

# LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



A Resource to Inform and Celebrate  
Louisiana's Building-Level Leaders



May 16, 2024

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## Principal's Corner

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 cohort of the Aspiring Principal Fellowship. These fellows will spend the school year engaged in professional learning in order to gain the critical skills needed to serve students, families, and educators as a principal.

ASPIRING PRINCIPAL FELLOWS			
Acadia Parish	<b>Whitney Bishop</b>	Lycee Francais New Orleans	<b>Yann Colin</b>
Acadia Parish	<b>Chad Breaux</b>	Lycee Francais New Orleans	<b>Magali Truchot</b>
Acadia Parish	<b>Ashley Derise</b>	Ouachita Parish	<b>Melinda Adams</b>
Acadia Parish	<b>Jazlyn Thibodeaux</b>	Ouachita Parish	<b>Hollie Daniel</b>
Acadia Parish	<b>Roseline Thierry</b>	Ouachita Parish	<b>Vernell Riser</b>
Algiers Charter	<b>Ariane Jones-Pierre</b>	Plaquemines Parish	<b>Leslie Smith</b>
Ascension Parish	<b>Cormanda Grace</b>	Pointe Coupee Parish	<b>Yolanda Jones</b>
Calcasieu Parish	<b>Kaci Duhon</b>	Rapides Parish	<b>Pamela Gaillard</b>
Calcasieu Parish	<b>Brandi White</b>	Rapides Parish	<b>Melissa Cramer Thornhill</b>

Carter School USA	<b>Virginia Fholer</b>
Concordia Parish	<b>Robert Haskett, Jr.</b>
Concordia Parish	<b>Lisa Lewis</b>
Desoto Parish	<b>Stephanie Mason</b>
Discovery Schools Network	<b>Rebecca Holmes</b>
Evangeline Parish	<b>Carmen Faul</b>
Iberia Parish	<b>Stacy Landry</b>
Iberia Parish	<b>Jenna Patout</b>
Iberville Parish	<b>Nazzarrie Johnson</b>
Jackson Parish	<b>Ashley Cotten</b>
Jefferson Davis Parish	<b>Nicholas Johnson</b>
Lafourche Parish	<b>Amanda Bourgeois</b>
Lafourche Parish	<b>Kimberly Parr</b>
Livingston Parish	<b>Trinette Wallace</b>
Livingston Parish	<b>Gary Jones</b>
Livingston Parish	<b>Nikki Lavergne</b>

Rapides Parish	<b>Jody Musco-White</b>
St. John the Baptist Parish	<b>Tracee Harvey</b>
St. James Parish	<b>Rachel Hebert</b>
St. James Parish	<b>Faren Melancon</b>
St. James Parish	<b>Kendra Thomas</b>
Tangipahoa Parish	<b>Sherice Hurst</b>
Terrebonne Parish	<b>Sue LeBoeuf</b>
Terrebonne Parish	<b>Melanie McCorkel</b>
Terrebonne Parish	<b>Brittany McCormick</b>
Vermillion Parish	<b>Jessie Leger</b>
Vermillion Parish	<b>Meaghan Meador</b>
West Feliciana Parish	<b>Brian Cutrer</b>
West Feliciana Parish	<b>Stephanie Whetstone</b>
Zachary Community Schools	<b>Kristy Gilpin</b>
Zachary Community Schools	<b>Jesseca Johnson</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Teacher Leader Summit**

The 12th annual [Teacher Leader Summit](#) will be held May 28-30, in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The Teacher Leader Summit app, including session schedules and additional information, is available through Cvent. Download the Cvent app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) and access the event with the code **FgXJITLS24**.

Please contact [events@emergentmethod.com](mailto:events@emergentmethod.com) with questions.

### **CIS Evaluation Closeout**

School principals may begin finalizing teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluations. Systems are encouraged to complete and sign off on all observation and Student Learning Target (SLT) data prior to staff leaving for summer break. **Once the deadline has passed for data entry, evaluation data for the 2023-2024 school year cannot be added or amended.** To create a streamlined process, it is recommended that educators complete the following assigned tasks:

- Ensure that all teachers, counselors, and librarians are in [CIS](#)
- [Enter](#) professional practice/observation scores in CIS
- [Accept](#) SLTs in CIS
- [Rate](#) SLTs in CIS
- Submit all non-VAM teacher, counselor, and librarian evaluations in CIS
- Verify VAM rosters in [CVR](#) by May 24

Please contact [compass@la.gov](mailto:compass@la.gov) with evaluation questions.

## RESOURCES

### EDUCATOR TALENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

#### **2024 Louisiana Aspiring Educator Summer Academy**

The Louisiana Aspiring Educator Summer Academy is a one-of-a-kind, five-day, hybrid summer camp and professional learning experience for high school students enrolled in the Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway or any other coursework aimed at attracting and developing future Louisiana educators.

Hosted by the Louisiana Department of Education and staffed by a team of advisors and coaches from around the state, the Louisiana Aspiring Educator Academy will take place at the University of Louisiana Lafayette July 8-12. High schools offering Louisiana Pre-Educator Pathway coursework are eligible to [nominate one student and one alternate](#) to attend the 2024 Academy. School system [nominations](#) will be accepted until all academy slots have been filled.

Please contact [believeandprepare@la.gov](mailto:believeandprepare@la.gov) with questions.

## **New Teacher Experience Kick-Off: Save the Date**

The Louisiana Department of Education will host the Summer Kick-off for the New Teacher Experience on **July 24 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.** in Baton Rouge for 500 new teachers.

The goals of the event are to:

- Welcome new teachers to the profession,
- Understand the components of Louisiana's New Teacher Experience,
- Engage in high-quality professional learning around topics relevant to new teachers, and
- Provide statewide networking opportunities for new teachers.

Registration information is forthcoming. Please contact [laurie.carlton@la.gov](mailto:laurie.carlton@la.gov) with questions.

## **ACADEMICS**

### **ELA**

#### **ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Updates**

The LDOE has partnered with teachers across Louisiana to update the [ELA Guidebooks 3-5 \(2022\)](#) curriculum. The new development 6 units for grades 3 and 4 units are available now and the grade 5 unit will be available by May 15. The development 6 units provide schools and systems with a second unit option for their [Level 3 unit](#).

Additionally, the first set of unit-aligned fluency supports, [FUEL \(Fluency Utilized to Engage Learners\)](#), are available now. The remaining unit resources will be released on a rolling basis. The materials will be added to the Supports folder for each unit on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) as they become available. These materials are designed to provide support for students performing at or just below benchmark on ELA assessments and/or foundational reading assessments.

Please contact [elaguidebooks@la.gov](mailto:elaguidebooks@la.gov) with questions.

#### **ELA Guidebooks 6-8 (2024) Unit Update**

The [ELA Guidebooks 6-8 \(2024\) overview](#) has been updated to reflect a change to the development 5 unit for grade 8. The new unit, Persuasion, is currently in development and will be released on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) this summer. Unit Readers, student materials, and teaching guides will be available from [XanEdu](#) and the unit text will be included on the [American Reading Company portal](#) upon the unit's release.

Please contact [elaguidebooks@la.gov](mailto:elaguidebooks@la.gov) with questions.

## MATH

### **Math Refresh Summer Webinar Series**

The LDOE is excited to offer the second year of the Math Refresh Summer Webinar series. Educators, including teachers, school leaders, and system leaders, should register to learn how to impact math instruction in the coming year. Topics and dates are listed below:

- June 10 Navigating Act 260
- June 17 Accelerating Impact with Zearn
- June 24 Exploring the Math Leader Toolkit
- July 8 Using Flame Resources to Support the Success of K-8 Students
- July 15 Understanding High School Math Courses-What's in a Title?
- July 22 Empowering Excellence: Math Teacher Collaboration and Strategic Planning

Register with your school email address through the [Math Refresh Summer Webinar Series](#) flyer.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

### **Numeracy Leader Recruitment**

As implementation begins for [Act 260](#), the LDOE is looking for Numeracy Leaders who can support the implementation efforts within their system. A Numeracy Leader will be expected to complete a grade-specific numeracy course **based on statewide pacing**, provide constructive feedback, attend monthly hour-long virtual collaborations, and plan varying supports for teachers, and school and system leaders. Although this is a voluntary position, this commitment is for the 2024-2025 school year, with the possibility of renewal on August 1, 2025. The expected time commitment will encompass a minimum of one hour per month with opportunities for additional learning and collaboration. Interested participants should complete the [registration form](#).

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **Bayou Bridges: A K-8 Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum Update**

All Kindergarten and grade 8 Bayou Bridges units are now available. Please navigate to the [Bayou Bridges Resource page](#) to access. Units are aligned to meet the [2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#). All grade 1 units will be available by May 24 and grade 2 units by June 19.

Please contact [classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov](mailto:classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov) with questions.

## SCIENCE

### **High School Biology Transition Plan**

The OpenSciEd Biology materials build on the feedback from several years of the Louisiana pilot of the original inquiryHub curriculum as well as crucial feedback provided by Louisiana teachers during the official field test of the next generation of these materials. While the foundational inquiryHub curriculum will remain available through 2027, professional learning will no longer be available. With this, the high-quality pilot status of inquiryHub Biology will end after the 2024-2025 school year. The LDOE will continue to release guidance on the [K-12 Science Resources](#) web page to assist schools and systems during this transition.

Educators interested in learning more about the professional learning on the OpenSciEd curriculum offered by the inquiryHub team, please visit the [inquiryHub Professional Learning website](#) for more information.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

### **Rolling Updates to Science Implementation Guidance**

The LDOE is updating implementation guidance for [high-quality instructional materials](#) in science. The first round of updates includes more specific information to assist with pacing. The revised [Louisiana Guide to Implementing OpenSciEd for Grade 7](#) is now available, with Grade 6 and Grade 8 coming soon. Louisiana guides for implementing all high-quality science instructional materials will continue to be released on a rolling basis for the 2024-2025 school year.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE AND STEM

### **K-12 Computer Science Standards Writing Committee**

Louisiana is currently engaged in the process of professional academic content standard setting for K-12 Computer Science to increase digital literacy skills through engagement with a progression of computer science concepts and experiences which prepare all students for success in society and future career opportunities. Thirteen Louisiana educators as well as representatives from Louisiana business and industry, universities, parent and community groups, and two Louisiana students will participate in the development of new K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science by taking part in standards over the next several months.

Meeting Dates:

- June 7 and 20 Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third St. Baton Rouge, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- July 11 and 30 Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third St. Baton Rouge, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- August 13 and 27 Claiborne Building, 1201 N. Third St. Baton Rouge, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **STEM Renaissance**

[STEM 9-12 Pathways](#) are experiencing a new and revised structure beginning with the freshmen class entering the 2024-2025 school year. The new STEM Pathway structure will offer

- students more course choice options to meet requirements,
- an expanded opportunity for students to attain Industry Based Credentials, Advanced Placement, and Dual Enrollment credit at the Silver STEM Seal earners,
- a content-focused approach to course organization which yields five targeted paths of study, and
- an additional science or math course offering for Gold STEM Seal earners.

The new STEM Pathways briefs, a webinar, and counselor resources are available on the [STEM](#) web page.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **STEM Leadership Cohort II Learning Series**

Join the LASTEM Region 4 STEM Network Center for a two-day in-person training, July 23-24 to be held at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Center for Excellence in Education. This series is designed to prepare educators to lead local STEM initiatives and improve STEM outcomes for all Louisiana students.

Participants will:

- examine models of quality STEM learning environments and research-based strategies with a deep focus on mentoring classroom teachers to build content knowledge and instructional capacity, and
- develop action plans that include innovative solutions for real-world problems in STEM education specific to their classroom, school campus, or school system.

Interested educators and leaders should [register](#) to secure a spot at no cost, but space is limited.

Please contact [STEM@la.gov](mailto:STEM@la.gov) with questions.

## **EDTECH**

### **Kami Virtual and Face to Face Trainings**

This summer, embrace the opportunity to enhance your digital teaching toolkit! The LDOE is thrilled to announce a series of professional learning sessions focused on how Kami supports HQIM implementation in addition to increasing student accessibility to resources and opportunities to collaborate. The upgraded version of Kami is available to teachers in Louisiana beginning now through the 2024-2025 school year.

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.



## **Summer Webinar Series**

The LDOE will host a [comprehensive webinar series](#) designed to help educators integrate Kami into the classrooms and unlock its full potential for engaging and effective instruction. Morning and afternoon sessions will be held twice a week on a range of topics from June 4 - July 18. Sessions will be recorded and posted on our [Digital Learning website](#).

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.

## **Kami Regional Tour**

The LDOE will also host six regional face-to-face professional learning opportunities July 24-26. Sessions will be offered in the following locations:

- July 24 - Calcasieu Parish
- July 24 - Lafayette Parish
- July 25 - Bossier Parish
- July 26 - Jefferson Parish
- July 26 - Lincoln Parish
- July 26 - East Baton Rouge Parish

Mark your calendars and [register](#) today!

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.

## **End-of-Year Google Classroom Close-Out**

As we approach the conclusion of another school year, it is critical to ensure our digital environments are as organized and prepared for closure as our physical classrooms. Here are steps to close out your Google Classrooms:

Steps to Close Out Your Google Classroom:

- Step 1: Return All Work. Ensure that all assignments have been graded and returned to students.
- Step 2: Archive Your Class. Archiving the class prevents any further changes to assignments or postings but keeps all data accessible for future reference. Remember, archived classes can be restored if needed.
- Step 3: Communicate with Students and Parents. Send out a final announcement summarizing the year and informing them about the archival of the classroom.
- Step 4: Organize Your Drive. Take time to organize Google Classroom folders, delete unnecessary files, and back up important materials.
- [Other steps to consider](#) are making copies of your archived Classrooms to prepare for the next school year and hiding your Classroom Google Calendar.

Closing out your Google Classroom not only helps in maintaining an organized digital space but also in safeguarding student information and preparing for future educational endeavors. More EdTech resources can be found on our [Digital Learning web page](#).

Please contact [digitallearning@la.gov](mailto:digitallearning@la.gov) with questions.



## LITERACY

### **Summer Literacy Regional Tour**

Our literacy team is hitting the road for their 3rd annual summer literacy tour. These professional learning workshops are open to all teacher and school and system leaders. Registration is now open and space is limited. Reserve your spots by viewing our [schedule and sessions](#) and scheduling for your desired location and date.

The schedule is as follows: Harahan on June 17, Lake Charles on June 18, Baton Rouge on June 21, West Monroe on July 8, Bossier City on July 9, and Alexandria on July 11.

Please contact [louisianaliteracy@la.gov](mailto:louisianaliteracy@la.gov) with questions.

### **PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER SIGNUP**

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy and encourage them to [subscribe](#) to receive our next monthly newsletter.

### **PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION**

If you have an extraordinary building-level leader you would like to recommend to be highlighted in future newsletters, please submit information about the outstanding leader using the [LDOE Principal's Newsletter Leader Spotlight Nomination Form](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

#### **Alyshia Coulson, Bellaire Elementary, Bossier Parish**

"Mrs. Coulson is an amazing master of organization. She supports her teachers and students in every way, each and everyday." *submitted by Carrie Culpepper*

#### **Benjamin Arrington, Tioga High, Rapides Parish**

"Mr. Arrington brings about vision and a positive culture. He leads everyone with their best interest in mind." *submitted by Krystal Myric*

### **DATES TO CONSIDER FOR BUILDING-LEVEL LEADERS**

Important Dates	
<a href="#">Verify VAM rosters in CVR</a>	May 24
<a href="#">Teacher Leader Summit</a>	May 28 - 30
<a href="#">Navigating Act 260 Webinar</a>	June 10
<a href="#">Accelerating Impact with Zearn Webinar</a>	June 17
<a href="#">Exploring the Math Leader Toolkit Webinar</a>	June 24

