

Memo**To:** Susan Flanagan, Interim Superintendent**From:** Barbara Dahly**Cc:** Board of Education**Date:** March 1, 2012**RE:** Department Update**Northern Illinois University STEM Outreach**

Northern Illinois University STEM Outreach provides **PHYSICS PHUN LABS** for students, sharing the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. District 89 will host its first STEM Fest, utilizing funds from the DVR Elementary Career Development Grant. The STEM Fest will be held at Stevenson School on April 27 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Seventh and eighth grade students from all 10 schools will participate. Students will visit on a rotation basis. Stevenson School IMSA teachers will assist with coordinating the event.

West Cook Math Initiative

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) will offer the third in a series of Connected Math Professional Development sessions. This professional development session will provide support for teachers implementing CMP in their sixth, seventh or eighth grade classrooms. The session will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012.

Goals

The CMP professional development is designed to provide newly implementing teachers with the opportunity to:

- Develop an understanding of the philosophy and goals of the CMP curriculum
- Explore the connections between CMP and the Common Core Standards for Mathematics
- Explore the mathematical ideas in the selected unit and the implications for practice
- Collaborate with colleagues in similar grade levels
- Deepen their content and pedagogical content knowledge

Professional Development Committee Meeting

The Professional Development Committee met on February 15, 2012 to plan for the upcoming School Improvement Days on March 6 and April 3. The committee discussed the following for the upcoming SIP days:

March 6

- Preview academic and CWT data to prepare for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Access the Acuity resources and tools for students to utilize to raise student achievement.
- Strategize for the remaining 50+ days of instructional time after the ISAT. What are our goals/objectives for the remainder of the year? How do we maximize this time to impact student learning?
- PDSA (Plan, Do, Study, Act) Cycle 3

April 3

- Charlotte Danielson Framework (Dependent upon the building level of engagement, continue the learning or begin the learning on the Charlotte Danielson Framework model.)
- Common Core Overview - Provide information to teachers on the Common Core Standards.
- Math Expression/Connected Math - How do we address the eight mathematical practices from the Common Core Standards in teaching and learning mathematics?

Paraprofessional Professional Development

West 40 will conduct paraprofessional training in the Board Room at the Administrative Building. There has been a change in date to accommodate all District 89 paraprofessionals. This is the first series of 25 paraprofessionals being trained. Dates are still being determined for the second series, which will provide training for 25 additional paraprofessionals.

The first series will be held on Tuesday, March 6 from 1-4 p.m.

Understanding Your Role and Responsibilities - This course is designed to help paraprofessional educators understand their role and increase their effectiveness. In the first of a four-part series, participants will learn the basic responsibilities of paraprofessionals as well as tips for working in a team and communicating with others.

Helping Students Develop Self-discipline - This course is designed to help paraprofessional educators increase their effectiveness regarding student behavior. In the second of a four-part series, participants will learn strategies for building relationships with students, developing students' self-discipline as well as preventing and responding to misbehavior.

The second series will be held on Tuesday, April 3 from 1-4 p.m.

Managing Common Areas, Small Groups and Individuals - This course is designed to help paraprofessional educators develop effective strategies for supervising students, whether it is in common areas, with small groups or during individual work time. In the third of a four-part series, participants will learn tips for effectively supervising these various areas.

Supporting the Individual - This course is designed to help paraprofessional educators develop effective strategies for working with individuals. In the last of a four-part series, participants will learn to observe and record individual students' performance as well as gaining tips for working with students with disabilities.

The New Teacher Network

The New Teacher Network met on February 28 and began work on Evidence-Based Teaching. Related to the four phases in the decision-making cycle, the teachers discussed:

- Summarizing multiple assessments
- Creating a Class Profile
- Developing an action plan
- Keeping it going/sustaining the work

All discussion-related topics are posted online on the Discussion Board under *The Foundations of Effective Teaching*.

Chicago RUSH to Reading, and Motivational Speakers

All District 89 schools will be participating in the Chicago Rush to Reading initiative. The Chicago RUSH football team will provide free tickets to their games when a District 89 student has read four books and completed a book report project. Library Clerks will organize the project and turn in the completed forms for the tickets. This project begins on March 1.

In addition to the motivational reading incentive, 12 professional athletes from the Chicago Rush will visit our schools to talk with students on motivational topics including: healthy living, goal setting, the importance of coming to school on time, the importance of turning in homework, etc. Principals may select a motivational topic for the athletes to discuss. The presentations will be from 2 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. Principals may choose to have an all-school assembly or invite the athletes to speak to groups of Tier 2 or Tier 3 students needing additional support. The visits are being scheduled on March 19, 20, 27, 28 and 29. We can have presentations at up to four schools on a given day. We thank the Proviso Mental Health Commission for this exciting opportunity to support our students.

Teachscape Coaching

External coaches are scheduled to provide on-site campus support on the following days in March:*

Emerson	Garfield	Irving	Jane Addams	Lexington	Lincoln	Melrose Park	Roosevelt	Stevenson	Washington
(2/29)	3/01	3/02	3/20 pm 3/22 am	3/20	3/20 am 3/21 pm	3/21 am 3/22 pm	(2/28)	3/21	(2/29) 3/20

*Dates may be subject to change.