

Gulfport School District

Department of Instructional Programs

Carla J. Evers, Director • Lydia Leggett, Federal Programs/Community Coordinator

D.I.P. Teacher NOTES

“Every Decision. Every Time. What is Best for Children?”

Dear Instructional Staff,



The Department of Instructional Programs staff members would like to welcome the new members of our instructional staff to the district. We are excited that you have chosen to be a *“Gulfport Teacher.”* We would also like to welcome back the best instructional “force” in the state and nation. We hope that you enjoyed your summer and found time to relax and spend time with your families.

As the director, I would like to personally thank those of you who have spent countless hours working in your rooms, preparing lessons, participating in professional development, and attending planning meetings over the summer. I appreciate all that you have done and will do for our children.

As I was studying this summer, I ran across this quote, *“to get what you have never had, you have to do what you have never done,”* and I thought how fitting. This year there have been a few changes in our department and the way we do business. I would like to take this opportunity to update you. Below you will find information regarding these changes.

Sincerely,

Carla J. Evers

Curriculum & Instruction

-Pacing Guides have been updated to align with the new district assessments. In K-8, the quarters are no longer divided into two segments, i.e., 1.1 or 1.2. Now, you will simply see a 1-4 representing each quarter in the provided section.

However, for 9th-SATP, quarters will be divided to identify skills that will be on the two assessments for each quarter.



- Best Practices/Teaching Strategies: Earlier this summer, 60 GSD teachers and the curriculum specialists began creating a teaching strategies document that will provide teachers with alternate teaching strategies for each skill. The “Building Engaging Strategies Together: B.E.S.T. Practices” document will be posted to the department’s webpage. We expect this document to be a living document. We welcome your contributions to this joint effort. If you have a strategy for teaching a skill that you feel is engaging and in line with the district’s mission, please submit the strategy and its accompanying information (competency, objective, and quarter taught) via email to carla.evers@gulfportschools.org. To ensure that your directions are followed as intended, explicitly state the teaching directions and include a list of all required materials. We would like you to begin with the 2nd quarter skills.

Assessment

-Earlier this summer feedback sessions were held with 60 district teachers and the administrative team regarding assessment. The consensus supported changing how we do business in the assessment world. Therefore, to give teachers more academic freedom and provide a true mixed-practice test (MPT), we have altered our K-8 assessment practices. This year each of the 4 ½ week assessments will be spiraled; they will not contain any information from the current 9 week period. Each 4 ½ weeks MPT will contain skills from the previous quarters. For example, the first 4th grade test will contain 3rd grade skills. MCT-2 and GSD-MPT results will guide decisions on skills that need to be checked for mastery or maintenance. However, the 9 week MPT will be a true 9 weeks exam; it will only have skills from the current 9 weeks period represented.



-Several testing areas have been added: 6th and 7th grade social studies, and GHS: 4 ½ week tests in the four SATP related courses. In concert, GHS courses leading up to SATP will be tested at the 4 ½ week and 9 week testing cycles also.

Professional Development

-Dona Haynes will be the district’s contact person for CEU information. You can reach her by calling 865-4613 on Monday or Wednesday of each week. To ensure that you receive requested CEUs please make sure that you:

-attend the **entire** training day/days (To align with MGCCC guidelines, CEUs will not be award for partial attendance regardless of the circumstances.),

- sign-in/out at the session,
- complete a session evaluation,
- complete a CEU application, and
- make payment (check, money order, or credit card) on the date of the request (NSF checks will result in a "HOLD" being placed on CEU certificates.)

Federal Programs & Community Relations

-Lydia Leggett, former principal of Central Elementary, is the new Federal Programs and Community Relations Coordinator.

-Over the summer, grants totaling more than **3.4 million dollars** were written. As a result of the grant awards (Title I-Basic and Stimulus-ARRA) and district instructional funds, we will purchase approximately 61 ACTIVClassroom Bundles/Promethean Board systems and many computers. If you have questions about federal programs, or if you would like to serve on a district federal programs committee, please see your building level principal.



-This year your school will be featured in the Sun Herald in a special quarterly edition of **"The Admiral's Log."** Mrs. Leggett and others will be in your rooms and on your campuses to see and photograph the great things that are going on in your classes. See your principal, or call Mrs. Leggett at 865-4670 for more information. **Please share your good news with the Gulf Coast.**

-The district won a national marketing/media award from the National School Public Relations Association for its **"Education Destination"** commercial. The department would like to thank those teachers and students who participated and Cindy DeFrances for the hard work.

Department Staff Changes

-Beth Bellipanni recently joined the department as the Reading-Language Arts Curriculum Specialist. If you have questions regarding the RLA frameworks, she can be reached by calling 865-4614 or emailing via district email: beth.bellipanni@gulfportschools.org.



We can hardly wait to see each of you at Essential Pieces. Our theme this year is "T. E. A. M.: Together Everyone Achieves More." Remember, the DIP is here to be of service to you. The curriculum specialists and I look forward to visiting you and the students. *Anchors Aweigh!*



Gulfport School District

2009-2010 Essential Pieces

"T.E.A.M.: Together Everyone Achieves More"

Schedule of Events

August 3, 2009

7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Registration/Sign-In
8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions
11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own
12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions

August 4, 2009

7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Sign-In @ Your School
8:00 a.m.-Dismissal	Opening Faculty Meeting
	Organization for Instruction
	(Each principal will create the school work and lunch schedule.)
	<i>Other Possible Activities</i>
	-Work in your classroom,
	-Grade Level Meetings,
	-Analyze Assessment Results, etc.



Possible CEUs: 1.2