

NTC Policy Board

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For the past two years the District and the Teacher Center have collaborated on a Mentor/ Professional Partner program that provides support for teachers during their first year in the district, whether it is their first year of teaching or their twenty-first.

The experienced teacher shares his/her expertise with the new teacher by:

- providing guidance, and support to the new teacher on such matters as instructional strategies and the district/building "culture" and organization;
- engaging in problem-solving to address the new teacher's questions and concerns;
- working with the new teacher in preparing lesson plans, creating units of study, and reviewing grade level goals for curriculum areas;
- reviewing the progress of the protégé, debriefing successes and failures, and apprising him/her of opportunities for professional development.

The experienced teachers do not evaluate their protégées because a supportive professional relationship is vital to the success of the partnership. Conversations between the two are confidential.

Are you interested in being a mentor? Applications are available from your Policy Board Representative, on the Teacher Center website, or by calling the Teacher Center (353-7060).

We would like to be able to establish mentor/protégé teams as soon as new teachers are hired this year, so please contact us as soon as possible.

Call for Proposals

The Center is now accepting applications for the 2004-2005 Standards and Assessments Grants. This grant program is designed to support projects that are larger in scope than those funded through NTC MiniGrants. Awards range from \$500 to \$2500.

Projects should:

- relate to the NYS Standards and Assessments;
- include the development of educational resources and the exploration of new instructional techniques; and
- focus on improved teaching and learning.

This grant program is designed to support collaborative projects, so applications must be submitted by teams of three or more teachers. Teaching assistants, administrators and other support personnel may also participate.

The deadline for submitting an application is Wednesday, June 9, 2004. Awards will be announced after the New York State budget is passed.

Ask your Policy Board Rep. for an application, or call the Center at 353-7060. The forms should also be available on our website shortly.

With Our Thanks

Susan Brand, the Center's Course Coordinator for the past two years, has resigned. On behalf of the Policy Board I would like to thank Suzie for all of the time and effort she has put into her work with us. The number and variety of inservice and graduate courses offered by the Center increased significantly during her tenure. She's been a delight to work with and we will miss her energy, her enthusiasm and her wise counsel.

Phone:
(845) 353-7060

Fax:
(845) 353-7019
Attn: Teacher Center

E-Mail:
jniebanck@nyackschools.com



We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.nyackschools.com/ntc

Stella hasn't been relaxing since she retired. She is an active member of the Elmwood Playhouse Board and has directed at least one play each year – to rave reviews, I might add. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Nyack Center and the Board of Overseers of the Rockland Campus of Long Island University. She has served as Supervisor of Student/Teacher Interns for Fairleigh Dickinson University, and last year was a mentor for a new teacher in Nyack.

You'll have a chance to meet Stella shortly. Policy Board Reps. are making arrangements for her to visit each building between now and the end of the year so she can talk to you about your professional development needs. Please take advantage of this opportunity to tell us the kinds of courses you would like to see us offer. Stella is planning next year's courses now, so this is the time to speak to her. If you aren't available when she's in your building, you can always email her at sblasenheim@nyackschools.com or leave a message on her answerphone at 353-7057.

If you would like to teach a course next year, please complete our Design-A-Course form, which is available from the Teacher Center. Call Margaret at 353-7060.

FREE Resource on NCLB

The *No Child Left Behind Toolkit for Teachers* is designed to provide you with valuable information about the NCLB Act. The publication includes an overview of the law's "highly qualified" teacher provisions as well as useful information about other aspects of the law. The kit also includes a list of questions that are frequently asked by teachers, resources and support for teachers, and a list of useful publications.

Go to www.edpubs.org and click on the "Top Ten Publications" (on the left). You can download the materials as a PDF file or order copies of the booklet. You'll find many other publications here as well, available for free – paid for by your tax dollars!

American Museum of Natural History Resources

The "Common Cents" program, located in the "Kid Stuff" section of the State Farm Web site, provides lessons and educational games for students in grades K-12. The site includes parent and teacher guides and age-appropriate lessons focusing on six key principles of financial literacy: saving, earning, investing, risk management, decision-making, and money management.

Material on the State Farm "Common Cents" Web site is organized into four grade level groups — K-2; 3-5; 6-8; and 9-12. The site includes printable lesson plans and activities for classroom use, a parent's guide with at-home activities and interactive games for students. Go to <http://www.statefarm.com/kidstuf/kidstuf.htm>