

TEACHER LEADERS

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.



September 2020



I am Josh Dahlem, and I am excited to share with you how our district has prepared for **hybrid teaching** by bringing teachers together to collaborate in planning. I have worked for DeSoto Public Schools for 13 years. During my time in the classroom, I taught Agriculture at Mansfield and Stanley High Schools covering content ranging from FFA, Public Speaking, Plant/Animal Science, NCCER Welding and C4M. For the last 3 years I have served as the College and Career Readiness Coordinator overseeing a variety of different areas including CTE, district ACT testing and as a Master Trainer for NCCER.

In May, we recognized that our usual summer Career and Technical Education (CTE) professional development would not adequately prepare teachers to reach our students during the planned mix of virtual and hybrid A/B schedules. In order to ensure that our students continued receiving high-quality instruction, regardless of the modality, **we brought in departments to collaborate in developing weekly lesson plans for the first semester in each course. Utilizing the strengths of our staff, teachers concentrated on the courses in their area of expertise.** These weekly lesson plans were shared with their peers to use across the district, which ensured that teachers of those classes had input on lesson structure, pacing, activities, and materials, and they created timelines for students to obtain their credentials by end of the course. By the end of July, the teachers had planned their first semester's lessons for every class they taught.

A month in, our teachers continue to collaborate by making weekly adjustments. Collaboration within CTE programs is not new in our school system, but it became even more vital due to the implementation of Google Classroom. Teachers worked together, as a team, to navigate the new resource and ensure that they continued to provide quality instruction. Teachers continue to regularly check-in and discuss what worked and didn't at their schools and make adjustments for the next week's lessons.

Dr. Darrell Hampton, Director of Student Services, and I check in with teachers regularly through classroom visits, Google Meets, emails and through reviewing their Google Classroom content. This allows us to have a pulse on how instruction is going in the district and help identify any barriers for which we may be able to assist the teachers and students.

I wish you all the best as you embark on this school year that looks like none other. It takes all of us working together to ensure that ALL students in DeSoto Parish and across Louisiana are provided skills and opportunities to transform their dreams into realities in both the hybrid and traditional environment.

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ELA RESOURCES

LDOE's ELA Guidebook Resource Bank

The Department has created a [form](#) to collect ELA Guidebook resources from teachers to share freely across the state. Examples can be uploaded directly into the form. These resources will be compiled by grade-level, vetted, and shared. Please consider sharing examples of the following resources:

- Unit/Lesson Slide Decks,
- Unit/Lesson Planning Document(s),
- Unit/Lesson Scope and Sequence/Pacing Examples, and/or
- Student and/or Parent Facing Resources.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

ELA Guidebook's Strong Start 2020 Updates

[Louisiana's ELA Guidebooks Distance Learning Strong Start: Instructional Materials Guidance](#) can be used to support school systems and teachers as they plan to implement ELA Guidebooks for the 2020-2021 academic year. This document is updated frequently to reflect the most up-to-date guidance and information about newly released resources.

The latest edition includes the following updates:

- Access to ELA Guidebooks grades 3-8 using the Bulk Downloader Tool on Louisiana Curriculum Hub;

- Guidance for adapting ELA Guidebooks for multiple learning scenarios;
- Access to Knowledge Packs, created in partnership with CommonLit, and Independent Reading Protocols to support flexibility during virtual/hybrid learning; and
- Access to ELA Guidebook Parent Guides for each grade level for grades 3-8.

Please contact elaguidebooks@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Illustrative Mathematics Video Lessons Available

The Department— in partnership with Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), Illustrative Math (IM), and SchoolKit —selected 20 of the critical lessons in Grades 6-8 and Algebra I to broadcast on LPB in July. These lessons, along with a few others, are still available for on demand viewing on the SchoolKit website.

To ensure accessibility for students with disabilities, all recorded on-demand videos are available with closed captioning and audio description.

The video lessons are available for on-demand viewing on the SchoolKit website at the links below:

- Grade 6: <http://schoolkitgroup.com/video-grade-6/>
- Grade 7: <http://schoolkitgroup.com/video-grade-7/>
- Grade 8: <http://schoolkitgroup.com/video-grade-8/>
- Algebra: <http://schoolkitgroup.com/video-algebra/>

Video information, including mapping to grade-level standards and links, are available now in the [Illustrative Mathematics Implementation Guides](#) found on the Louisiana Believes Math K-12 Planning Page.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES RESOURCES

Continuous Learning Updates

In an effort to provide standards-aligned content experiences and enable continuous learning in remote learning or hybrid school settings, distance learning packets are being developed for each course in grades 3-8 and US History for units 1, 2, and 3. The packets do not cover the entire content of the unit but instead focus on a key topic. Teachers can use the packets as a cornerstone to build materials for additional content coverage. The materials are designed to be low tech but can be adapted for schools using an online learning platform. The Department will evaluate the need for more distance learning support throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Packets for units 1 and 2 are posted on the [K-12 Social Studies Resources](#) page. For unit 2, the teacher materials and student materials sections of the social studies distance learning packets have been

separated. The teacher materials have been [password protected](#) to help ensure only teachers have access to the answer keys. For more information on distance learning packets.

Unit 3 packets will be released in November. A pre-recorded webinar, [Using the Social Studies Distance Learning Packets](#), has been posted on the Louisiana Believes YouTube channel, under the Distance Learning playlist. This webinar provides guidance and recommendations on how to use the distance learning packets to support social studies instruction.

Please contact classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

OpenSciEd and inquiryHub Distance Learning Guidance

To support school systems and teachers in ensuring continuous student engagement with high-quality science curricula in remote learning or hybrid school settings, the Department continues to release distance learning guidance for implementing OpenSciEd and inquiryHub Biology.

Distance learning plans for each OpenSciEd unit for grades 6-8 contain the following:

- Links to OpenSciEd remote learning resources
- Unit guidance
- Detailed lesson-by-lesson guidance, including activities and slides for virtual classes
- Printable lesson documents to send home with students

These are supporting documents, and teachers are expected to use them in conjunction with OpenSciEd and inquiryHub Biology teacher resources for each unit.

These resources are available on the [Louisiana Believes K-12 Science Planning Page](#) in the Distance Learning Box in the bottom right corner.

Resources available now:

- Grade 6: [Light & Matter](#) and [Contact Forces](#)
- Grade 7: [Thermal Energy](#) and [Weather](#)
- Grade 8: [Plate Tectonics](#)
- inquiryHub Biology [Unit 1 Bend 1](#)
- Updated [release schedule](#)

Guidance for 8th Grade OpenSciEd Unit Natural Hazards and inquiryHub Biology Unit 1 Bend 2 coming soon.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

Louisiana Math and Science Teacher Associations Offering Free Membership

The Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics is offering complimentary memberships to math educators and future math educators, valid until their fall conference in 2021. Visit the [membership page](#) to join. For all current members, membership has been extended until the Fall 2021 Conference.

Please contact LATM Membership Chair Beth Smith at bethsmith1124@gmail.com with questions

Also, the Louisiana Science Teachers Association is offering complimentary membership to science educators effective now until February 28, 2021. Teachers who want to take advantage of this opportunity should [fill out the online form](#) to register for complimentary membership.

Please contact LSTA Membership Chair Chris Campbell at ctc@latech.edu with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Department Names 2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year State-Level Winners

Last week, the Department — in partnership with [Dream Teachers](#) — celebrated the 2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year state-level honorees and Milken Educator Award recipients at the 14th Annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala, which was held virtually this year. On this evening, the Teacher and Principal of the Year division-level and statewide winners were also named.

View the [2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year honorees and state-level winners](#). Congratulations to these outstanding educators!

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams Contact	collegereadiness@la.gov
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