

**Online Professional Development
2008~2009**

Facilitated by: Rhonda Roysden

Two days professional development credit and recertification (for hours over required 30 hours)

Email Rhonda at rroysden@fentress.k12tn.net to register

Summer 2008 Workshops

May 28th~July 15th

Title: Teaching Writing in the Elementary Classroom

Participants: Grades 3-5(2nd grade could benefit as well)

Description: In this workshop, participants will gain strategies for helping students in grades three through five write narrative and informational text. They will be able to teach their students about the traits of good writing through mini-lessons and use consistent criteria to evaluate and provide feedback in writing conferences. Participants will understand that writing is a process and consider how to organize instruction to guide students through the stages. For the prewriting stage, for example, students can learn how to select an organizational structure that matches their purpose for writing—either to tell a story or to inform. For the final project, participants will select or write relevant prompts for narrative or informational writing, evaluate the narrative or informational writing using the six traits rubric, and plan a student conference around a focused revision.

June 4th~July 22nd

Title: Teaching Writing in the Middle School

Participants: Grades 5-8 (high school could benefit as well)

Description: In today's middle school writing classroom, the pressures to achieve state and national standards are overwhelming for students and teachers alike. Many classrooms focus so completely on writing the perfect essay that the fun of writing wanes. In this workshop, participants will examine two common essay types—informative and persuasive—as they are approached in several non-traditional ways. To complement these alternative ways of teaching these two essay types, this workshop will also re-examine the writing process, writing motivation for teachers and students, and formative evaluation methods for writing progress. The end result of this work is a final lesson plan for an informative or persuasive essay that utilizes a creative approach in its instruction. It is the overall goal of this workshop to rekindle motivation and creativity in middle school writing instruction to help teachers and students have some fun on their journey toward the perfect essay.

July 2nd~August 19th

Title: Differentiating Instruction to Accommodate Learning Styles

Participants: Grades K-12

Description: Every classroom is made up of individuals with diverse strengths, backgrounds, and approaches to learning. Understanding and responding to students' individual learning styles and needs can be a challenge for teachers. The World Wide Web contains a vast number of resources to assist teachers both in understanding the differences in their students' learning styles and in differentiating their instruction accordingly. Participants in this workshop, Differentiating Instruction to Accommodate Learning Styles, will be introduced to learning theory related to learning styles and multiple intelligences, as well as web-based resources to assist teachers in both identifying students' learning styles and intelligences and engaging students in activities which best suit those styles and intelligences. Participants will become familiar with teaching strategies and tools targeted for each learning style and intelligence and develop a preliminary lesson plan using those strategies and tools.

Fall 2008 Workshops

August 27th~October 14th

Title: The Complexities of Measurement

Participants: Grades K-4

Description: This workshop will give participants an understanding of common misconceptions students have about measurement and will provide teachers some tools and strategies to help students improve their conceptual understanding of this topic. Participants in this workshop will explore why it is important to study measurement in the upper elementary grades as well as why teachers need to pay particular attention to the ideas of unitization and iteration. In the final project for this course, participants will design activities for their students that promote a conceptual understanding of measurement and which are immediately useful in the classroom.

October 22nd~December 9th

Title: Improving Reading and Writing in the Content Areas

Participants: Grades 5-8(high school could benefit as well)

Description: In order to be successful in content area classes such as social studies, science, and mathematics, students must be able to read a variety of informational texts and produce written documents. This workshop will give teachers the tools they need to integrate literacy strategies into content learning to help raise student achievement. Participants will use the Literacy Matters web site as an anchor throughout this workshop for exploring instructional strategies. By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to locate web-based tools, strategies, and lessons that foster literacy skills in all content areas. They will also have developed a preliminary lesson plan incorporating these tools and strategies.

Spring 2009 Workshops

January 7th~February 24th

Title: Making the Most of Adolescent Literature

Participants: Grades 5-12

Description: When teachers integrate adolescent literature into the curriculum, students are given an opportunity to learn about themselves and the world during a critical time in their development. Recent research on reading development suggests a growing number of evidence-based practices that can help students with the complex process of reading to make meaning. In this workshop, participants will learn how to select literature for students of varied needs and how to improve students' reading comprehension through questioning techniques. They will also explore a wide range of literature response strategies and techniques for assessment. Throughout the workshop, participants will use the Literacy Matters web site as a source of information about adolescent literature. As a final product, participants will create a classroom lesson based on the strategies learned in this workshop.

March 4th~April 21st

Title: Helping Struggling Readers Improve Comprehension

Participants: Grades 5-8

Description: This workshop focuses specifically on supporting the academic development of students who are competent decoders but who struggle to understand the meaning of what they read. We will explore the different types of comprehension difficulties students may face and will introduce a number of research-based strategies to improve comprehension skills. Instructional strategies will focus on building vocabulary skills, using teacher modeling, having students work collaboratively, and building comprehension monitoring skills. As a final project, participants will design and implement a lesson plan focused on improving students' reading comprehension.