Educational Benchmark
for Effective Educators

Volume 10, Issue 1
www.roe41.org

Regional Office of Education #41
Madison County

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A Message from Regional Superintendent
Robert A. Daiber, Ed.D.

My new favorite place to have a cup of coffee is the Shell Cafe. Mr. Tim Converse, the coordinator of the STEP program at Roxana High School, has developed a very innovative setting of a business within a school. While many educators attempt to create a real world experience for their students, Mr. Converse has developed a climate that is very unique to a typical school environment.

Students from Madison County middle and high schools recently gathered to share their Conversations for a Brighter Future projects at the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities. The projects reflected great creativity and involvement of the student bodies. These efforts demonstrated the differences that are being made in school climate in the participating schools. Hopefully, the leadership teams in each of our schools continue to develop.

As the school year progresses, I continue to seek Give 30 mentors. The demand for mentors is far exceeding the supply. As an educator, if you know of a friend, relative, or neighbor who would be a good mentor for an at-risk-youth, please refer them to the website www.give30.net or ask them to call the Regional Office of Education.

I am excited to share with all educators the development of the Madison County History Project. This project is now available for residents to review at the website https://madison-historical.siue.edu/encyclopedia. The research is inclusive of historical essays of people and places, oral interviews, and collections of digital archives. As part of this project, the ROE will be sponsoring scholarships for history teachers to gain credit towards a Master’s Degree. Registration to participate in this opportunity can be found at the ROE website under the heading Madison County History Project. Teachers will enroll in a graduate course and become involved in local historical research.

The Regional Office of Education is happy to welcome Matt Weld as the new Learning Technology Director for the Technology for Success Grant. Matt comes to ROE with 30 years in tech applications and is looking forward to meeting school personnel in Madison County. Matt had taught at the Triad district as a middle school teacher earlier in his career.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Mike Waldo of Edwardsville High School on his 700th career win as Edwardsville Varsity Basketball Coach. Mike has inspired many EHS athletes. Also, I would like to recognize the distinct honor granted to Rich Mason, former Triad High School Basketball Coach. Triad District recently held a special dedication ceremony to name the high school gym in his namesake for his long successful coaching career. Congratulations to both coaches on making a difference in many high school students’ lives!

My best to all staff as we enter the PARCC and SAT testing period of this school year.

Madison Historical: The Online Encyclopedia and Digital Archive for Madison County, Ill.

The innovative digital archive is transforming the historical experience, using 21st century technology to display 20th century history, and inviting the public to be content creators. Madison County Regional Superintendent of Schools, Robert Daiber, Ed.D, is leading the project. It is being developed and managed by SIUE College of Arts and Sciences’ Department of Historical Studies associate professors Jeffrey Manuel, PhD, Jason Stacy, PhD, and Stephen Hansen, PhD, faculty emeritus and former interim chancellor, along with undergraduate and graduate students.

“I realized in reviewing the centennial document from 2012, Centennial History of Madison County, IL and Its People, that no history had been formally recorded since 1912," Daiber explained. “I recognize the great prosperity that occurred during the 20th century, and saw the need for that information to be put in a formal format for historical reference.”

“Madison Historical is an exciting and important project, See Historical, page 2
News for Lapsed Retirees

ISBE is offering retirees an opportunity to reinstate their licenses with no penalty. See details below.

Through December 31, 2017: If you are retired, and your professional educator license has lapsed for failure to renew, you may reinstate that license without penalty by providing proof of retirement from a state retirement system or State Board of Education. You must submit a copy of a letter from a state retirement system (on official agency letterhead) confirming your retirement. Your name, IEIN, and date of birth must be included with the letter. Upon verification that you are not working in a position requiring a professional educator license, ISBE will reinstate your license.

The verification letter will be used in lieu of a $500 penalty fee or 9 semester hours of coursework. You will not need to enter any professional development owed or pay any license registration fees.

Letters may be emailed to renewal@isbe.net or mailed to the Illinois State Board of Education at Educator Effectiveness Division, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL, 62777.

Shine the Light Award

Congratulations to the Granite City High School Performing Arts Department for being honored at the annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner and receiving the 2016 Shine the Light Award.

This award is presented annually by the Southwestern Illinois Chamber of Commerce to an individual or group who continues to make a major impact throughout our communities. Granite City and its surrounding communities nominated 20 people and organizations they felt needed to be recognized for their efforts and achievements. With over 20,000 votes cast, the Granite City High School Performing Arts Department – Theatre and Band earned this recognition for their continued efforts to keep the performing arts thriving throughout our schools and surrounding communities. Below is an excerpt from Mr. Manoogian’s remarks.

“So now – if you’ll indulge me – I’m going to boast for a moment. Over the past 15 years, our Theatre and Band programs have each received national attention. Without question, our band program under the direction of Mr. Wyatt Roberds is truly second to none. His direction over the past several years, our Theatre and Band programs have nearly triple in size – as they continue to dominate at local, state and out of state marching band competitions, bringing home an unprecedented number of Grand Champion trophies.

Our theatre program continues to break through high school barriers and produce high quality productions – incorporating the latest technology and special effects into our stage designs. Inheriting a program that served a small community of students, our current program in Actting, Directing and Stage Design. Classes includes over 200 active students.

But Wyatt and myself aside – tonight’s recognition goes to the many students who have gone through our programs, decided to remain in the Granite City area following the completion of their education and continue to participate in a variety of ways - in both of our programs.”

New Middle Grade Endorsement Changes

In January 2018, Middle Grade endorsements will change. If you have a current Middle School or Jr. High School endorsement, you will still be able to use your current endorsements after January 2018, you are considered “Once qualified, Always qualified”.

Now-January 31, 2018

To add a New Middle School Endorsement:

Until January 31, 2018, educators generally may add their first middle school endorsement by completing 18 semester hours in a content area and 6 semester hours of middle school professional education coursework (please note that some endorsements, such as library information specialist, reading teacher, and technology specialist, require 24 semester hours of coursework and a content test).

To add an additional or subsequent Middle School Endorsement:

Until January 31, 2018, an educator who currently holds a middle school endorsement can add a subsequent middle school endorsement by simply completing 18 semester hours in a content area, because the middle school professional education coursework requirement has been fulfilled.

Please refer to the Content and Endorsement Area Chart for specific content endorsement area requirements, Middle School Endorsements start on page 10: https://www.isbe.net/Documents/endsmt-struct.pdf

After February 2018

To add a New Middle School Endorsement:

On or after February 1, 2018, each educator seeking his or her first middle grades endorsement will need to complete a full or focused program at an Illinois institution of higher education that offers an approved middle grades preparation program or meet applicable requirements for educators prepared out-of-state.

To add an additional or subsequent Middle School Endorsement:

On or after February 1, 2018, an educator who currently holds a middle school or middle grades endorsement can add a subsequent middle grades endorsement by completing 21 semester hours in a content area, 3 semester hours in a course-specific middle grades methods course, and the appropriate content area test(s).

You can find additional information about the Middle Grade changes at this link: https://www.isbe.net/Documents/future-of-illinois-middle-grades.pdf

As always, you may check www.roe41.org for information on the new changes.

Alton High School Robotics Team Awarded Grant

The AHS Robotics Team recently received a $5000 grant from The Monsanto Fund to support the club’s participation in the FIRST Robotics program and competition.

The grant is provided by the philanthropic arm of Monsanto, which is focused on strengthening both farming communities and the communities where Monsanto employees live and work. This goal is accomplished through support of academic programs, team enrichment or supplement school programs, and in this case, math and science teaching and instruction. The application process began last fall and grants were awarded in December.

The FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science & Technology) program’s goal is to engage students in hands-on STEM education and help inspire the leaders of tomorrow. This goal is accomplished through a series of programs beginning in elementary grades and continuing through middle school and high school.

The grant will fund the AHS Robotics Club’s participation in the FIRST Robotics program and competition. The FIRST Robotics competition is comprised of teams of students who build and program a robot to perform specific tasks against a field of competitors. From the FIRST Robotics website: “Under strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six-week time limit, teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a team, "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It’s as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team.”

Historical, from page 1

and I commend Dr. Daiber for recognizing the need for a written history of Madison County,” Hansen said. “The project brings together members of our community, students and scholars in a collaboration to collect, preserve and write our own history. It makes history accessible for everyone, and because it will inform us about ourselves, who we were and who we are, it is a history of ‘Everyman,’ the people of Madison County.”

This project is now available for residents to review at the website https://madison-historical.siu.edu/encyclopedia/. The research is inclusive of historical essays of people and places, oral interviews, and collections of digital archives. As part of this project, the ROE will be sponsoring scholarships for history teachers to gain credit towards a Master’s Degree. Registration to participate in this opportunity can be found at the ROE 41 website under the heading Madison County History Project. Teachers will enroll in a graduate course and become involved in local historical research.

The committee is also encouraging residents to contact them if they have or know of artifacts or documents that should be included in the archives. Contact information may be found on the website.

Workshops

For details and to register for upcoming workshops please visit our website at www.roe41.org (select workshops/events tab)
On January 6, 2017, Senate Bill 2912 was signed. The bill included many changes and updates to Illinois Licensure. Below are changes effective with the signing of Senate Bill 2912.

Changes are effective immediately.

- **Test scores**: Removes the 10 year expiration date for content tests/edTPA/APT. All tests are valid indefinitely.
- **Educator License with Stipulations (ELS-PEDU)**: The 15 semester hours or major coursework is no longer required to be issued the ELS-PEDU. Educators must hold a valid, comparable OOS license and at least a bachelor’s degree.
- **Chief School Business Official**: Provides that applicants who have not been entitled by an Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois institution of higher education applying for a Professional Educator License endorsed for chief school business official and who have successfully completed a test of content, as identified by rules, at the time of initial licensure in another state or country shall not be required to complete a test of content. Adds an immediate effective date.
- **Career and Tech Ed**: (CTE and CTEP Renewal): a test of work proficiency (the ACT WorkKeys®) may be completed in place of the basic skills for renewal if the CTE or CTEP was originally issued January 1, 2015 or after.
- **(New) Provisional In-State Educator**: an ELS-PEDU may be awarded to an individual who has completed an Illinois approved teacher education program, but has not yet passed the edTPA. The educator must hold a bachelor’s degree and have passed the test of basic skills and the appropriate content test. Educators must receive a maximum of 3 years of years the educator held an active license. When educators retire, they change their status to "retired" in ELIS. Through December 31, 2017: If an educator failed to change his/her status to "retired" in ELIS and lapsed due to failure to renew, the educator may reinstate the license and maintain it in retired status upon providing proof to ISBE using ELIS that the licensee is retired and not working in a position that requires a PEL.

**Local High Schools Recognized as Illinois Democracy Schools**

The Illinois Civic Mission Coalition (ICMC) has recognized Collinsville and Alton High Schools as 2016 Illinois Democracy Schools.

The announcement was made recently by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation in conjunction with Constitution Day on Sept. 16.

To become a Democracy School, schools are required to complete a rigorous assessment and application process that included an inventory of current and future civic learning initiatives. In this process, schools look closely at themselves and their communities and develop a plan for civic engagement and outreach. Since 2006, only 54 Illinois high schools have successfully completed the school-wide civic assessment and have been subsequently recognized as Democracy Schools.

As an Illinois Democracy School, both schools will receive a stipend from the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, which convenes the ICMC to invest in high quality civic learning initiatives, as well as a banner for public display.

Democracy Schools foster a climate that nurtures and models civic dispositions and builds strong relationships within the surrounding community. These schools provide students with various opportunities to participate in the democratic process such as engaging in current and controversial issue discussions, participating in democratic simulations and providing service learning opportunities. Through these practices, students see firsthand the critical role they play in shaping government and society.

Democracy Schools are recognized for providing the students with authentic experiences in the rights, responsibilities and tensions inherent in living in a constitutional democracy. Through these experiences, participating schools strive to equip students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary for informed, effective engagement in our democracy.

According to the McCormick Foundation, these schools have "truly embraced the spirit and commitment that is needed to become a Democracy School. The Democracy School Team’s enthusiasm and commitment to civic education is contagious."
"The achievement gap asks, "Are students achieving X?" whereas the relevance gap asks, "Is X going to matter to the lives learners are likely to live?" - David Perkins

During a recent leadership meeting, a respected, but frequently vocal colleague began venting his frustration about a few of the problems he perceived in our school; apathetic students, lack of consistency, lack of respect, and poor achievement. I looked around at the faces in the conference room wondering if others agreed with this assessment, or were they holding their tongues to avoid confrontation. While most would agree that it’s our professional obligation to strive for improvement, I found myself asking, "What is the real problem?"

My question comes in the context of reading David Perkins timely and interesting book, Future Wise: Educating Our Children for a Changing World. Perkins general question is "what is worth learning in school?" Lifeworthy learning, a term coined by Perkins, describes knowledge and skills students think with, not merely about. Perkins wants educators to make lifeworthy learning a priority. What are the "big understandings" that will matter to learners now, and in their future? When students find the learning to be relevant, what Perkins calls "lifeready" learning, there is a far greater likelihood of engagement and satisfaction with school.

In his recent post, Scott McLeod uses Gallup survey results to support his argument the biggest indictment of schools is not the failure to raise test scores; it's the steady decline in the percentage of students engaged in school from kindergarten to twelfth grade. McLeod says the real problem in schools is, "our children are bored, disengaged, and disempowered." (Engagement Today - Ready for Tomorrow, Gallup 2015)

In one of my favorite posts, author Will Richardson suggests the real problem with schools is the long established pattern of reinforcing a culture of teaching (efficiency) instead of cultivating a culture of learning (effectiveness).

"Given our devotion to an overstuffed curriculum, standardized tests, "college and career readiness" and more, about the only way we can see our students navigating the school experience is to "teach" it, to organize it, pace it, and assess it in some way that allows us to confer the adjective "educated" to each student." - Will Richardson

The real problem is traditional schools, for the most part, are not offering a relevant education to students. We teach too much, and most of the content will be forgotten within weeks of summative assessment. A majority of students have expressed their disinterest in the forced curriculum. Perkins asks educators, "What did you learn during your first twelve years of education that matters in your life today?"

The key to providing learning that matters lies in "big questions" and "big understandings"; content and skills that provide learners with meaningful insight, motivate their actions, shape their ethical thought, and offer opportunities for real-world application. Perkins suggests too much emphasis on achievement, information, and expertise can interfere with the development of a lifeworthy, relevant education. While researchers continue to study issues like the relationship between race, income, and the achievement gap, a documented, real problem in schools is the relevancy gap.

In March the Madison County ROE welcomed more than 200 students to the Junior and Senior Olympiads. Teams of four students competed in a variety of projects and activities designed to test their problem solving skills using minimal resources. Teams consisted of students who excel across the disciplines. Congratulations to Lincoln Middle School and East Alton-Wood River High School for winning first place in this year’s Olympiads. If you are interested in sponsoring a team from your school or have any questions related to the Olympiads, please contact Anna Dyson, School Improvement Services at 692-0560 or adyson@roe41.org.

RESULTS

Junior Olympiad
1st - Lincoln Middle Team 3
2nd - Alton Middle Team 1
3rd - Liberty Middle Team 3
4th - Alton Middle Team 3
5th - Roxana Jr High Team 2

Senior Olympiad
1st - East Alton-Wood River Team 2
2nd - Edwardsville Team 2
3rd - Granite City Team 1

East Alton Wood River H.S. - 1st place Senior
Lincoln Middle School - 1st place Junior