



# Children First!

News & Information from Metro Nashville Public Schools

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**June 13, 2008**

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## **MNPS Organizational Changes**

MNPS and the Tennessee Department of Education announced yesterday a reorganization of some MNPS central office staff and functions. The Department of Teaching and Learning will be transformed into a newly structured Department of Curriculum and Instruction; it will be led by six cabinet-level curriculum specialists who will have oversight of the schools under them.

“This department is filled with great educators who want to help principals and teachers lead more students to success,” said Interim Director Chris Henson. “The state has been able to objectively look at our offices and direct the creation of a new structure that will allow us to better serve our community. Thanks to the leadership and collaboration of our state partners, a new structure is evolving to help all students -- and to ensure our district meets the rigorous No Child Left Behind benchmarks in all measurable areas.”

"The state has been a constructive partner in our effort to improve Metro Schools, and I fully support the decision to reorganize," Nashville Mayor Karl Dean said. "Time is of the essence when it comes to educating our students. The way I see it, a child has one chance to be successful in the third grade or the eighth grade. We need to move forward with changes that will give our students the best education now."

The new Department of Curriculum and Instruction will be aligned into the three grade-set configurations with an Assistant Superintendent and Associate Assistant Superintendent at the helm in each area. The Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Schools will be Greg Patterson, a previous area director for MNPS in the central office. The Assistant Superintendent for Middle Schools will be Sandra Tinnon, who currently directs the Division of Teaching and Learning. The Assistant Superintendent for High Schools will be Jim Briggs, the current director for High School Redesign in MNPS.

These appointments are a first stage in the redesign of the curriculum offices serving educators and families. In coming weeks, the state Department of Education and MNPS Administration will be working with the new Assistant Superintendents to continue reorganizing. Individuals will be assigned to positions based on strengths they bring to schools and their individual areas of expertise. The process is designed to be budget-neutral.

When staff changes are complete, the new organization will be able to respond quickly to needs of schools, and to provide equitable resources and opportunities to students in every school. Assistant Superintendents will also be able to work collaboratively across all grade spans and with the state in implementing more rigorous curriculum while also providing additional educational opportunities for students.

### **Public Meetings on Rezoning**

The Community Task Force on Student Assignment will hold three community meetings to discuss plans to rezone the district.

- Thursday, June 19, at 6 p.m. -- a public meeting will be held in the cafeteria at Fall-Hamilton Enhanced Option, located at 510 Wedgewood Ave.;
- Monday, June 23, at 6 p.m. -- a public meeting will be held in the auditorium at Hillwood High, located at 400 Davidson Road; and
- Thursday, June 26, at 6 p.m. -- a public meeting will be held in the cafeteria at John Early Paideia Magnet School, located at 100 Cass Street.

### **Maplewood Student Wins Chevy Cobalt**

Congratulations to Alaina Cox, a 2008 graduate of Maplewood High, for winning a 2008 Chevy Cobalt in “The Chevy Drive for Perfection” perfect attendance program. Alaina’s perfect attendance made her eligible for the promotion, which is made possible by the Middle Tennessee Chevrolet Dealers and the Tennessee Department of Education.

Schools in 26 midstate counties, including MNPS, participated in the program. All high school seniors in the participating counties who achieve perfect attendance were eligible for a drawing to receive one of five 2008 Chevrolet Cobalts. Students from both public and private schools were eligible to win.

### **MNPS Teachers Headed to Fisk for Nanotechnology Workshop**

Fourteen MNPS science teachers are currently participating in a two-week Nanotechnology workshop at Fisk University. At the workshop, teachers participate in lectures, discussions, experiments and lab tours. Each participant will receive \$1,000 and a certificate, as well as be able to participate in curriculum development that the teachers can then take back to their schools. The workshop is offered through collaboration between Fisk and Northwestern University through the National Center for Learning & Teaching in Nanoscale Science & Engineering.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that MNPS teachers have participated in the Nanotechnology workshops at Fisk. Approximately 600 students at six district schools have participated in nanotechnology module investigations as a result of our teachers’ participation in previous workshops. The schools include Hillwood, East Literature, H.G. Hill Middle, Litton Middle, Hume-Fogg and Hillwood.

The NCLT vision is to build a globally competitive Nanoscale Science & Engineering (NSE) workforce and well-rounded NSE education leaders. The mission of the NCLT is to build national capacity in Nanoscale Science and Engineering Education (NSEE). The primary focus of the NCLT is on “learning and teaching through inquiry and design of nanoscale materials and applications.”

The NCLT professional development for K-12 science teachers is based on both the National Science Standards and current research. The nano-science teaching modules were developed by noted nano-scientists at Northwestern and Purdue universities.

**Hillsboro Students Artwork Selected for Display**

Hillsboro High School students, Trevor Foster, Liz Fuller and Ryan Johnson have had pieces of art selected for the Frist Center's Statewide AP exhibit. After careful review and deliberation a selection committee identified 33 works out of more than 750 submissions. These works will be shown in an exhibit at the Frist Center this fall.