

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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

November 17, 2022

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PRINCIPAL CORNER



"If a child memorizes ten words, the child can read only ten words, but if a child learns the sounds of ten letters, the child will be able to read 350 three sound words, 4320 four sound words and 21,650 five sound words." ~Dr. Martin Kozloff

Greetings from Plantation Park Elementary, better known as PPE, in Bossier City, Louisiana. It is an honor to share with you literacy strategies that have had a significant impact on my students.

After 21 years as an educator, I can truly say that we are currently in a "Reading Revival" as coined by Dr. Brumley. Literacy is the key to unlocking all the doors to success! In the past two years at Plantation Park Elementary, we have seen significant growth in literacy by implementing multi-sensory strategies that are aligned to the science of reading. We are passionate about teaching the children in front of us, not the students the curriculum is written for, as well as equipping staff with the tools necessary to reach ALL CHILDREN! When we say ALL at Plantation Park Elementary, we mean every single student. At PPE, "Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts." When we embarked on this literacy journey, we knew we needed innovative strategies, rooted in the Science of Reading, to ensure all students had equal access to instruction for reading success. With funding from the CLSD grant, provided by LDOE, my teachers were able to attend the LIT ACADEMY hosted by the Center for Literacy Learning and dove in head first identifying ways to include multi-sensory strategies into the classroom! Music and movement were two key components of every phonics lesson. In our quest for knowledge, we learned that by using muscle memory we can bypass cognitive readiness in the brain. This is why our teachers begin their literacy blocks with Heggerty to address and strengthen phonemic awareness and then move into music and movement during the phonics portion of their lesson. The more areas in the brain that fire together, wire together. If you would like to know more about these exciting and

powerful changes, I am always ready and eager to share. Please reach out to me. I have many “secrets” to share about muscle memory and how to bypass cognitive readiness.

Teaching the students in front of us, not the students the curriculum was written for, has become a major emphasis at our school. Collaborative team meetings are dedicated to ensuring our Tier 1 instruction is effective in reaching all students. If any student is not on target, it is all hands on deck to provide additional instruction during intervention time or after school to ensure our students become readers! Our data at the end of the year show tremendous growth in every student group and grade level on our campus. Success story after success story has been shared and spread throughout the campus like wildfire, igniting passions and empowering teachers to continue pressing towards a true Reading Revival. This type of growth has empowered and inspired my teachers to be innovative when choosing strategies that will ensure our students have secured their “key to success.”

As a fellow leader, I want to challenge you to go full throttle for the remainder of this school year to ensure literacy is a focus on your campus. Empower your staff and students to become literacy leaders, and watch what happens at your school!

Tonya Hilburn, Plantation Park Elementary, Bossier City Schools

LDOE CORNER

All Louisiana students will have improved literacy outcomes through high-quality instruction and interactions by an effective teacher supported by leaders and families.



Happy National Family Literacy Month! Families play an essential role in their child’s literacy development at all stages. As leaders, we have an opportunity to share with them ways to engage with their children. The literacy team has developed several resources to help you support the families of your students. Those resources can be found in our [Literacy Library](#) under the [Families](#) pillar.

The [Literacy Library](#) hosts a wide variety of resources for teachers and leaders. The resources are organized by our four literacy pillars:

- [Literacy Goals](#)
- [Instruction, Interventions and Extensions](#)
- [Professional Growth](#)
- [Families](#)

Please take a moment to share these resources with your teachers and instructional team. All resources were created from requests from our educators.

While Louisiana’s literacy rates have shown increases in the past two years, only fifty percent of Louisiana students are reading on grade level. Those increases are a result of our teachers and leaders making the shifts to structured literacy. Let’s keep that momentum going!

The number one question I get when principals are struggling with improving their literacy rates is where to start. Start with core instruction. The instruction should be systematic and explicit and should follow the science of reading. Ensure teachers have a literacy block that allows for time for students to engage with high-quality instructional materials. Then focus on interventions. Small groups should be fluid and based on specific skills, not levels.

Change can be hard and challenging for all involved. We are asking teachers to put away the sight word flashcards, leveled readers, DRAs, and the three-cueing system, just to name a few. Teaching strategies, such as having students look at the picture to determine an unknown word, have been proven to be ineffective strategies. These are all things that some teachers were taught to do, and now we are asking for them to make a fundamental shift in how we teach reading. As leaders, you have the opportunity to support them in making these shifts. Teacher collaboration time is the perfect opportunity to have teachers work through these shifts and improve their literacy practices.

The literacy division is here to support you in improving your literacy outcomes. If you have any questions or would like us to work alongside you in making these shifts, please reach out to us at louisianaliteracy@la.gov.

Shanna Beber, Executive Director of Literacy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Principal Webinar Series

The LDOE hosts a monthly webinar series for current school leaders and principal supervisors on best practices in school leadership aligned to the state's priorities. Each month, the webinar will feature national and Louisiana experts sharing strategies and tools on a specific topic necessary for being effective in the school leader role.

In celebration of November's National Family Literacy Month, November's webinar will highlight effective literacy practices and be led by the Department's Literacy Division.

Webinar Date/Time: November 28, 1-2 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98516144298?pwd=VHoxSlhaNWhFZUNrQWICS05MRHlzZz09>

Meeting ID: 985 1614 4298

Passcode: 125571

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with questions.

Announcing Louisiana's Math Refresh

As part of the [Math Refresh](#), the Department is partnering with [Zearn](#) to provide school accounts to all public schools serving K-8 students. School accounts will be activated in January. Registration is now open for [Launching Zearn Math training](#) which will explore Zearn's acceleration approach to and support teachers in successful implementation. [Registration](#) for this free, two-hour virtual professional learning is now open to all K-8 Louisiana public school teachers whose role includes core math instruction or supporting students with math learning. [Professional learning details](#) and the invitation to register and participate should be shared with all eligible educators.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New Self-Paced Science Professional Learning Resources Available Now

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with implementation of [high-quality science curricula](#), the Department has released new self-paced learning modules. These resources were adapted from professional learning sessions originally delivered at the 2021 and 2022 Teacher Leader Summits and include guidance for using the [Planning Guide to Science Instruction](#) to unpack high-quality science instructional materials.

Modules are designed to fit flexibly in a variety of professional learning formats and may be accessed individually for an “at your own pace” style of professional learning or delivered by science leaders to drive professional learning and facilitate collaborative conversations. [Learning modules](#) focused on the topics below are available now.

- Unit Launch Deep Dive
- Finding and Using Assessment Moments in Science Instruction
- Leveraging Students’ Unique Brilliance and Strengths in Science and Engineering
- Analyzing Student Work to Inform Instruction

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast: New Episode Released

[Teacher Leader Lagniappe](#) offers a little something extra for Louisiana educators. As educators, we are leaders - leaders of our families, classrooms, schools, teams, and systems. Host Em Cooper shares inspiring stories from leaders in Louisiana and across the country. You’ll hear from innovators, change agents, and experts that will empower you to grow in your profession. Educators can subscribe to the [podcast](#) and listen to the latest episode.

[Season 2, Episode 8: Building Relationships with Louisiana’s New Teacher of the Year Jordyn Vicknair](#)

We chat with Louisiana’s very first New Teacher of the Year, Jordyn Vicknair. A graduate of Louisiana State University’s GeauxTeach program, she shares her journey through her first year of teaching, her love of teaching math, and the relationships she grew with her students. The graduates of Louisiana’s 2022 Aspiring Principals Fellowship makes Em Cooper smile this week.

Share Your Stories: Educators can submit [pictures](#) of the great things happening in your school and system for our What’s Making Me Smile segment.

Please contact em.cooper@la.gov with questions.

NOVEMBER IS FAMILY LITERACY MONTH

Celebrate all month long by creatively engaging families in literacy activities and support. The [Literacy Library for Families](#) has Building Literacy Skills at Home activity pages, Literacy Activities for Families that can be done at school or home, and a complete strategic plan for schools and systems to structure family literacy engagement into their school and literacy programs and plans. The activity pages are also translated into the top languages represented in Louisiana schools. Share your activities with us or invite a member of the Literacy team to visit your school to support family literacy by contacting louisianaliteracy@la.gov.

Foundational Skills Lessons for Grades 3-5

The second unit of Foundational Instruction for Reading Excellence (FIRE) lessons for grades 3-5 have been posted in the [Literacy Library](#). FIRE is an instructional resource designed to support teachers in providing students advanced reading foundational skills in grades 3-5. Each unit consists of 40 quick lessons and brief student activities focused on either spelling, grammar, or morphology - skills that are essential for proficient reading and writing. Lessons can be taught concurrently with any ELA knowledge-building curriculum as part of whole-group core instruction. Two units per grade level have been released and the third unit will be released in late fall/early winter.

- Grade 3 Unit 2 - [Teacher's Guide](#) and [Student Activity Book](#)
- Grade 4 Unit 2 - [Teacher's Guide](#) and [Student Activity Book](#)
- Grade 5 Unit 2 - [Teacher's Guide](#) and [Student Activity Book](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

Content Literacy Support for Middle and High School

The Literacy Division has released additional resources to support middle and high school teachers in providing targeted literacy support in all content areas. These documents can be found in the [Literacy Library](#) under Instruction, Intervention, and Extensions. The Content Literacy Support documents provide guidance for teachers in all content areas with ways to naturally incorporate best practices that support content acquisition and literacy skills.

Five new support documents have been added to the growing library of resources:

- [Creating a Claim](#)
- [Direct and Explicit Vocabulary Instruction](#)
- [Reading and Writing for a Purpose](#)
- [Summary Writing to Develop Comprehension](#)
- [Writing Frames](#)

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

RESOURCES

Below you will find quick links to a variety of resources developed by the Louisiana Department of Education.

- Louisiana's Math Refresh
 - [Louisiana Math Resource Library](#)
- New Social Studies Standards information can be accessed below.
 - [2022 K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies](#)
 - [K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies FAQ](#)
 - [K-12 Social Studies Resources page](#)
 - [Grades 9-12 Social Studies Teacher Library](#)

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Computer Science Education Feedback Opportunity

The Department is seeking K-12 teacher feedback on Computer Science. All K-12 teachers are invited to take this brief [survey](#) to help guide and inform the Department's work with Computer Science.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

2022 LACUE Conference

The Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LACUE) 2022 Annual Conference will be held November 29 - December 1 at the Hyatt New Orleans. [Registration](#) is now open and will close **November 19**. At LACUE, teachers learn how to transform classrooms to increase student engagement with the latest learning strategies that integrate technology to affect student achievement, individually or as a class.

Please contact digitallearning@la.gov with questions.

Assessment Development Educator Review Committees

The Division of Assessment Content is preparing to convene educator committees in January–March for the following assessments:

- LEAP Social Studies Grades 3–8 and Civics
- LEAP 2025 Science 3–8
- LEAP Connect

Interested educators can access the [Assessment Content Educator Review Committees document](#) for committee details and links to apply. The deadline to complete the interest surveys is **November 20**.

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

2022 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies Webinar

The Department will continue hosting [webinars](#) this fall to support district leaders, school leaders, and teachers to help prepare for the transition to the 2022 K-12 LSSSS. The information for the upcoming webinar is below.

Join the **High School U.S. History and Civics** webinar to learn about implementation of the 2022 K-12 LSSSS for high school.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** December 8 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/99908161762?pwd=eHRDWDdLaEZpY0dQV2ZGUyV09ndz09>
- **Phone Number:** 312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID #:** 99908161762
- **Passcode:** 967543

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Hazards Mitigation Elective Pilot Course for Students in Grades 9-12

Hazards Mitigation Pilot is an innovative effort to provide curricular resources for high school STEM education that engages students in explorations and applications of measures that humans can use to manage and mitigate hazards connected to weather, geologic phenomenon, and aquatic phenomenon. The University of Louisiana at Monroe's (ULM) development team is composed of researchers and educators with experience in a broad array of disciplines. The Louisiana Department of Education is partnering with the ULM development team to support interested Louisiana educators in conducting a pilot of the materials and providing feedback to inform the design and potential future implementation of high school STEM coursework for Louisiana's teachers and students. The Hazards Mitigation Pilot integrates a series of electronic resources, lab activities, videos, and assessments that involve students in building relevant knowledge and skills within STEM and Earth Science topics. The course will be a one credit elective in the 2023-2024 school year.

The goals of the Hazards Mitigation Pilot are to

- support teachers with best practices and practical tools to authentically immerse students in the exploration of natural hazards, mitigation strategies, and Earth Science;
- increase teacher content knowledge and student understanding; and
- build student proficiency in the analysis and feasibility of mitigation strategies.

Who should apply?

- Pilot teachers should be educators who are comfortable teaching STEM, Environmental Science, and/or Earth Science.

The important logistics for school system leaders are

- professional development will be offered virtually in July 2023 over 1 week; **dates TBA**
- there are no textbooks or fees associated with training or for students taking this course; and
- there are supplies needed for teaching the course and this may be accessed by emailing casehanks@ulm.edu.

Please contact casehanks@ulm.edu with any questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Teacher Leader Advisors Selected

Congratulations to all of the Louisiana educators who have been selected as [2022-2023 Teacher Leader Advisors](#)!

[Teacher Leader Advisors](#) play a critical role in ensuring fellow Louisiana educators have access to high-quality instructional materials and resources. Teacher Leader Advisors support the Department's Instructional Materials Review process, create tools to support educators in curriculum implementation, and develop and lead professional learning for other Louisiana educators.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

Science Collaborative Cohort Selected

The Department is excited to announce the educators who have been selected to participate in the science collaborative. The Science Collaborative is designed to bring together the best minds from both teacher preparation and K-12 to design teaching methods syllabi for elementary and secondary science courses that, in turn, will be available for public use. Congratulations to these outstanding science educators!

- Amanda Brady, Jefferson
- Jessie Church, Natchitoches
- Dr. Bianca Deliberto, Central
- Dr. Nathan Dolenc, University of Louisiana Lafayette
- Dr. Lakiesha Domingue, East Baton Rouge
- Lindsay Duet, University View Academy
- Dr. Aimee Hollander, Nicholls State University
- Dr. Christine Hypolite, Holy Cross
- Dr. Emily Jackson-Osagie, Southern University
- Loren Klein, Lafayette
- Melinda McCleskey, Ascension
- Jaimie McQuarn, Ascension
- Dr. Erica Smith, Tulane University
- Jill Sutton, Lincoln
- Dr. Sandy Watson, University of Louisiana Monroe
- Dr. Susan Zimlich, Southeastern University

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

Nominations for the 2023 Presidential Awards for Mathematics and Science Teaching

[Nominations](#) are now open for the [2023 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#). This award is the highest and most prestigious honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching. This year's cycle will recognize teachers of grades 7-12. Nominations close on **January 9**.

Please contact info@paemst.org with questions.

PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

Do you have a colleague who would benefit from receiving this newsletter? Forward this copy along with [this link](#), and they will receive our next monthly newsletter.

PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION

Take a minute to send a shout-out of appreciation to a colleague who is a building-level leader using this [survey link](#). This note of appreciation will be included in our next monthly newsletter.

Theresa Harlow at DeQuincy Elementary in Calcasieu Parish

"Mrs. Harlow leads with a positive vision for our school. Her love for our students can be seen in all decisions that she makes." *Submitted by Jennifer Frederick*

Rachael Melancon at Park Vista Elementary in St. Landry Parish

"Ms. Melancon does a great job of determining student needs and then getting resources to the teachers to meet those needs." *Submitted by Joseph Joubert*

Alex Melton at David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy in Lafayette Parish

“At the heart of every daily decision, Mr. Melton ensures that his students are socially, emotionally, and educationally supported. In addition to being student centered, Mr. Melton develops, assists, and supports all faculty and staff in order to encourage them to become future leaders in all educational capacities.”

Submitted by Sherri Livesay

Jennett Johnson-Hunter at Minnie Ruffin Elementary in Monroe City Schools

“Principal Hunter strives and motivates us to be team leaders at our school for the success of our students. Her dedication and willingness to bring out the best of her staff and student body is infectious and inspirational.” *Submitted by Nydia Walker-Sims*

Dr. Esrom Pitre at North Central High School in St. Landry Parish

“Dr. Pitre is constantly finding ways to include and collaborate with us as a feeder school. We appreciate the collaboration for the success of the students. Thank you for including us as part of your high school activities!” *Submitted by Kellie Rabalais*

Mia Touchet at St. Louis Catholic High School in Diocese of Lake Charles

“Mia Touchet has been an amazing leader while we have dealt with difficult circumstances from the pandemic to moving to a temporary campus due to Hurricane Laura. She keeps us moving forward even when it feels like everything else is trying to hold us back. Her positive energy and leadership have enabled us to grow in spite of our challenges.” *Submitted by Emily Pettaway*

DATES TO CONSIDER FOR BUILDING-LEVEL LEADERS

Important Dates	
LACUE Registration Deadline	November 19
Assessment Development Educator Review Committee Application Deadline	November 20
Practicing Principal Webinar: Literacy	November 28 at 1 p.m.
High School U.S. History and Civics Webinar	December 8 at 3:30 p.m.
2023 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Nominations Due	January 9