



# Mississippi Science Spots

October 2008

## **2010 Mississippi Science Framework Update**

The State Board of Education has approved the *2010 Mississippi Science Framework*. The framework, along with the *K-8 Vertical Alignment* and additional framework resources, can be accessed through the MDE website at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ACAD/ID/Curriculum/Science/index.htm>. An overview and description of significant changes in the framework were described in the August Mississippi Science Spots, which has been archived on the website above. Note that the framework will be piloted in 2008-2010 and implemented 2010-2011.

### Timeline of Activities/Events

- The framework will be piloted (2008-2010).
- PLD's and Test Item Specifications will be finalized (2008-2009).
- Teaching strategies/resources will be developed (2008-2009).
- First administration of new science assessment (Spring 2011)
- New assessment items will be field tested (Spring 2010).
- Practice tests will be developed (Fall 2010).
- Textbooks will be adopted (2009 Adoption).

### Science Framework Workshops

At this time, no additional science workshops to specifically address the content of the new framework are scheduled. Professional development opportunities are planned for the spring and summer of 2009 and will be announced at a later time.

### MSTA Conference

The Mississippi Science Teachers Association (MSTA) will hold its annual conference on October 20-21, 2008, in Jackson, MS. Registration forms are available at <http://www.ms-scienceteachers.org/>. Advance registration, which includes a registration discount and free T-shirt, is available until September 26, 2008. Proposals for presentations are being accepted until **September 19, 2008**. The advanced registration deadline is Wednesday, **October 8, 2008**.

### NABT Conference

The National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) will host its 2008 Professional Development Conference, **October 15-18** in Memphis, TN. The call for (presentation) proposals and advanced registration information are now available at [www.nabt2008.org](http://www.nabt2008.org).

### **2009 National Science Teachers Association Conference in New Orleans March 19–22, 2009**

Celebrate science in magical New Orleans, one of our most beloved cities. Attendee registration is now open. Register online or download and submit an Advanced Registration Form in Adobe Acrobat format. Find more information at <http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2009new>.

### NSTA Conference Funding Awards

A number of awards to fund all or partial conference expenses are available on the NSTA website at <http://www.nsta.org/about/awards.aspx#di-stteaching>.

### **“Ready, Set, Green” MEEA Conference**

Ready, Set, Green, the Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance (MEEA) 2008 Conference, is being held at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center near Jackson, MS, on **November 14-15, 2008**. The registration deadline is **October 24, 2008**. For more information, visit [www.EeinMississippi.org](http://www.EeinMississippi.org)

## MAMLE Conference

The Mississippi Association of Middle Level Educators (MAMLE) Conference, "Rolling on the River," will be held at the Vicksburg Convention Center on January 29-31, 2009. The keynote address will be given by the world-renown speaker and educator, Harry Wong. The Call for Presentations deadline is **November 1, 2008**. The Early Bird Registration deadline is **December 19, 2008**. Learn more at <http://www.mamle.org/conference.html>.

## Toyota International Teacher Program

Each year, the Toyota International Teacher Program offers a study opportunity for full-time teachers and teacher-librarians of grades 6-12 to study environmental solutions in a new area of the world. The deadline to apply for the 2009 Costa Rica Program is **October 20, 2008**. Visit [www.iie.org/toyota](http://www.iie.org/toyota) to apply online. For questions and more information, contact [toyotateach@iie.org](mailto:toyotateach@iie.org) or call (877) 832-2457.

## Community Action Grants

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is offering community action grants to provide funds to individuals as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs that promote education and equity for women and girls. Information about the one-year and two-year grants are available at [http://www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellows\\_hips\\_grants/community\\_action.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/education/fga/fellows_hips_grants/community_action.cfm). The application deadline is **January 15, 2009**.

## Grant Applications and Lessons Plans

Earth Day Network has announced new grants for 2008-2009: (1) The National Civic Education Project is designed to promote a more democratically active citizenry of environmental education in today's society. (2) The Campus Climate Challenge provides stipends and year-long support to climate change educators. Information about the grants is available at <http://ww2.earthday.net/node/13458>. Additionally, Earth Day Network's civic and environmental education lesson plans and resources may be accessed at [www.earthday.net/~earthday/lessonplans](http://www.earthday.net/~earthday/lessonplans).

## New Scholarship Opportunity

The Davidson Institute for Talent Development is offering high achieving young people across the country the opportunity to be named as 2009 Davidson Fellows, an honor accompanied by a \$50,000, \$25,000, or \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of a significant piece of work in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Music, Literature, Philosophy, or Outside the Box. Download an application at [www.DavidsonFellows.org](http://www.DavidsonFellows.org). The deadline to apply is **March 4, 2009**.

## "eCYBERMISSION" Competition

Registration for the U.S. Army's seventh annual eCYBERMISSION competition for students in grades 6-9 is now open. The eCYBERMISSION is a free, web-based science, math, and technology competition that allows students to compete for regional and national awards while working together to solve problems in their community. The competition also promotes self-discovery for all students by

helping them recognize the real-life applications of math, science and technology. Learn more at [www.ecybermission.com](http://www.ecybermission.com).

## CoCoRaHS Needs Volunteers!

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is soliciting volunteers to collect daily measurements of rain, hail, and snow. Learn more at <http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=aboutus>.

## Teacher Workshops

The Mississippi Natural Museum of Science has announced several teacher workshops for the fall. (1) Project Wet, Water Education for Teachers, **November 1, 2008**. (2) Flying Wild, **November 25, 2008**. (3) WILD about Reptiles, **October 9, 2008**. A \$10.00 registration fee is required, and six CEU's are available for each workshop. Contact [angel.rohnke@mmns.state.ms.us](mailto:angel.rohnke@mmns.state.ms.us) for more information.

## The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge

The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge encourages student teams from grades 6-8, under the mentorship of a teacher or adult supervisor, to identify an environmental issue in their community, research the issue using scientific investigation, and create a replicable green solution using web-based curriculum tools powered by Discovery Education. To access additional information about this announcement, visit <http://www.wecanchange.com/media-room>. Teams can register for the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge at <http://www.wecanchange.com>.

## Professional Development Opportunities

The U.S. Satellite Laboratory announces several professional development opportunities for schools in each state. Find information at [www.us-satellite.net](http://www.us-satellite.net) about the no-fee, proven, and exciting, thematic science curriculum with teacher training and ongoing support.

## Zula International–NSTA Early Science Educator Award

The Zula International–NSTA Early Science Educator Awards will recognize and honor two (2) full-time PreK–2 teachers who successfully use innovative inquiry-based science to enhance science teaching and learning in their classroom. Download an application at <http://www.nsta.org/pdfs/awards/Zula.pdf>.

## Youth and Adult Outdoor Photography Contest 2009

The Mississippi Wildlife Federation is hosting the Youth and Adult Outdoor Photography Contest 2009. Youth, ages 10-18, are invited to submit photographs no later than **June 1, 2009**. Go to [http://www.mswildlife.org/events/youth\\_adult\\_contest.html](http://www.mswildlife.org/events/youth_adult_contest.html) for more information.

## Ecological Footprint Calculator

Earth Day Network has just released its newest tool, the Ecological Footprint Calculator, as an interesting, engaging and highly educational way to teach sustainability and inspire change. Visit <http://www.earthday.net/ecofootprint> to learn more.

## 2008 Earth Science Week Contests

The American Geological Institute (AGI), is sponsoring three national contests in conjunction with Earth Science Week 2008, titled "No Child Left Inside," from October 12-18. All entries must be either postmarked or received digitally by **October 17, 2008**. To learn more about these contests, visit <http://www.earthsciweek.org/>.

## The Futures Channel

One of the main goals of *The Futures Channel* is to produce mini-documentaries and multi-media content that educators can use to enliven their curriculums and connect mathematics, science, technology, and engineering to the real world so that students have context and purpose for what they are learning. More information may be found at [www.thefutureschannel.com](http://www.thefutureschannel.com).

## Journey to Planet Earth

With companion educational resources, Journey to Planet Earth can transport young people on a trip around the globe to explore the environment from a global perspective and to find solutions for their own communities. Explore resources for educators at all levels at <http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/education/index.html>.

## Free Educational Resources

More than thirty federal agencies formed a working group in 1997 to make hundreds of federally supported teaching and learning resources easier to find. The

result of that work is the Federal Resources for Educational Excellence (FREE) at <http://www.free.ed.gov>.

## Local Astronomy Resources

Rainwater Observatory and Planetarium, French Camp, MS, has posted a list of local facilities that will host school groups. Find more information at <http://www.rainwaterobservatory.org>. Also visit [www.rainwater.astronomers.org](http://www.rainwater.astronomers.org) for information about periodicals of interest, slide and video sources, books, etc.

## Science Fair Central

Discovery Education ([www.discoveryeducation.com](http://www.discoveryeducation.com)) has launched a new website to provide K-8 teachers with a comprehensive approach to science education. In addition to a wealth of general resources, the site includes a link to science fair ideas and resources. Learn more at <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/?pID=fair>.

## Free Technology-based Resources

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) has announced the availability of a wealth of free content for K-12 educators on Apple's iTunes U. This initiative creates a destination where professional development, curricula resources, examples of best practices, and student samples are easily accessible. iTunes, a free software download for Mac or PC, is required. For more information, visit [www.apple.com/itunesu](http://www.apple.com/itunesu).

## Nautical Charts

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently released a new multimedia elementary educational program, "NauticalCharts," at [http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/nautical\\_charts](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/nautical_charts). Designed for students in grades 3-5, the media-rich activity teaches young people about charting and navigation, with access to movies, sounds, pictures, and links to other resources.

### Free DVD's and Teacher Guides

Science Screen Reports offers DVD videos free of charge to schools through corporate sponsorship. Topics related to science, engineering, medicine, technology, conservation and the environment are designed to inform, motivate and pique the curiosity of elementary and secondary students. Visit <http://www.ssrvideo.com/about.html> for more information.

### Sylvan Dell Publishing Resource Grant

A grant is being offered to one school in every Mississippi school district for a free, one-year site license, providing unlimited access to all 35 Sylvan Dell eBooks. The Science and Math Through Literature series feature flip-viewer technology with selectable English and Spanish text and audio. Find more information at [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com/resourceGrant.htm](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com/resourceGrant.htm).

### Geoscience Resources

The nation's most extensive collection of digital learning resources for geoscience education is now based at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO. The Digital Library for Earth System Education (DLESE), <http://www.dlese.org/> developed with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), focuses on the special needs of K-12 educators and has tips for finding resources for K-12 classrooms.

### Free Classroom Activities

The 2007 Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center (ATEEC) is a national center that promotes and supports environmental technology education to address the needs of the national and global workforce. Over 25 activities were developed for use in the classroom, which are available at <http://www.ateec.org>.

### Misconceptions to Avoid When Teaching about Plants

Free teaching literature at <http://www.actionbioscience.org/education/hershey3.html> contains hundreds of plant misconceptions, under-generalizations, over-simplifications, misidentifications, and flawed research.

### Subscribe to MS Science Spots

Administrators and educators who wish to subscribe to this newsletter may add their names to the mailing list by sending a blank email to [mwroten@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:mwroten@mde.k12.ms.us) with the subject line, "Listserve."

### Free Online Slide Sets

BioEd Online Slide Sets are peer-reviewed and annotated PowerPoint slide sets on topics of interest to middle school and high school teachers. Slides can be viewed in sets or accessed individually with a keyword search (e.g., cloning, diversity of life, infectious diseases, biological classification, nucleic acids, human body systems, ecosystems, scientific inquiry, lab techniques, tsunamis, chemical mixtures, etc.). Find information at <http://www.bioedonline.org/slides/>.

### Free Native Plant Habitat Resources

Creating a native plant habitat garden or restoration project provides countless opportunities for learning. This guide from the Washington Native Plant Society provides student checklists, forms, activities, a school-year flow chart outlining integration of curricular materials, and how-to guides for planning. Go to <http://www.wnps.org/education/resources/middleschool.html> for more information.

### Mississippi Department of Education

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

601-359-2586

Science Specialist: Mary Wroten

[mwroten@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:mwroten@mde.k12.ms.us)