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Directors Notes

Tom Conlon, MREC Director

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Standards Based Education Series – One hundred eighty educators, one hundred fifty from MREC schools, have registered for this series and we have a waiting list of ten more educators. This dynamic series of five – two day sessions presented throughout the year promises to help organize schools so that in every classroom, we are truly teaching to the standards, using research based teaching strategies, and assessing students in a meaningful manner.

[Read More...](#)

MREC Annual Meeting and Administrators Meeting and Orientation – Our MREC Annual Meeting is scheduled for 5:30 PM Wednesday, September 14, at the Energy Center on the BSC campus with a meal served at 5:00 PM. The first Administrators Meeting of the year will precede the Annual Meeting and begin at 2:00 PM. We encourage each of our member schools to ask their school board representative and their administrator to attend this annual meeting. We will also conduct a MREC Orientation Meeting for new school board representatives and new administrators at 4:45 PM. Our secretary will be contacting our member schools the week of August 8, to update our MREC list of the school board representatives for each of our member schools. [Read More...](#)

Coordinators

Notes:



Lyle Krueger,

MREC Coordinator

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Although the summer months are usually some slower times in the education profession, the MREC and its School Improvement/Professional Development committee has been doing some planning for the upcoming 2011-2012 School Year.

Beginning Teacher Support Network—The MREC, in collaboration with the ESPB Mentoring Program, has established a new professional development program for 1st and 2nd year teachers. The program is grant funded through ESPB, resulting in no cost to the teacher or your district/school. [Read More...](#)

PD 360—School Improvement Network—The MREC has worked out an innovative agreement with PD360-School Improvement Network to purchase a “site license” for our consortium allowing 32 individual licenses to be dispensed to MREC member administrators.

PD360 is a suite of online educational professional development videos of over 1500 videos including topics ranging from Classroom Management, Differentiated Instruction, Instructional Delivery, Principals as Learning Leaders, to Compliance, Autism, Harassment training. The videos are broken into 20 minute or less segments, allowing administration to utilize the videos in staff meetings to complete ongoing continuous professional development in short periods of time. Anyone can get a free 30-day no obligation trial from the School Improvement Network by going to <http://www.schoolimprovement.com/pd360/>

District administrators who have an established professional development plan in which they believe the PD360 videos can be utilized to help train staff on a regular ongoing basis can contact Lyle Krueger at the MREC office to learn more information.

Professional Development Article— *What are educators thinking when they begin a learning experience?* By Hayes Mizell

Many teachers and administrators participate in professional development they did not seek or plan. They come to the experience with a variety of thoughts and feelings that influence the extent to which they will benefit. Often, educators don’t articulate what they are thinking because there is a professional risk in doing so. This is an early indicator that the professional development is problematic...

To read the entire article:

<http://www.learningforward.org/news/getDocument.cfm?articleID=2305>



ESP/MARS

Director



Notes

Andrew Jordan, ESP/MARS

Director

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ESP

The Extended School Program had a great summer! We introduced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education to the Mandan students. STEM is hands-on education that integrates all subjects into the project. The students had a great time with it this summer!

We had two Site Coordinators attend the National 21st CCLC Conference in Washington, D.C. this month. We also had all Site Coordinators attend the ND 21st CCLC Conference in Mandan this month. The experiences they gain from these conferences will be valuable to the continued improvement and success of our programs.

We will be increasing the number of students in the program in a few schools this fall as we continue to grow and serve as many students as we can. Ft. Lincoln Elementary School in Mandan alone will increase from 45 students to 75 students.

Fall registration is taking place currently in our Bismarck/Mandan schools and before you know it, school will be here! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you lots of successes in the upcoming school year! If you have any questions about the Extended School Program, please feel free to give me a call.

MARS LEARNING CENTER

We are gearing up at the MARS Learning Center for our **2nd year!** There have been a few changes to the program that I would like to inform you about.

Expansion!

Wanting to meet MREC member school's needs, MARS will expand our reading and math services to the middle school students. This will start with the 2011-2012 school year. **We will now be a K-9 program!**

Instruction and Assessment

"Let's Go Learn," who is responsible for the DORA/Unique Reader, and DO-MA/Unique Math is phasing out. "Let's Go Learn" is distributed to the public through Curriculum Associates. "Let's Go Learn" is having internal issues so Curriculum Associates is launching their own product called "i-Ready." "i-Ready" will have a diagnostic and an instructional tool just as "Let's Go Learn" did. "i-Ready" was launched June 1, 2011 and will in compass the Common Core this fall. This is a minor switch for MARS and we felt that you should be aware of it. You can learn more about "i-Ready" by visiting www.curriculumassociates.com.

We will make these updates known at www.marslearningcenter.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call. I am also available to make school visits and program presentations.



MRACTC Director



Notes

Doug Vannurden, MRACTC

Director

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Data



Assessment

Notes

*Bill Demaree, Data Assessment
Coordinator*

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MRACTC

This is a reminder for the MRACTC Online Coordination/ITV meeting being held in Washburn next week—August 11. This meeting is being coordinated with the Bill Strasser-Great Western Network ITV all staff workshop that starts at 10 am in the Washburn School upstairs study hall.

A noon meal will be provided in the Washburn lunch room followed by a discussion on Powerschool procedures at 1 pm and the MRACTC coordinators/teachers meeting at 1:30 pm.

Click here for the latest copy of our pre-registration spreadsheet for students enrolled in classes for 2011-12. Please bring your list of names, etc. for each student in each class. We need the following powerschool information for each student:

Name	Address
Birthdate	Phone Number
Gender	Ethnicity
Grade	Parent's names

We will also need an email address for each student—Sendit address preferred. (We can get this later if need be). See you next week.

Fourth Annual MREC/SEEC West/East State Assessment Conference

This is the fourth year that through cooperative efforts the MREC and SEEC (South East Ed Cooperative) is hosting a West/East assessment events. This year's event is being bumped up a notch with the addition of sessions on ACCESS Test, Viewpoint, and ND SLDS (State Longitudinal Data System).

[Read More...](#)

NWEA Knowledge Academy—Knowledge Academy is NWEA's online professional development tool that is free to MAP schools. These courses are great for new staff or any teacher that has not had any MAP experience. They can be used individually or in small groups or as part of a staff meeting.

[Read More...](#)

Important NWEA MAP Tech updates—A new version of MAP assessments will be part of the test package you need to download for this fall. The newest version is ready for download as part of your test window preparation there is nothing you will need to do to activate this change other than download the new packages as usual. [Read More...](#)

MAP Assessment—Fall Check List—MREC schools fall MAP testing has become a SOP, (Standard Operating Procedure). The fall testing window has been moving closer and closer to the first week of school. Giving teachers more time to provide focused interventions before the October North Dakota State Assessment, NDSA. The following link provides you with NWEA's Testing Season Checklist. <http://www.nwea.org/support/article/1370/testing-season-quick-start-guide> [Read More...](#)

ELL-Title III—GREAT NEWES the MREC was recently awarded a Federal Native American Title III grant Project Circle. This grant was submitted in March. The grant is for \$200,000 per year for five years for a total of \$1,000,000. Focus schools are White Shield, Standing Rock, Solen/Cannon Ball, and Selfridge. The grant can also work with Native American students that transfer between the MREC schools. [Read More...](#)

MREC

Calendar of Events

August 8-10

CTE All Service Conference—Ramkota, Bismarck

August 9-10

SAI Workshop—8:00-4:00—BSC

August 11

GWN & MRACTC ITV/Online Coordinators Meeting—10:00am—Washburn

August 15-16

K-8 Schools Professional Development Days

August 17

MREC Governing Board Meeting—5:30pm—BSC Energy Center, Rm 335
(supper to be served at 5:00pm)

September 1

NDREA Meeting

September 6

MREC Curriculum Enrichment Meeting—1pm—MREC Office

September 14

MREC Administrators Meeting—2pm—BSC Energy Center, Rm 335

MREC New Administration Orientation—4:45pm, BSC Energy Center, Rm 341

MREC Annual Meeting—5:30pm—BSC Energy Center, Rm 335

September 19-20

ND NWEA MAP Conference—Bismarck/Fargo

September 21

SW Principals Meeting 2:00-3:30pm—Dickinson