

An exclusive interview
Arne Duncan, U.S.
Secretary of Education

Education Nation
With Steve Capus,
President of NBC News

Prepare for fall
Keep kids sharp
over the summer!

**MEDIA
PLANET**

June 2011

EDUCATION IN AMERICA



TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

John Legend fights for educational equality
through his Show Me Campaign

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music shout wall games albums
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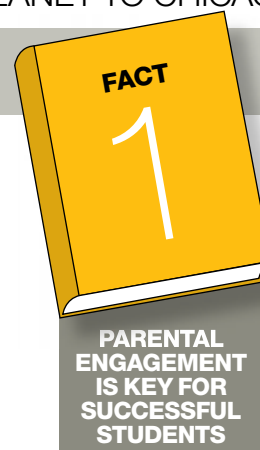


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CHALLENGES

As many as a **quarter of American students aren't finishing high school.** This is unacceptable and we should be held accountable for these statistics and for turning them around.



Enough is enough

We are at a pivotal point in our nation and education

is at the core of it. News networks are covering education issues more and more; Congress is taking the first steps toward the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); and the education reform conversation is growing nationwide.

What does all this mean? Our nation's children need you to take action now more than ever.

Did you know that as many as a quarter of American students aren't finishing high school? Or that America has fallen to 9th in the proportion of young people with a college degree? American students rank 25th in Math and 21st in Science, all according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

All of this is unacceptable and we should all be held accountable for these statistics and turning them around.

What can you do? Join me and the millions of PTA members across the country as we champion for children

from the playground to Capitol Hill.

- Join your local PTA or the National PTA.
- Volunteer at a PTA event.
- Sign up for PTA Takes Action Network to receive newsletters and alerts to engage your elected officials on issues vital to children.

PTA members know all too well how to roll up our sleeves to take action and create real change. For more than a century we helped spur new improvements in the lives of our children. We were instrumental in passing child labor laws, defeating polio, desegregating schools and establishing a juvenile justice system.

Moving in the right direction

In late 2010 we helped pass the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which will provide \$4.5 billion in new funding to improve school nutrition.

In February we released parent guides on the Common Core State Standards that will empower parents to work with state and district leaders to ensure that the Standards are implemented effectively in schools across the country.

In May we worked with Congress to introduce the Family Engagement in Education Act in both the Senate and House (S.941/H.R.1821) which would



Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor
National PTA President



"Remember, we all have a responsibility, not just as parents, guardians or family members, but as citizens, to fight for the best possible education for our kids."

strengthen family engagement in the reauthorization of ESEA by providing schools with the tools and resources to partner with families to raise student achievement.

We're currently fighting to restore funding for the Parental Information Resource Centers (PIRC) program, the only federal funding stream dedicated to family engagement in education, which positively affects 16 million parents and families—more than 75 percent of whom are low income.

No time for rest

As you might see, there is no time for rest. So we're proud to introduce another Mediaplanet education supplement with inspiring stories, the latest information on technology in the classroom and new teaching methods. But your focus on education should not stop after reading this supplement.

Remember, we all have a responsibility, not just as parents, guardians or family members, but as citizens, to fight for the best possible education for our kids. We cannot do it alone. Join us in our commitment to America's children and the future of our country.

CHARLES J. "CHUCK" SAYLORS

editorial@mediaplanet.com



WE RECOMMEND



PAGE 10

Arne Duncan
U.S. Secretary of Education answers our questions about public schools, progressive classrooms and teacher retention.

MEDIA PLANET

EDUCATION IN AMERICA,
1ST EDITION, JUNE 2011

Publisher: Jessica Stanek
jessica.stanek@mediaplanet.com
Business Developer: Brandon Hale
brandon.hale@mediaplanet.com
Designer: Mariel Fitzgerald
mariel.fitzgerald@mediaplanet.com
Managing Director:
Geraldine Delacuesta
geraldine.delacuesta@mediaplanet.com
Editorial Manager: Jackie McDermott
jackie.mcdermott@mediaplanet.com

Contributors: Parry Aftab; Alan Anderson; Steve Capus; Arne Duncan; Steve Etheridge; Cathy Gorn, Ph.D.; John Legend; James W. Loewen; Dr. Nichole Pinkard; Ami Schleining; Sharon Wysoglad

Distributed within:
Chicago Sun-Times, June 2011
This section was created by Mediaplanet and did not involve the Chicago Sun-Times or its Editorial Departments.



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This is what collaboration looks like.

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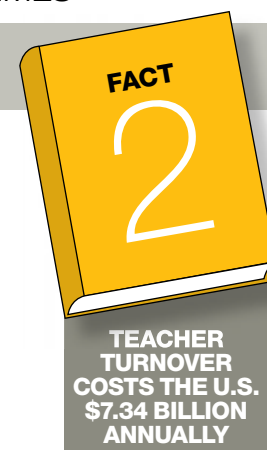
In states like Illinois, teachers have partnered with parents, administrators, lawmakers, and community advocates to pass landmark legislation that will bring real, sustainable change to our schools. Teachers who are working hard to transform schools need all of us engaged too. When we come together on behalf of kids, everybody wins.



INSPIRATION

Question: What can be done to repair a flawed, disparate education system?

Answer: Embrace proven solutions and implement them through all of our schools so that all children receive a quality education.



John Legend's mission for equality

LEADER TO LEADER

From the intimacy and raw power of his performances, it's easy to assume John Legend's most important work takes place on the stage.

But the nine-time Grammy winner is a tireless defender of those from challenging backgrounds, advocating for solutions which break the poverty cycle through his non-profit organization, the Show Me Campaign.

A voice for the voiceless

Already sitting on the boards of Teach For America, The Education Equality Project, and the Harlem Village Academies, Legend fights for education equality by spreading his message in visits to classrooms, influencers and media

across the country.

"Many of our schools are literally and figuratively crumbling, and we're not giving kids, especially low-income and minority kids, the chance to succeed," says Legend. "It's currently the reality that where a child is born, what color that child is, and/or how much money that child's parents make determines the quality of his or her education and life prospects. That's not just, that's not fair, that's not right."

"But it's happening," he adds.

The numbers of oppression

Staggering statistics reflect the reality of these statements, with 86 percent of Latino and 86 percent of Black middle and high school students reading below grade level, as well as 50 percent of students from low-income communities failing to graduate high school. Further



"These beautiful minds, trapped inside, bring them back to life. Let them shine."

PHOTO: NABIL ELDERKIN

exacerbating the problem, 20 percent of teachers in urban districts quit every year, while nationally 46 percent of teachers quit before their fifth year, a turnover that costs the United States \$7.34 billion annually.

Yet remaining optimistic, Legend gives reason for hope.

An opportune future

"We are seeing proof at all levels that when students from low-income communities have great teachers and go to great schools, they are able to achieve what was thought to be impossible," contends Legend.

He points to schools like New York's Harlem Village Academies, whose students, upon entry, are among the lowest achievers in the country, and yet three years later boast unanimous success rates in multiple subjects and a number-

one math ranking in the state. Chicago's own Urban Prep Academy, an all-male, all-Black public high school, has graduated 100 percent of its students into colleges for the second year in a row, despite only four percent of students reading at grade level upon entry.

Legend shows no sign of stopping his battle for equal educational opportunities, and one can bet that he'll continue to use his music as an instrument of social consciousness. As he sings with The Roots on his most recent album, *Wake Up!*: "These beautiful minds, trapped inside, bring them back to life. Let them shine."

STEVE ETHERIDGE

editorial@mediaplanet.com

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INSPIRATION



NEWS



NEWS IN BRIEF

826CHI takes the boring out of learning

America's teachers are stretched pretty thin, but 826CHI, a non-profit creative writing tutoring center in Wicker Park, is doing its part to lend a hand.

A noble mission

Part of an eight-city network of tutoring centers nationwide, 826CHI provides drop-in tutoring, writing workshops, class fieldtrips, and in-school programs for students ages six through 18, all free of charge. The one-on-one attention students receive takes their learning to a new level, giving an extra boost teachers are unable to facilitate in overcrowded classrooms.

"We know that resources are being cut right and left, so we try to provide extra assistance with what the teachers are already doing," says Patrick Shaffner, outreach director of 826CHI.

Boring in name only

Before infiltrating the tutoring space, students (or agents) must pass through the Boring Store, Chicago's only secret agent supply shop. From there students participate in project-based learning, occasionally embarking on extra special assignments.

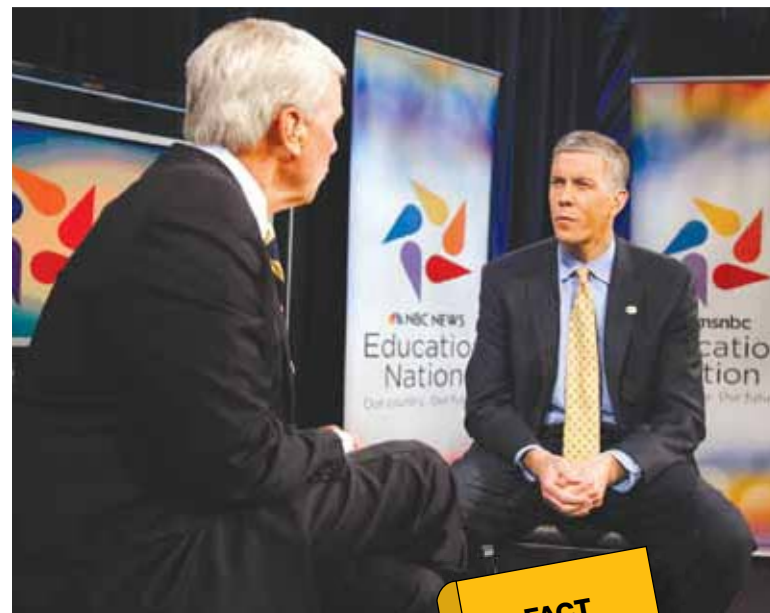
On May 11th, two lucky high schoolers were guests of President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House. They participated in a poetry workshop with some of the most heralded names in the arts, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and giving their work a sense of utmost importance.

STEVE ETHERIDGE

editorial@mediaplanet.com



EDUCATION NATION
LEFT: A Chicago-area student pieces together magnetic words about education in the "Education Nation Experience" exhibit. PHOTO: NBC NEWS
RIGHT: Tom Brokaw delivers opening remarks to kick off the 2010 "Education Nation" Summit. PHOTO: NBC NEWS



Question: How do you start a national conversation about improving education?

Answer: Take to the road and the airwaves with the issues that really matter, says Steve Capus, president of NBC News.

STARTING A NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON EDUCATION



In September 2010, the NBC News networks held a weeklong programming initiative called "Education Nation" to explore the state of the American education system.

Assembling parents, educators, government representatives, thought leaders, and businesspeople together in constructive dialogue, it put a spotlight on some of the tougher realities facing our children and schools.

Showing accountability

"Education is an area where—let's face it—there has not been as much attention as there might be on other subjects by the national media," says Steve Capus, president of NBC News. "But we were very happy to step into that void."

Motivated by the momentum



Steve Capus
President, NBC News



"Education is an area where—let's face it—there has not been as much attention as there might be on other subjects by the national media."

generated in the fall, NBC News is continuing "Education Nation" with greater urgency in 2011, bringing a touring exhibit to major cities around the country to spark conversation and awareness about the future of America's schools.

Voices of change

The tour stopped in Chicago at the beginning of May, with an "Education Nation Experience" installation open to the public at the NBC 5 Studio Plaza. The tour brought a Teacher Town Hall forum and a moderated panel discussion, featuring luminaries of Chicago education, local business leaders, and an ambitious pledge for change from Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Remaining solutions-focused has been the goal of "Education Nation," which means not just celebrating successes in our schools but taking lessons from those successes and

using them to innovate and find solutions to shortcomings.

Continuing the efforts

The Education Nation tour will culminate later this year with a summit in New York City, where authorities all across the spectrum of education will propose courses of action for mending our schools and ensuring a bright future for our students. With education affecting the majority of the American population, this is a welcome act of accountability from the media.

"There's a responsibility to commit to a kind of journalism that really matters," says Capus. "This is going to be something for which this news division stands for a long time to come."

STEVE ETHERIDGE

editorial@mediaplanet.com



Stand for Children and Advance Illinois initiated a bold effort that, thanks to the collaboration of Illinois teachers' unions, school management organizations, community stakeholders, and strong legislative leadership, saw the overwhelming passage of historic legislation that will improve classroom teaching across the state and enable Mayor Emanuel to substantially lengthen the school day and year in Chicago.

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NEWS

The 21st century classroom

As new technologies manifest themselves in classrooms, students will receive unprecedented educational opportunities.

Studies show that more than two-thirds of American high-school graduates are insufficiently equipped for first-year college courses. This can be partly attributed to the unified pace of learning in our classrooms, where whether or not a student fully comprehends a particular concept, a class's lessons must move onward to complete the curriculum.

Addressing the problems

In many ways, the classroom of the 21st century is transforming to address this problem, with bright new technologies shifting paradigms in how we instruct our youth. A myriad of interactive software now enables an unprecedented capacity for collaboration and individualized learning, putting students' minds and abilities up to speed with the world around them.

The Khan Academy, for instance, offers self-paced educational soft-

ware and videos that are used by more than a million people per month. When implemented in classrooms, the software closely tracks the progress of individual students and identifies who needs help and how it can be provided. This closes gaps in learning and creates real-time strategies for assisting every student towards excellence.

What to expect

A recent report by the New Media Consortium identified a number of technological trends that will have a profound effect on education in the near future. Cloud computing, which allows students to access and collaborate on materials over the Web, can take lessons well beyond the walls of the classroom. Even if a student's home with a sore throat, he can participate in the same activities as his classmates through this emerging technology.

Additionally, within the next five years we can expect the blossoming of learning analytics technologies, much like those already implemented by Khan Academy, that monitor student performance and respond to shortcomings with



COLLABORATION. Interactive software now enables an unprecedented capacity for collaboration and individualized learning, putting students' minds and abilities up to speed with the world around them.

PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

improved methods of instruction. This holds exciting implications for at-risk and special needs students who need more discerning attention.

And, of course, with the advent of the iPad, tablets are likely to assume

a more prominent role in the classroom, serving as superior alternatives to textbooks and providing diverse learning opportunities through various educational apps.

A new literacy

Though many of these developments represent uncharted waters in the classroom, students are greatly benefitted just for the chance to experience them. By becoming familiar with these technologies and fluent in the creative problem-solving they facilitate, students will be better prepared for the global marketplace in which they'll one day compete.

"Technology is drastically transforming what it means to be literate," says Dr. Nichole Pinkard, founder of the Digital Youth Network, a digital literacy program that works in and out of Chicago schools to give students innovative learning opportunities. "When today's third graders graduate from college, we can make a bet that being able to produce digital artifacts will be an essential literacy."

As the present lays the groundwork for the future, our students should learn at the forefront of innovation so as not to get stuck in the past.

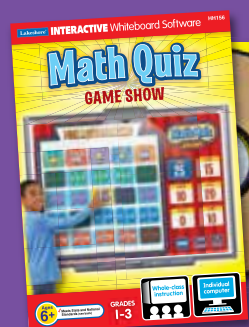
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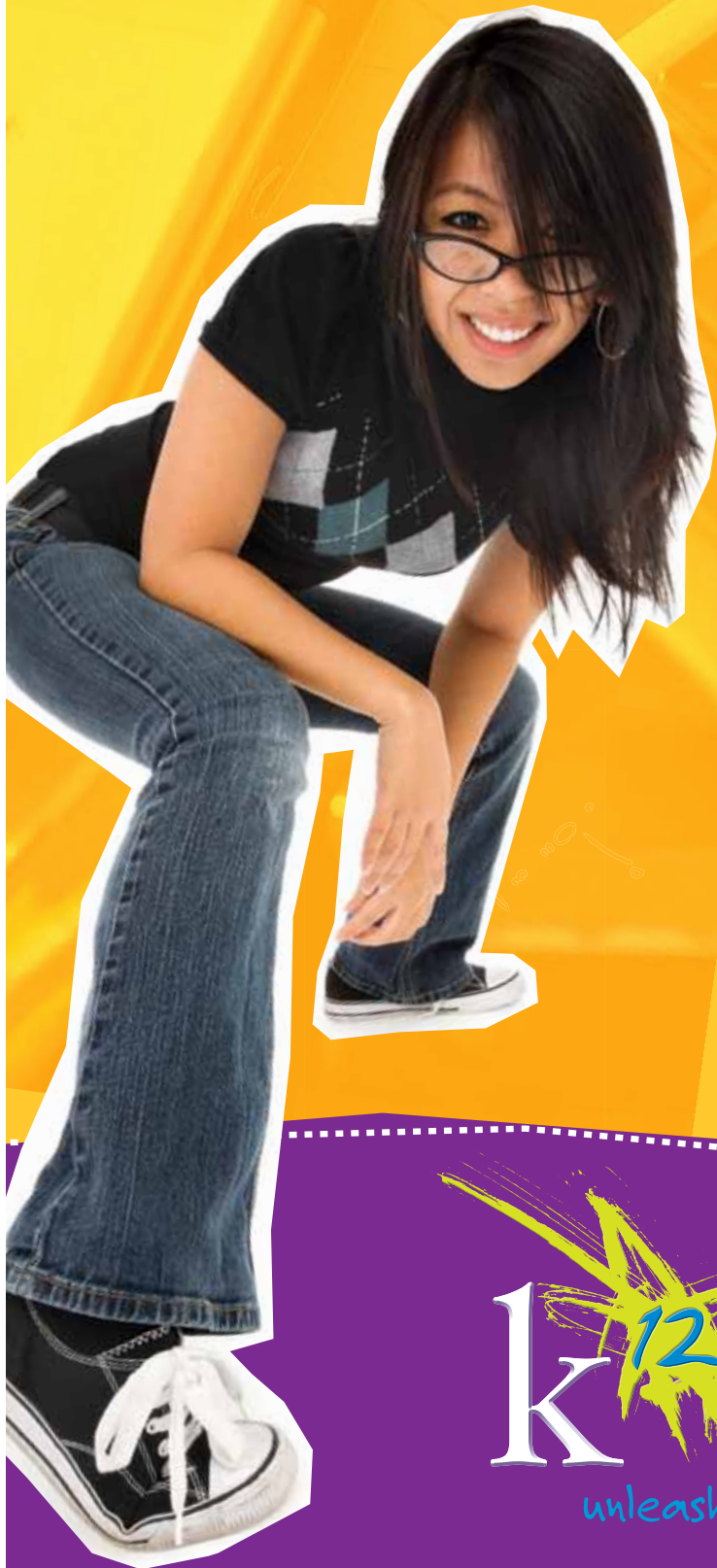
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INSIGHT



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Charter schools have been on the rise for some time but face strong opposition from unions and critics. How can we reduce the existing “them vs. us” mentality and foster a less monopolistic educational system that is hospitable to varied approaches?

I believe we need more great public schools in America. It doesn't matter if they are charter schools or neighborhood schools. We need to invest in schools that give students the world-class education they deserve. Across the country, we are seeing people come together to create policies with the goal of improving student achievement. This quiet revolution will create new labor-management collaboration and a dynamic system of schools that support student success.

Authorities like Sir Ken Robinson argue against the existing “one size fits all” educational culture and seek to renovate the current system to be more individualized and innovative. What boundaries stand in the way of changing what many would say is an antiquated education system, and what's a practical, effective approach to making our schools more progressive?

In many ways, our nation's schools are still built on a 20th century model. The classrooms of today look eerily similar to those of 50 years ago. But one thing that hasn't changed is that the talent of the teachers in the classroom matters tremendously. The best instruction happens when a caring, skilled instructor uses every resource at his or her disposal to help students learn. Creative and resourceful



Arne Duncan
U.S. Secretary
of Education

teachers know how to make lessons come alive for students and reach them individually. Technology is one tool that's underutilized in America's classrooms. It has the potential to fundamentally change the learning process so it's more engaging and tailored to students' needs and interests. But software, online instruction and technology never will replace teachers who know how to meet the individual needs of students.

Critics argue that there's a dearth of accountability in how our teachers are evaluated and managed, and yet at the same time it's difficult to measure the success of teachers without taking into account a multitude of factors. What's a dignified approach to making sure our students are being served by effective teachers, and how, going forth, can we attract and retain world-class educators?

Teacher evaluation systems are fundamentally broken. We need to create new evaluation systems that recognize the great teachers and identify those who need help to improve. These systems will be based on multiple measures that incorporate student academic growth in a thoughtful and balanced way. With new evaluation systems—and compensation systems that reward teachers for success—we will be able to strengthen the foundation of a world class education system where educators are recognized for success and challenged to improve.

Question: How can parents make sure their child is safe online?

Answer: By being aware of the child's online activities and making use of the right resources.

An education in staying safe online

As a parent, one might see a child's home life and school life as mostly separate, but social technologies have brought the two realities closer than ever before.

Out of American students ages eight to 18, 66 percent own cell phones and 93 percent have access to a home computer. These allow students more elusiveness when it comes to adult monitoring, and the consequences are often unhealthy.

Digital danger

A recent report by the American Academy of Pediatrics acknowledges that a child's Internet interactions can be hazardous to physical and mental health, with the growing threat of cyberbullying proving especially deleterious.

Parry Aftab, executive director of WiredSafety, the world's largest Internet safety resource, defines cyberbullying as “the use of digital techniques as a weapon to hurt, embarrass, or intimidate someone else.” Anywhere from 33 to 50 percent of youths have experienced its sting, leading in many cases to depression, anxiety, and deterioration of academic performance. And cyberbullying victims are nearly twice as likely to attempt suicide, a dire reality that has made headlines time and time again.

An unfamiliar challenge

Cyberbullying represents a new

challenge to parents, as reaching out from personal experience is rarely an option. But the basic principals of human kindness and decency shouldn't vary between the Web and the real world, and parents shouldn't be daunted.

There is an evident need for parents to further understand their children's online behavior, something that studies suggest is strongly lacking.

Out of the 20 million minors registered on Facebook, 7.5 million are under 13, the minimum age required to start an account. Parents of these children should direct them towards more child-friendly social networking sites like Kidswirl, Togetherville, or Imbee, or at least consider installing monitoring software, such as MouseMail, which filters messages for potentially dangerous content. Facebook also has a Family Safety Center that offers parents and teachers tools for ensuring a safer social networking experience.

“Social media is for people who have similar interests, and you just shouldn't have an 11-year-old using the same site where the majority of users are 28 to 45,” says Alan Anderson, president and CEO of Imbee.

Knowing how to react

Furthermore, laying out guidelines for what to do in instances of cyberbullying can make a vital difference in harmful situations. First and foremost, “don't react to the initial provocation,” says Aftab. It's easier

to be reactionary on the Web, where the risk of consequence isn't as palpable. But it's smarter just to log off and walk away for a little while.

Second, Aftab says, students should block the bully or the message. Unlike in-person confrontations, avoiding conflict is as easy as a click of the mouse.

Third, says Aftab, students should alert a trusted adult to the situation, who should save the message in case the problem escalates. Parents also need to recognize that their child, even if they're shy or timid, can be just as likely to be a bully as anyone else from the quiet comfort of home. A 2009 Common Sense Media report found that 37 percent of students admitted to making fun of a peer online, while only 18 percent of parents thought their child would participate in such behavior.

Parents in Illinois can take some comfort knowing that the schools are adapting curriculums to meet these new needs. The state Board of Education and General Assembly now requires public schools to commit time annually to instructing third through 12th graders on responsible Internet use. While not as comprehensive as other states' requirements when coupled with a parent's reasonable balance of caution and trust, our students should be in good hands.

FACT

4

37 PERCENT
OF STUDENTS
ADMITTED TO
MAKING FUN OF
A PEER ONLINE

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editorial@mediaplanet.com

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NEWS



DON'T MISS!

The shift to interactive whiteboards

Gone are the days of Bart Simpson-style chalkboard penitence, as interactive whiteboards, which now occupy 36 percent of U.S. classrooms, offer an experience that is far from punitive.

Quicker, better learning

The whiteboards, which basically amount to huge interactive computer screens, promote a collaborative learning environment that engages students both visually and kinesthetically. The benefits are more than worthwhile, as they increase student retention by 38 percent and decrease time spent explaining complicated subjects by up to 40 percent.

"Learning grammar can be rather tedious, but the students really get into the lesson when they have the opportunity to use the smartboard to analyze a sen-

tence," says Ami Schleining, a teacher at Still Middle School, in Aurora. Her endorsement echoes many of her satisfied peers worldwide who have used the technology to elevate their lesson plans.

The new standard

The interactive whiteboard industry is rapidly growing, with sales well over \$1 billion, much thanks to the low technology costs and consistent innovations. SMART, the company that pioneered the technology more than two decades ago, recently installed their two millionth unit, signifying that interactive whiteboards are well on their way to ubiquity.

STEVE ETHERIDGE

editorial@mediaplanet.com

Professional development gives teachers an edge

Staying on top of current teaching methods is necessary in order to give students the best possible education.

Research shows that very effective teachers can fit a year and half's worth of learning into a single year, while ineffective teachers might only fit half a year's worth of learning in the same amount of time with the same students.

Worth the commitment

To encourage the former and steer clear of the latter, it is necessary to invest in the success of our teachers through professional development programs. Time and again teachers have seen dramatic improvements in students' learning thanks to supplementary research-based instruction, as the evolving needs of students require versatile, updated pedagogical approaches.

Staying relevant

"The profession of teaching has become more results oriented and



EDUCATIONAL WORLD. Invest in the success of our teachers through professional development programs.

PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

complex through the years," says Sharon Wysoglad, executive director of advanced programs and professional development at the University of St. Francis. "No longer is teaching just enough; instead, the shift to student mastery of content and skills is driving the educational world."

Being relevant and empower-

ing to today's students takes more than intuition. Students' needs are diverse and perpetually changing, and it is critical that teachers foster a stimulating classroom environment that prepares them to innovate, compete, and thrive.

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NEWS



SUMMER SPELLS SUCCESS!

What parents can do to keep kids sharp over the summer

Locate a summer program that fits your budget

➔ Programs offered by schools, recreation centers, universities, and community-based organizations often have an educational or enrichment focus.

Head to the library

➔ It's a great, free resource. Check out books that interest your child. Participate in free library summer programs and make time to read every day.

Take advantage of local amenities

➔ Take free or low-cost educational trips to parks, museums, zoos and nature centers.

Do a community service project

➔ Teach your child how to volunteer in your community. Cleaning up a local park or collecting supplies for an animal shelter builds compassion for others as well as community pride.

Explore and learn

➔ If you are taking a day trip by car, choose a place with an educational theme. Camping is a low-cost way to get outside and learn about nature.

Give math meaning

➔ Measure items around the house or yard. Track daily temperature. Add and subtract at the grocery store. Learn fractions while cooking.

Prepare for fall

➔ Find out what your child will be learning during the next school year by talking with teachers at that grade level. Many schools prepare summer packets of activities highlighting math and reading skills for the next grade level. Preview concepts and materials over the summer. Find out more at www.summer-learning.org.

NATIONAL SUMMER
LEARNING ASSOCIATION

Though it is losing support, history education does far more than teach kids dates and facts.

Learning history makes for well-rounded students

While history education is not, well, history in American schools, it's certainly not receiving as robust of support as in years past.

The Teaching American History grant program, which last year received \$119 million in funding to bolster history programs, sustained a 61 percent budget cut in the recently enacted fiscal year 2011 budget. Recently, House Republicans voted to eliminate the program altogether in a bold effort to tame spending and rewrite No Child Left Behind.

Yet national achievement in history is in decline for high school students, and this trend won't reverse itself. As it's not one of the core competencies of standardized testing, it receives less attention than subjects that hone competitive skills that play into college admission.

Readying for the future

But a recent study shows that students receiving a strong history education do better on math, reading, writing, and science exams. James



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

W. Loewen, best-selling author of "Teaching What Really Happened: How to Avoid the Tyranny of Textbooks and Get Students Excited About Doing History," asserts that history education is crucial to a better future.

"The job of an American is to bring about the America of the future. That requires that we be able to speak rationally, to think about evidence and causality, to sift fact from fiction," he says.

Setting a new pace

Loewen argues that schools need to move away from textbooks and teach actual history, which is alive and vibrant. National History Day, in which over half a million students participate annually, seeks to do just that. The program invites students to compile original research and present the findings as part of a national competition, which this year will be held from June 12-16.

National History Day not only boasts high participation but empirical results as well. Students who participate outperform their peers on standardized tests in multiple topics, particularly Black and Hispanic participants, who outscore their peers two to one. Though a once-a-year happening, the program is an encouraging indicator of what's possible through stronger dedication to history education.

STEVE ETHERIDGE

editorial@mediaplanet.com



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DON'T MISS!

■ The Chicago Public Library is stepping up with their annual Summer Reading Program, which kicks off on June 13 and runs through August 6. Last year more than 50,000 kids took part and read 1.2 million books in the eight week program. Each year they work with a different cultural partner to highlight a specific topic, and this year it is all about music with partners including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, Grant Park Music Festival in Millennium Park and Ravinia. You can find more information at chipublib.org/eventsprog

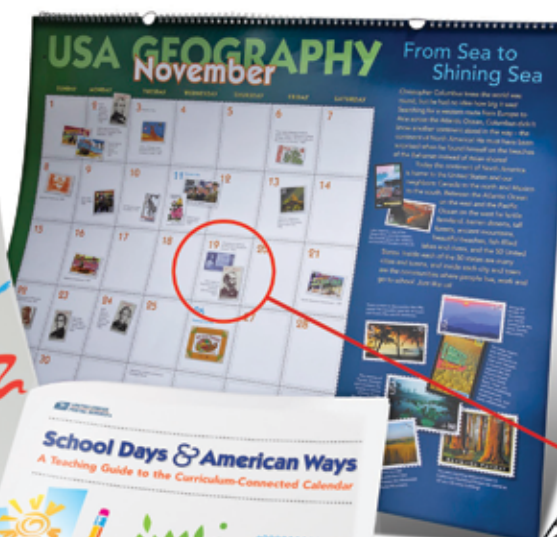
Teaching with Stamps

In more than a century and a half, the Postal Service has issued stamps that reflect subjects of current national interest and appeal, culminating in an extraordinary collection of artwork and commentary reflecting the tone of the times in America's history.

Woven into an elementary grade Social Studies curriculum, stamps serve as primary sources for teaching about our country and our culture.



The USPS Community Connection program brings America's history into the classroom in *School Days & American Ways*, a curriculum-connected calendar filled with information and imagery about our country. Each 26"x20" calendar page is crafted around a monthly theme that corresponds with early elementary Social Studies curriculum standards. A 24-page companion Teaching Guide offers coordinated lesson plans for each monthly theme, with valuable cross-curricular learning activities.



Lessons in heritage, history, geography, science and the arts are demonstrated through monthly themes and selected stamps that are distributed across each calendar page.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Learn more about *School Days & American Ways* at USPSConnection.com, where you'll find a wealth of online teacher resources, fresh and engaging monthly lesson plans, weekly reviews of important dates in our history, tips for field trips, monthly articles on new stamp subjects, and much more.

Calendar and Teaching Guide are available for \$12, plus \$2.77 shipping and handling. For ordering information, please go to uspsconnection.com/school-days/ or call 1 800 STAMP-24 and reference item #981177.



"Mr. Black is a really dedicated teacher—he treated me like his son, he really went above and beyond. ... Now I know I can accomplish my hopes and dreams."

—CHRISTIAN JOHNSON,
former student of music teacher, Lee Black,
Hughes Center High School, Cincinnati

"She not only helped me to find a suitable university but also helped me figure out my life financially. ... I feel lucky to have the guidance of Ms. Evanoff, my role model."

—ASHLEY DELGADO,
former student of French teacher, Hope Evanoff,
Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School, Providence

"When I was off track, Mr. Romero would notice and keep me up with my work. ... It made me feel good to know there was someone out there who supported me and has been there."

—YVETTE FLORES,
former student of math teacher, Juan Romero,
John Hancock High School, Chicago



Stephanie DeBellis,
Albuquerque teacher

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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These teachers, like so many of their colleagues, make a difference every day in their students' lives and within their communities. They know what it takes to brighten America's future.

Why, then, are so many politicians throughout this country attempting to take away their voice? Without his freedom to act as a professional, Mr. Black couldn't have helped Christian.

We should listen to our teachers.

Like Mr. Black, Ms. Evanoff and Mr. Romero also help students reach their dreams. Teachers do this every day in every public school. But they can't do it alone, they can't do it without resources, and they can't do it if they fear speaking out.

Teachers need **your** help. Tell your school boards, superintendents and state legislators that for our children's sake, our teachers need to be supported, their work respected and valued, and their viewpoints heard.