 17.

Q: My principal requires attendance at data team, vertical team and grade level team meetings. Where does the time for these meetings come from?

A: If a principal requires attendance at any meetings during the duty day, and teachers don't have the option of not attending the meetings regardless of their nature, the time must come from the principal's 30% for that week.

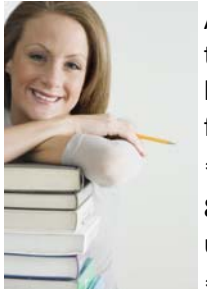
Q: What can teachers choose to do during the 70% of noncontact time?

A: The 70% of weekly teacher noncontact time is teacher directed, and can be used by teachers to complete any work related to their job. This can include planning for instruction, contacting parents, returning emails, organizing materials and their classroom and meeting with colleagues at their discretion. Teachers are not required to attend meetings unless they choose to do so regardless of who schedules the meeting if it occurs during the teachers' 70% of noncontact time.

Q: Where does the time for SPED staffings, evaluation pre and post conferences, Student Intervention team meetings or similar kinds of meetings come from?

A: Since these events are part of the professional responsibilities of individual teachers, the time for these meetings would come from the teacher 70% of noncontact time.

From the Master Agreement—Article 13 Teacher Duty Day



Article 13 of the Master Agreement establishes the duty day and teaching hours for APS teachers. Some highlights from this Article follows.

*The duty day for teachers at all levels is 8.0 hours inclusive of at least a 30 minute duty free lunch.

*The duty day is to be one continuous period of time unless agreed to by the teacher involved.

*The student contact time for all teachers cannot exceed 30 hours per week including passing time.

*Elementary teacher have 90 minutes of daily non-contact time immediately preceding or following the instructional day in blocks of time no less than 30 minutes.

*In consultation with the Building Council, individual elementary schools may decide to change the blocks of non-contact time before or after the duty day to less than 30 minutes.

*Principals may require attendance at meetings or in-service activities during the student non-contact time for no more than 30% of any teacher's student non-contact time per week.

*Teachers have 70% of the student non-contact time per week to use at their determination. Teachers cannot be directed to attend meetings by anyone during this time.

*Principals can require teacher attendance at meetings held contiguous to the duty day for 1 hour once a month.

*Principals can require teachers to attend up to a total of 6 two hour instructional or informational meetings, and/or parent or school-related community meetings per school year. These meetings do not have to be held contiguous to the duty day. The time cannot be separated into 12 one hour meetings however.

*Principals can schedule up to four meetings outside of the duty day for the purpose of parent-teacher conferences. These meetings should not exceed three and three quarters hours each. For every seven and one half hours of conference time held outside the duty day, teachers will be compensated by the elimination of one teacher duty day per year.

*There are four workdays, one at the end of each quarter. The primary purpose for workdays is to provide time to complete report cards. Teacher workdays are to be teacher directed.

AEA Officers & Board Directors

Laura Henry, Altura
Gwynn Moore, Paris
Micki Amick, Quest
Jaime Green, Park Lane
LeeAnn Gott, Kenton
Michelle Spikes, West
Monica Wilbanks, Columbia
Camille Schiraldi, Pickens
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Brenna Isaacs, President
Frank O'Hara, UniServ Director
Laura Scott, Executive Assistant

The Aurora Education Association is the exclusive representative for all teachers full and part-time hired on contract in APS in matters involving collective negotiations with respect to wages, hours and other conditions of employment.

The mission of the Aurora Education Association is to empower licensed educators to advocate for students and themselves in order to provide quality education, professional excellence and economic security.

Our vision is to be an exemplary organization working together as powerful professionals. Through solidarity we are a collaborative and proactive Association. We are unified by our strengths and commitment to advocacy for children and to empower our members.

AEA is an affiliate of the Colorado Education Association and the National Education Association.

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