



# What's Happening at the MCSESC!

December 3, 2008

Volume 8, Number 12

## Curriculum Development

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- Mission Statement: The Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center will be the leader in providing services and products that promote excellence in education.

The November presentation to the Medina County Schools' ESC Governing Board was made by Dr. Dan Vincent and Dr. Linn Sommerfeld regarding the future of curriculum development in Ohio.

Historically, county boards of education have provided curriculum development activities for local boards of education. This included the subjects and content of what was to be taught to the students, along with which textbooks and resources to purchase. This activity changed dramatically in 2001, when Ohio began to issue the Academic Content Standards (ACS) for school districts. The ACS standardized grade level content and objectives for all of Ohio's school children. The objective, which was achieved, was to insure that all students were being taught the same thing at the same grade level. Progress has been monitored through the use of Ohio State Achievement Test scores.

The switch from courses of study to Academic Content Standards will be reflected in MCSESC's new Web site, which will be unveiled later this school year. The curriculum department will provide access to resources related to the standards that local district teachers need on a weekly basis. An extensive research and survey activity has been conducted to see "what works" in other ESC's. This process of upgrading our Web site will constantly be monitored and updated in the future.

*Dan Vincent, Ph.D., Director of Curriculum*  
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## Staff Development Preview

### **INCLUSION STRATEGIES THAT WORK FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

**Dates:** January 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2009

**Time:** 4 – 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Lower Conference Room

**Registration Deadline:** December 23, 2008

**Registration Fee:** \$60



Have you ever wondered how you can make accommodations that will enable students with disabilities to learn? This workshop will provide teachers with practical, effective strategies for working with students with special needs in the educational setting. Participants will leave with a variety of teaching strategies, an understanding of the components of an Individualized Education Plan, and sensory strategies to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations in life . . . that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

One (1) graduate credit hour will be available at the cost of \$130 through The University of Akron or Ashland University, or 12.5 CEHs will be available at no charge.

For more information or to download a registration form, please visit our Web site at <http://www.medina-esc.k12.oh.us/StaffDevelopment/staff%20development.htm>. If you have any questions, please contact Janelle Sailer at 330-723-6393, Ext. 134.

Janelle Sailer, Staff Development Secretary  
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## Educational Resources Available



- The National Audubon Society offers free tips and resources for helping students **learn about nature**. Go to [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and point your cursor to "Education" in the menu bar. Choose "Educators' Lounge" from the drop-down menu.
- The Girls, Math & Science Partnership has a **Web site for girls** aged 11-17 at [www.braincake.org](http://www.braincake.org). The site aims to "help girls be confident, solve problems and think independently."
- The Scrub Club is a Web site from NSF International, a nonprofit public health company (not the National Science Foundation), where children can learn about **germs and hygiene**. Find it at [www.scrubclub.org](http://www.scrubclub.org).
- Physicist Frank Potter has created a Web site with **links to science resources** sorted by topic and grade level. Find it at <http://sciencegems.com>.



- For **free printable maps** to use in the classroom, visit [www.yourchildlearns.com](http://www.yourchildlearns.com) and click on "Maps to print—one page to huge." The site, from Owl and Mouse Educational Software, also offers online map puzzles and games.

*ENERGY Education Newsletter, September/October 2008*

## "Technology Today"



Hello everyone and welcome to another **Holiday** edition of "Technology Today." This week we have winter driving safety tips, candle safety tips, gift certificate tips, and extended warranty information. Here we go!

### Winter Driving Safety Tips

Here are some winter driving tips for you.

- ⊗ Drive the proper posted speed.
- ⊗ Overpasses freeze first. Coast them using no acceleration or brakes.
- ⊗ Steer into a skid.
- ⊗ Do not pass a snow plow.
- ⊗ Have blankets, first aid kit, cell phone, food, candles, sand, and a flashlight in your car.
- ⊗ If you get stranded in your car, run your vehicle every ten minutes with your windows cracked open.

- ⊗ If you are involved in a crash, move the vehicles for safety. Get third-party witnesses' license plate numbers.
- ⊗ You can get Ohio road conditions by calling **1-888-264-7623**.

### Candle Safety Tips

Here are some candle safety tips for you.

#### Container Candle Tips

- Handle with care since container may be hot.
- Avoid glass-to-glass contact when removing or replacing lid.
- Do not use if container becomes cracked, chipped, or scratched.
- Keep wick in the center of the candle.
- Keep wick trimmed.

#### More Candle Safety Tips

- Always use a pillar holder for your candles.
- Always have a saucer under all your candles.
- Queen Bee jars need a saucer placed under them.
- Have your candles in a visible place. You need to be able to see them at all times.
- Keep all candles away from drafts.
- Avoid buying cheaper candles. They are likely to fall over when burning.

### Read the Fine Print on Your Gift Certificates

When receiving a gift certificate this holiday season, read the fine print! Some gift certificates may have a fee for usage. Most certificates will have a date of expiration.

When you purchase a gift certificate, you may want to ask what charges and limitations it will have.

#### When Should You Purchase an Extended Service Warranty?

- You always have time to purchase your extended warranty after the purchase.
- For **more costly** items (like larger plasma or digital TV sets, computers, digital cameras, and any of the newer technology items), a closer look at an extended warranty is **recommended**.
- **Smaller items** (like \$29 DVD players or \$100 TV sets) **would not need an extended warranty**. It would be cheaper and easier to replace the equipment.
- When giving items as a gift, alert the gift recipient that an extended warranty is available for them to purchase if they desire to.

Here are some questions you should ask regarding an extended warranty:

- What is covered under the extended warranty?
- How long is the extended coverage for?
- Who will do the extended warranty service?
- How long will it take to get the repair completed and returned to you?
- Where do you drop the item off for repair?
- Who pays the shipping costs?
- Are there any hidden costs, such as a deductible?

### Your AV Repairs Are Always Welcome

All your AV repairs are always welcome to be sent it to our service department. Please remember to use a blue service tag. Most equipment repairs are covered under the technology funds your district has pre-purchased. If you

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have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your school district's technology department.

### **We All Know It's Cold!**

Please remember to bring inside all of your electronic equipment, such as your cell phones, PDA organizers, calculators, and laptops. Do not allow them to be exposed to the cold temperatures. If you have left any items out in the extreme cold, please allow time for your equipment to warm up to room temperature.

Thank you for reading this week's Internet newsletter. Have a great day!

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## **Thank You**

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you the events and the latest services that our ESC offers. Through this newsletter, you are learning about our ESC and what type of services we can provide to you, our customers.

***What's Happening at the MCSESC!*** is a service of the Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center and may be copied and distributed to everyone.