TEACHER LEADERS NEWSLETTER

January 2024

My name is Victor Escalante and I am an international teacher participating in the Louisiana International Associate Teacher (IAT) Program.

My family and I moved to Louisiana three years ago from Playa del Carmen, Mexico, and it was the best and most challenging decision we have ever made. Living in a country where we had to learn everything again was very scary for us, but the people in our community made us feel loved and valued and supported as we immersed ourselves in the culture of Louisiana.

This is my third year teaching Spanish at Ferriday Upper Elementary and Ferriday Junior High in Concordia Parish. During these three years, I have learned so much from my fellow educators, students, and the community. As a result of working with people who go above and beyond to support me, I am inspired to do the same for others. The opportunity to share my knowledge with other educators has been very rewarding. Every day, I **strive to be a leader** for both my students and fellow educators.

My time in Louisiana has taught me that all teachers, no matter what content they teach, can support each other. **Working together**, teachers can make a **positive impact** on our students' future. This is a lesson that will remain with me, no matter where I am. Thank you, Ferriday! Thank you, Concordia! **Thank you, Louisiana!**

Hi y'all! My name is Gerard Coulon (aka Mr. G). I am from Belgium, and this is my second time participating in the Louisiana IAT Program.

My experience has been extremely gratifying. In my time here I truly feel that I've learned at least as much as I have taught. Because of my experiences with my school community, I've been inspired to lead other educators by supporting those who are adapting to a new school or a new community.

From the beginning of this adventure, my mind was set on the fact that we chose to come here and immerse ourselves in this exciting way of life. Being a part of a community of educators who **work together** to support their students is the best part. I know this **positive spirit** of collaboration amongst educators isn't unique to New Orleans. **This is the Louisiana way!**

In this Issue

TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Teacher Leader Summit

Educators, it's time! The 12th annual Teacher Leader Summit will be held May 28-30, in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. This year's Teacher Leader Summit will focus on "Leading the Next Level." Early bird registration opened January 5 and will close **February 2**. Save and register early. Regular registration opens February 3. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration closes on **March 15** or at sellout.

The LDOE is looking for talented teacher leaders to be the next Teacher Leader Summit presenters. The call for presentations is now open. Interested teacher leaders who want to share their knowledge, please complete an application by **February 2**.

Please contact events@emergentmethod.com with questions.

ACADEMICS

Assessment Literacy Initiative

The LDOE assessment content team and the Center for Assessment will host the February session of the monthly webinar series on February 1. The focus of this session is Interpreting and Using Interim and Benchmark Assessment Information: What Do Teachers and Leaders Need to Know and Do?

Each session in the Effective Assessment Practices series will provide opportunities for Louisiana educators – both leaders and classroom educators – to learn about and discuss the most important and practical topics related to assessment in school systems and classrooms. An optional question-and-answer session will take place immediately following the webinar. For your convenience, we will record the webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** February 1 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87132144508
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 1 646 931 3860
- **Webinar ID#:** 871 3214 4508
- **Passcode:** 624654

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Math Refresh Regional Tour

[Registration](#) is open for the final sessions of the Math Refresh Regional Tour. Join us in Lafayette on February 6 and in Lafourche Parish on February 7. System leaders, school leaders, and teachers are invited to attend. Topics for the Winter tour include

- Instructional Coherence;
- Diving Deeper into FLAME; and
- Planning for Act 260 Numeracy Professional Learning.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Monthly Office Hours to Support Implementation of OpenSciEd High School Materials

To further support learning acceleration in high school science, the LDOE is hosting monthly office hours to support teachers implementing the OpenSciEd High School materials. Office hours take place the second Wednesday of each month from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and serve as an open forum for teachers to ask questions related to implementation. Participating biology, chemistry, and physics teachers may join monthly using the information below:

- **Webinar Date and Time:** Second Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98654189894
- **Webinar Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID#:** 986 5418 9894
- **Meeting Passcode:** 345192

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDTECH

Upcoming Microsoft Resources for Educators

The LDOE is thrilled to announce the upcoming release of three valuable [Microsoft for Education](#) resources on the [Digital Learning teacher web page](#).

- Microsoft Teams: Getting Started
  - Dive into the world of Microsoft Teams with this comprehensive guide designed for beginners. This resource is perfect for educators new to Teams or those looking to refresh their basic skills. You will learn how to navigate the interface, create and manage teams and channels, and utilize basic communication features to enhance collaboration among students and colleagues.
- Microsoft Teams: Next Steps
  - Building on the foundational knowledge, this resource is tailored for educators who are familiar with the basics of Microsoft Teams and are ready to explore more advanced features. Discover

how to optimize your virtual classroom, integrate educational tools, and leverage Teams for effective project-based learning and student engagement.
- Using OneNote with Students and Faculty
  - OneNote is a powerful tool for creating, organizing, and sharing educational content. This guide will provide educators with strategies and tips for using OneNote in the classroom. Learn how to create interactive notebooks, collaborate with students and faculty, and integrate OneNote with other Microsoft tools to enhance the teaching and learning experience.

The LDOE believes these tools will be invaluable in your journey to create a more interactive and engaging learning environment for your students. Check the Digital Learning website in the upcoming week for more information!

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Student Privacy Laws Support

In our digital age, the protection of student information is paramount. The LDOE is excited to introduce a comprehensive resource designed to guide K-12 educators through the intricacies of student privacy laws. The Student Privacy Laws for Staff resource outlines the key aspects of FERPA, COPPA, CIPA, and other notable privacy laws, providing educators with essential information to navigate the digital landscape responsibly.

This resource is a toolkit for ensuring a safe and secure learning environment in our increasingly connected world. The LDOE encourages all educators to familiarize themselves with these guidelines and integrate them into their daily teaching practices.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

K-5 Free Computer Science Teacher Trainings

The LDOE has partnered with the Capital Area STEM (LASTEM Region 2) Center to offer the Ignite Project, a FREE hybrid K-5 computer science teacher training. This training will be agnostic of a curriculum or specific computer science provider's program. The training will focus on the fundamentals of computational thinking, emphasize interactive project-based learning techniques, and introduce teachers to open-source resources from Code.org, Scratch Jr., Micro:bit, and robotics. For more information or to register visit the Ignite Project's web page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

6-12 Free Virtual Computer Science Praxis Exam Teacher Training

The LDOE has partnered with the Northshore Regional STEM (LASTEM Region 9) Center to offer the Energize Project, a FREE virtual 6-12 computer science praxis exam teacher training. This training will be agnostic of a curriculum or specific computer science provider's program. The training will have four cohorts that start on March 19 and run through May 13. A fifth hybrid cohort will occur in the first week of June on Southeastern Louisiana University's campus. For more information or to register visit the Energize Project's web page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science K-12 Standards Writing Committee

At the December 2023 meeting of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the initiation of the first-ever, Louisiana Student Standards for Computer Science K-12 writing committee. The application to participate is open to all interested Louisiana educators, school system staff, administrators, parents, students in grades 7-12, and community members. Applications are open and will close **Friday, February 5 at 4 p.m. CST**. Selected participants will be notified in April.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact
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