

LOUISIANA PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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

December 16, 2021

In This Issue

- [Principal Corner](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Opportunities](#)
- [Principal Appreciation](#)
- [Principal Newsletter Signup](#)
- [Dates to Consider](#)



Principal Corner

Engaging Walnut Hill Families and the Community

Communicating Walnut Hill Elementary/Middle School's vision, involving parents and community in the educational process, and making data-informed decisions ensures that student learning is a top priority at home and school.

As a school leader, I have learned the essential and valuable role parents and the community play in students' success and the school as a whole. At Walnut Hill, we realize that student success cannot be accomplished single-handedly. The working relationships amongst teachers, parents, and the community are paramount in creating a climate and culture of academic excellence. As the principal of Walnut Hill, I strive to ensure parents and the community are active partners in our school community.

At Walnut Hill, we begin the year by ensuring parents understand the what, the why, and the how concerning students' academic needs. Parents understand where students are academically, what students are expected to achieve, why students are expected to achieve given goals, and how students will meet expectations. This practice enables parents to be familiar with academic expectations and is an integral part of this process. With the parents understanding their role and the school's vision, they ultimately see the importance of being educational partners with the school community.

In working with parents and students, it's always helpful to have additional resources from community partners who have the same interest in helping students excel. We partner with several churches, businesses, and organizations that donate resources, supplies, and their time to support the academic needs of the student and the needs of the whole child. Recent partnerships with David Raines Community Health Center have been developed, enabling students to have access to a school-based health clinic that addresses students' physical health and social-emotional needs. Additionally, donors to United Way continue to give endlessly to education and the community, thus supporting Walnut Hill's efforts to improve student achievement.

Our motto is, "Work for the Best. Accept Only the Best. Be the Very, Very Best. Excellence Is Our Goal!" This motto is not just recited daily, and it is lived by our faculty, staff, students, parents, and community leaders. Our collective efforts towards the common goal of academic excellence for all students remain the strength of our school community. Having all stakeholders, a part of the school, and actively involved truly creates a family environment where families want their children to attend and legacies continue to grow.

"Once a Hornet, Always a Hornet!"

Lynette Hampton

Principal, Walnut Elementary Middle School, Caddo Parish Schools

Announcements

Principal Webinar Series

In January's webinar, the LDOE will focus on building and managing high performing leadership teams.

- Webinar Date/Time: January 31 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- Webinar Link:
<https://doe.zoom.us/j/94171949379?pwd=b3d3SVRHc25zL3RWdzlyNy9Pb3BYQT09>
- Meeting ID: 941 7194 9379
- Passcode: 216254

Please contact louisianaleaders@la.gov with any questions.

New Teacher of Year Award

For years, the Department has been honoring outstanding educators across the state through the Louisiana Teacher and Principal of the Year programs. The LDOE is excited to announce the addition of a new award program: **New** Teacher of the Year. This program will recognize the outstanding contributions of first year classroom teachers. To be eligible for this award, teachers must have less than one year of experience teaching full time at the time the application is due. Please visit the [awards library](#) to learn more about this exciting new award process.

Please contact laurie.carlton@la.gov with any questions.

Teacher and Principal of the Year Applications Due January 12, 2022

State-level Teacher and Principal of the Year (TPOY) applications are due on **January 12, 2022**. All applications and materials may be found in the [resources library](#) on the [Awards page website](#).

To assist with the Teacher and Principal of the Year process, Office Hours will be held on **January 10 and January 12**. On these calls, information will be shared about the timeline/process, as well as steps for using the online portals.

See [here](#) for information regarding the times and dates of these Informational Calls.

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

School Improvement Best Practices

The [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy is designed to support schools in adopting the essential components that drive professional and student growth and will continue during the 2022-2023 school year. LDOE has partnered with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) to develop, implement, and support five [School Improvement Best Practices](#). The five best practices are:

- instructional leadership team support,
- teacher collaboration support,
- teaching standards support,
- principal standards support, and
- career pipeline support.

Educators may use this [link](#) to learn more about the [School Improvement Best Practices](#) strategy training sessions, what's new for Summer 2022, and the requirements for CIR and UIR-A schools. School systems may apply for funds through their Achieve! application or use other funding sources for schools without an intervention label.

School systems should complete this [form](#) to indicate the training they anticipate their schools will participate in. Upon receipt of the form, NIET will connect with the school system contact to begin planning. Completing the form does not commit you to selecting these trainings, but it helps to inform the planning with NIET.

Please contact Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov with questions.

Summer Learning Programs

Summer learning programs require year-round planning. During the months of November through December, school systems can utilize the checklist located in the [Summer Learning Program Guidance](#) to continue planning for their 2022 program. Some of the checklist items include:

- Release SLP dates to educators and families,
- Outreach for preliminary community support,
- Develop and distribute an interest survey for students,
- Develop a distribute an interest survey for staff, and
- Develop a needs assessment with stakeholder input.

In Super App, school systems must provide a summer learning program that includes tutoring for all students at CIR and UIR-A schools next summer.

Questions can be emailed to Markecia.Barthelemy@la.gov.

Events

Teacher Leader Summit 2022

Save the Date

Teacher Leader Summit will take place **May 31 - June 2** at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

2022 Jump Start Convention

Please share with CTE teachers and counselors.

The 2022 Jump Start Convention will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge. [Registration is currently open](#), and will close on **Friday, December 3** or when capacity is reached.

Please contact erica.spencer@la.gov with questions.

Resources

LITERACY

Best Practices in the Classroom

The [Literacy Library](#) is full of ready-to-use resources for teachers and leaders to support and maximize literacy instruction. One resource is the [Literacy Classroom Practices](#) guidance which outlines evidence-based best practices for literacy learning including examples and non-examples of how to implement those practices into your daily classroom instruction. Teachers can use the guidance to effectively implement literacy through their curriculum.

Take some time to explore the resources in the Literacy Library, and please reach out to the Department's Literacy Division with any feedback, suggestions, or requests for other resources. The library is frequently updated with resources and tools for teachers and leaders of all grade levels to support literacy implementation.

Please contact louisianaliteracy@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

ELA Guidebooks 3-5 (2022) Pilot Updates

The Department is excited to announce we have partnered with [The Writing Revolution](#) to incorporate an explicit writing progression utilizing The Hochman Method® in the ELA Guidebooks. The following updated ELA Guidebook units for grades 3-5 have been added to the [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#): Because of Winn-Dixie (3rd grade), The Whipping Boy (4th grade), and The Birchbark House (5th grade).

These units include core and optional activities to support diverse learners and progressive writing strategies to strengthen students' writing skills. The Department will be soliciting teacher feedback on the updated units and the feedback form will be shared in future communications.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebooks 9-12 (2020) Updates

[Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks 9-12 \(2020\) Pilot Overview document](#) has been updated to include the most recent information about the 9-12 units on Louisiana Curriculum Hub.

The Photojournalism unit for grade 9 will be available on [Louisiana Curriculum Hub](#) by January 1. Three new ELA Guidebooks 9-12 units will be released by April: Bioethics (10th grade), Film In America (11th grade), and In the Time of the Butterflies (12th grade).

The Department is also soliciting teacher feedback through [Louisiana ELA Guidebooks 9-12 Feedback Form](#) for the units being implemented this year. Please encourage educators to bookmark this link for use throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Resources for School Librarians

Please share with school librarians.

Please join the LASL [mailing list](#) to receive resources and information on professional development and to celebrate with Louisiana school librarians. Information is also located on the [LASL Website](#), on [Facebook](#), and on [Twitter](#).

Additional Resources

- [LASL Town Hall](#)
- [Free 5 Minute Webinar from LASL](#)

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

New Self-Paced Science Professional Learning Modules Available Now

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with implementation of [high-quality science curricula](#), the Department has released three [self-paced learning modules](#). These resources are designed to fit flexibly in a variety of professional learning formats. Modules may be accessed individually for an “at your own pace” style of PD or delivered by Content Leaders or other science leaders to drive professional learning and facilitate collaborative conversations. Learning modules are focused on the topics below and are available now.

- Science Instructional Model and Planning Guide
- Productive Science Talk and Planning for Discussion
- Leveraging Student Resources in Science

Each module includes a brief description, video, slide deck, and associated handouts.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

STEM Resources from the US Department of Education

The US Department of Education has recently shared two resources that may be useful supporting STEM learning.

- [Data.gov](#) is a database with over 335,221 real-world datasets from a variety of sources updated weekly and connected to free resources to help show how data shapes our lives.
- [STEM Rising](#) from the US Department of Energy features a monthly newsletter, social media connections, virtual learning resources, college workshops, and online career resources.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Computer Science Education Week

[National Computer Science Education Week](#), which occurs December 6-12, is an annual call to inspire K-12 students to engage with computer science in many ways across various course disciplines.

The goal of this week is to spark interest, to celebrate the contributions of many different individuals to the field of computer science, and to help students see the ways to interact with computing. Registration is free and includes events for teachers and school leaders and access to activities and resources for engaging and inspiring students.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

New and Updated Resources for OpenSciEd Middle School Pilot

To assist teachers, schools, and systems with piloting OpenSciEd for middle school, the Department has updated existing resources and released new pacing documents.

These resources include

- [Grade 6](#) and [Grade 7](#) pilot guides updated with pacing guidance for the first three units in each grade;
- [Grade 7](#) and [Grade 8](#) pilot guides updated with links to newly released public units;
- [OpenSciEd Distance Learning](#) guidance updated to include Grade 8 Natural Selection; and
- [OpenSciEd Purchasing and Professional Development](#) updated kit purchasing information for revised units.

Additionally, ten units are now available in the [National Instructional Materials Access Center \(NiMAC\) Inventory](#) with more coming soon.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Social Studies Standards Review Update

Public Comment on a revised set of K-12 Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies gathered from stakeholders throughout the months of October and November will be presented to BESE in December.

A [2021 Draft Louisiana Social Studies Standards Crosswalk](#) and materials from steering committee meetings, including videos of past meetings and content expert workgroup guidance, can be found in the [Standards Review Committee Library](#).

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Acceleration in Math: Self-Paced Professional Learning Modules

The Department is partnering with the Charles A. Dana Center to publish a series of five asynchronous video-based learning modules for teachers and math leaders to support best practices for using acceleration to address unfinished math learning. The first two [Acceleration in Math: Self-Paced Professional Learning Modules](#) are available now, Classroom Strategies to Scaffold Math Learning and Formative Assessment Processes for Acceleration in Math. Each module includes a recorded presentation and accompanying handouts. These resources are designed to fit flexibly in a variety of professional learning formats. Modules may be accessed asynchronously any time for an “at your own pace” style of PD. The materials are designed so that learning can happen collaboratively, such as during common planning, or individually. The final three modules are focused on the topics listed below.

- Critical Mindsets for Math Educators (coming in December)
- Planning to Address Unfinished Learning, Part 1 (coming in January)
- Planning to Address Unfinished Learning, Part 2 (coming in January)

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

ASSISTments Info Session

[ASSISTments](#) is a free formative assessment platform for math. ASSISTments contains a library of content that supports implementation of our most widely implemented open source tier 1 curricula for systems using Google Suites or Canvas. The Department’s partnership with ASSISTments provides an opportunity for teachers to administer Acceleration tools and tutoring exit tickets to students electronically and quickly access data to support acceleration. Content is available and directly connected to Accelerate Math materials for grades 1-8, Algebra I, and Geometry.

[ASSISTments](#) will be hosting an information session for educators who are interested in finding out more about how ASSISTments supports best practices in acceleration in math for both tutoring and core instruction time. The session will be held on January 19 at 4:30 pm. [Registration](#) is now open.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Opportunities

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

The Department is accepting applications from schools and school systems seeking nomination for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (EDGRS) awards, which aims to inspire schools and school systems to strive for 21st century excellence by highlighting promising school sustainability practices and resources that all can employ. Successful applicants will provide a narrative that demonstrates the three EDGRS pillars:

- Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs,
- Improved Health and Wellness, and
- Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education.

Applications should be submitted in Word or PDF format by **January 18**.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions or to submit an application.

STEM Teacher Micro-Credentialing Opportunity for High School Educators

The Department is seeking Louisiana high school teachers who are currently teaching or planning to teach coursework within the Pre-Engineering or Digital Design and Emergent Media high school [STEM Pathways](#) to participate in a study aimed at developing a new mechanism for professional support and a credentialing system for STEM teachers.

In addition to receiving a stipend for participation, teachers selected will receive support for facilitating project-based STEM learning; reflect on practices, evaluate lessons, and use data driven instruction; and engage with collaborative online cohorts with experienced STEM educators.

Interested educators should visit the [research project information page](#) for additional information and complete this [brief survey](#).

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

PAEMST 2022 Awards: Nominations Now Open for Elementary K-6 Teachers

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching.

Anyone — principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public — may [nominate](#) exceptional STEM teachers who are currently teaching grades K-6 for the 2022 award year. Teachers may also [apply directly](#).

The nomination deadline is **January 7**, and the application deadline is **February 6**.

Please contact jam05@bellsouth.net with questions.

Teacher Leader Lagniappe Podcast

[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.

Episode 18 Summary- Bruce Chaffin, Supervisor of Human Resources for the Livingston Parish Public School System and President-Elect for the Louisiana State Association of School Personnel Administrators, shares insights on the role of human resources teams, personnel concerns since the pandemic, and strategies for recruitment and retention. Rapides Parish Schools are highlighted as the recipient of the Model Schools Excellence Award this month for their implementation of the pre-educator pathways.

Episode 19 Summary: Annelise Cassar Tedesco, Louisiana's 2022 State Teacher of the Year, talks about the Performing Arts Academy she co-founded, the Arts Strong series she created, and the innovative work she is implementing with her arts classes. The Livingston Parish Virtual-Hybrid Program is featured during the What's Making Me Smile segment for their hands-on, engaging experiences for students on campus.

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.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Louisiana Coastal Fellowship Announced

The Louisiana Department of Education is pleased to announce the 2021-2022 [Louisiana Coastal Fellows](#). Fellows will engage in rich professional learning with colleagues from schools and systems across the state who are committed to championing environmental literacy for Louisiana's students. Fellows will also contribute to the development of educational resources featuring environmental phenomena and collaboratively design student outdoor learning experiences. Resources will be shared on our website beginning next spring.

Please join us in welcoming and congratulating the Louisiana Coastal Fellows!

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

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.

Shout Outs:

Shannon Foolkes from Sam Houston High School in Calcasieu Parish: "Ms. Foolkes serves as the Summer LEAP Remediation principal at one of our two district sites each summer and has an amazing

rapport with the students. Although many of the students do not attend her school during the regular school session, she goes the extra mile to get to know them and ensure that they have the best experience possible whether in the classroom or during unstructured time.” *Nominated by Dielle Barrentine*

Chad Theunissen from Ralph Wilson Elementary School in Calcasieu Parish: “Thank you Mr. T for going above and beyond to serve not only the students, but also the parents and the whole Ralph Wilson community. And a shout out to your right hand man (even though she’s a lady, lol), Mrs. Bellard!”
Nominate by Mark Arseneault

Tracy Voories from Martin Park Elementary School in Rapides Parish: “Both Ms. Voories and Dr. Jones have been a huge support to me since becoming a new principal. Ms. Voories shares ideas and strategies with myself and my staff to improve student growth in reading. She has also reached out to me to let me know that I can call her anytime with questions. She has made herself and her staff available for support. Dr. Jones is amazing in putting forth PD that truly helps grow our teachers. She, too, has been a great resource to me as a new principal. Her initiatives are rooted in helping our students grow which in turn is proving daily to improve our percentages of students proficient in reading. They are both amazing leaders in our district.” *Nominate by Pamela Walker*

Patrick Fontenot of Barbe Elementary School in Calcasieu Parish: “I appreciate this leader and the leadership he provided while in the first year of his administration. He dealt with his facility receiving major damage after two category four hurricanes, an ice-storm, and a major flood. This school continues to represent one of the top 5a schools in our parish and state. He has strong leadership” *Nominated by Robert Pete*

Melanie Brady and Pam Bell of LeBleu Settlement Elementary and Combre Fondel Northside STEM Academy in Calcasieu Parish: “These two leaders are quite busy at their own schools, one being a high-performing school in our district and the other launching a brand new STEM Academy this year. However, they always find the time to help grow our new leaders in the district with a monthly New Principal Support meeting, mentor opportunities, and constant shared communications. Kudos to these two, and all of the wonderful leaders we have persevering and excelling for our children!” *Nominated by Dr. Jill Portie*

Jeremiah Williams from Parkway High School in Bossier Parish: “Mr. Williams has the gift of motivation. His offices are the hallways and classrooms. He is always walking around motivating our students to perform better, to give their best, and to meet high expectations.” *Nominated by Missy Harper*

Amie Magnon from Grand Isle School in Jefferson Parish: “Being the Master Teacher of a PK-12 school is no easy task during typical school days - but after Hurricane Ida - nothing is typical. In a virtual setting, Amie supports teachers who have questions regarding technology, curriculum, testing, and behavior - sometimes while teaching classes for teachers who are absent and while holding cluster meetings! She is a gem!” *Nominated by Christine Templet*

Robert Primus from White Castle High School in Iberville Parish: “Mr. Primus and his team have created a WCHS App for all stakeholders to keep up with all school related happenings. The app is linked to their social media pages and is a great tool to keep students, parents, and the community as a whole informed.” *Nominated by Louis Voiron*

Karla Russo from Haynes Academy in Jefferson Parish: “Karla Russo leads with compassion, transparency, and a breadth of knowledge that is unparalleled. Under her leadership, teachers are engaged and deeply invested in the school.” *Nominated by Jeremy Lampo*

Tara Glaser from Valverde Elementary School in Pointe Coupee Parish: “I appreciate the hard work that Tara is putting into her school so that her students are safe, secure, and challenged. She is rocking Leader in Me, and her support of accelerating learning through Core Supports is showing in both her teachers and students.” *Nominated by Rebecca Stephenson*

Nicole Gagnard from Marksville Elementary School in Avoyelles Parish: “ Mrs. Gagnard always puts our students first. Her heart is definitely in the community where she reaches out to the families of students to make sure they are included in the decisions we make for our students. Her community outreach is unparalleled. Mrs. Gagnard is the 2020 Avoyelles Parish Principal of the Year and received the 2020 Avoyelles Chamber of Commerce Kindness Always Wins Award.” *Nominated by Cicely Jacob*

Denise Doyle from DeQuincey Middle School in Calcasieu Parish: “Denise Doyle is the model of what leading is. She continuously learns, develops, works with/supports her teachers to grow her students. Mrs. Doyle has served the DeQuincy community for her entire career of 34 years and still counting. She is loyal and loves her parents, students, and stakeholders. She has a way of rolling out new district initiatives without overwhelming her teachers. She creates a worry free atmosphere for teachers and students alike.” *Nominated by Owen Clanton and Vincent Caldwell*

Jose Cobian from F. K. White Middle School in Calcasieu Parish: “Mr. Cobian has embraced the English learners on his campus and provided exceptional support to the students, EL teachers, and families.” *Nominated by Monique Roberts*

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.

Dates to Consider for Building-Level Leaders

Upcoming Events	
Event Title	Zoom Link
Principal Webinar Series	January 31 at 2:00 p.m.
Upcoming Deadlines	
Nominations for PAEMST 2022 Awards	January 7
Teacher and Principal of the Year Applications	January 12
U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Applications	January 18