

INSTRUCTIONAL TECH NEWSLETTER

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Spam filter

Please remember that the district's Sendio email SPAM filtering system is **completely controlled by you** as an individual recipient. Neither the technology department staff nor the Sendio filter act to "Accept" or "Block" any of your incoming email. All messages sent from external addresses (non-district email addresses) sit in a temporary or "pending" state until they are released either by the sender, or by you as the recipient. If the sender chooses not to reply to the

auto-generated system response, then their message will sit in your personal filter until you actively choose to release or drop messages from that contact

This system's strength lies in allowing each one of you, as individuals, the maximum level of control over your email account. You alone determine what mail reaches your inbox. With this in mind, it is in your best interest to frequently visit and maintain your Sendio account at: <http://>

sendio.albany.k12.ny.us. Documentation regarding how to access and manage your email SPAM filter may be viewed/downloaded [HERE](#). You are also encouraged to call the Help Desk (475-6195) for assistance.



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Wednesday help

Just a reminder that we are available on Wednesdays from 4-7PM for extra help. This is the one time that the content is controlled by you.

You can tell us what you need to work on.

All we ask is that you contact us ahead of time to let us know if

you will attend. We can be reached by email or cell phone.

The contact information is available on the last page.

Mathmagic!

Math Forum

provides high-quality math education content. The site features a problem of the week for students in grades 3-12, collections of math resources grouped by subject and grade level, web-based discussion areas, and ask-an-expert services.

<http://mathforum.org/>

Helping Your Child Learn Math

features dozens of fun activities parents can use to help children (K-5th grade) have fun learning geometry, algebra, measurement, statistics, probability and other important mathematical concepts. Activities relate

math to everyday life and can be done at home, at the grocery store, or while traveling. It includes sections for parents on what math is like in schools today and a parents' booklist for helping children learn math <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/index.html>

Getsmarter.org

provides an opportunity for middle school students to see how their math and science skills measure up against other students worldwide. The site offers tutorials, practice opportunities, and reasons why math and science matter in the world today.

<http://www.getsmarter.org/index.cfm>

Mathematics Across the Curriculum

features an "electronic bookshelf" of materials for teaching math in art, history, literature, and music, as well as science, engineering, and other disciplines traditionally associated with math. Topics include misleading averages, bar codes, crime statistics, DNA, data analysis, expert systems, gasoline, information theory, medical testing, music and computers, nutrition, polls, population growth, probability, remote sensing, SIDS, and vaccines.

<http://www.math.dartmouth.edu/~matc/eBookshelf/index.html>

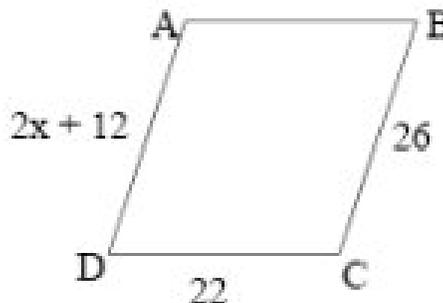
More math?

Teacher Workshops: Math

provides materials from 2007 summer teacher workshops sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Find slides and handouts on teaching algebra, algorithms, computation, data collection, cooperative learning, decimals and fractions, density, geometry, integers, linear equations, multiplication

and division, nature and mathematics, polynomials, problem solving in a primary classroom, vocabulary in math, word problems in elementary math, and more.

<http://www.t2tweb.us/Workshops/Sessions.asp?Content=Math>



Middle school motivation

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/03/19/28middle_ep.h27.html

This is a brief overview of an article that appeared in Education Week. To read the article in its entirety click on the link below.

It's not easy to hide in Amber Cline's math class.

Even the most skilled evaders among the 7th graders at Rogers-Herr Middle School here can't dodge the veteran teacher's questioning and prodding during a lesson on scale factors and ratios.

The earnest teacher has learned just how hard to push to keep her students focused on the illustrated math problems they are working on, and when to ease up if one gets frustrated or seems close to turning her off. She's honed that instinct throughout the school year as she's gotten to know each of her students' academic strengths and weaknesses, as well as their personalities, moods, and quirks.

"For the kids who aren't self-motivated and don't have support at home, we need to stand over them and say get this done," Ms. Cline said. "We know what each kid needs as far as applying pressure or giving support. ... They know we will not allow them to fail."

Ms. Cline and her colleagues in this school have worked at melding rigorous subject matter with the demands of test-driven accountability, while also attending to the developmental, family, and social issues their 625 predominantly minority and lower-income students face.

More than a decade after a prominent group of middle-grades reformers set out to infuse higher academic standards into what critics deemed the touchy-feely world of middle schools, many teachers are still grappling with ways to motivate students to excel intellectually while helping them adapt to the dramatic physical and emotional changes that come with puberty.

That mix of rigor, relevance, and responsiveness, experts say, is crucial for guiding students, particularly those most at risk of dropping out, on the path to high school graduation and later success. Too many schools serving 6th through 9th graders, however, have yet to find the right prescription for keeping those youngsters engaged at a time when their growing curiosity, independence, and need for the acceptance of their peers may lead them to act out or zone out in school.

"Our belief is they'll grow out of it. But the evidence shows that in high-poverty environments, they don't grow out of it" without intervention, said Robert Balfanz, a research scientist at the Center for the Social Organization of Schools, based at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. "As soon as kids are off track, we need to aggressively approach these issues."

In his studies on dropouts in large urban districts, Mr. Balfanz has found that tracking several classroom indicators for individual students and addressing problems in those areas early can prevent later troubles. Attendance rates, behavior, and grades, he concludes, are far more accurate predictors of who will graduate or drop out than test scores, race, or socioeconomic status.

About 40 percent of eventual dropouts could be identified in the 6th grade, he estimates. "The only way to intervene is if we know who the kids are," he said, and are familiar with their records in school.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2008/03/19/28middle_ep.h27.html?print=1

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY



Community Technology Initiative

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The arts

NGA Classroom for Teachers and Students

A site where teachers and students can connect art and the curriculum.

<http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/>

Interact

Explore the Smithsonian American Art Museum through rich media. Here we post slide shows, podcasts, and other resources that present our collection in new and engaging ways.

<http://americanart.si.edu/interact/index.cfm>

Art for the Nation: Collecting for a New Century

offers 14 in-depth studies of works by various artists represented in the National Gallery of Art. The studies include information on the artist, technique, and history behind each painting. (National Gallery of Art)

<http://www.nga.gov/feature/artnation/splash.htm>

NGAKids

features child-focused stories, activities, and information on the Gallery's collections. Visitors can explore the nuances of Jacques-Louis David's famous Napoleon in His Study, identify colors and shapes in a Kandinsky abstract painting, or follow Lizzy and Gordon through the Sculpture Garden via an animated musical tale

<http://www.nga.gov/kids/kids.htm>

Art Zone

invites children of all ages to design a virtual mobile; create a collage, painting, or a geometric sculpture online; design

and texturize 3-dimensional shapes (and see how artists create these effects without a computer); create a "pixel face"; and orchestrate an array of colorful shapes and patterns online.

<http://www.nga.gov/kids/zone/>

Smithsonian: Art and Design

features modern portrait drawings, historical portraits of famous Americans, African and Asian art, modern Japanese prints, works of Latino artists, illustrated manuscripts of Persian lyrical poetry, paintings by James Whistler and Gerhard Richter, lighthouse postcards, lunch containers, Tibetan healing mandalas, photos of fa-

mous 20th-century American women, and the Smithsonian's blog, Eye Level, which looks at how art reflects our history and culture.

http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/Art_and_Design/

