



Mississippi Public Broadcasting

EDUCATION CONNECTION

EDUCATION SERVICES e-NEWSLETTER *October 2007*

Welcome to **EDUCATION CONNECTION**—Education Services' monthly e-Newsletter designed to help the educational community stay current regarding Mississippi Public Broadcasting's educational services, programming and information!

This newsletter is part of a broader overall education communications plan to increase the exposure and use of Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services Division. We hope you'll find this resource supports your own work to educate students and others in your community. Please feel free to copy or forward to teachers and others in your school or district.

If you would like to join our Education Services' distribution list and receive important updates for Educators, or if you wish to no longer receive these newsletters, please e-mail darrell.lee@mpbonline.org.

Professional Development

PBS TeacherLine is the premier resource offering professional development courses online to PreK-12 teachers and school districts. Our specially trained, certified facilitators lead over 100 top-quality, standards-based courses that span the entire curriculum: Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Science, Instructional Technology, and Instructional Strategies. Coursework can cover a complete sequence of study or address a specific requirement, depending on a teacher's or district's needs.

PBS TeacherLine's courses are developed in collaboration with the following leading national educational organizations, so every course is standards-based:

- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
- The Concord Consortium

MPB is proud to provide this cutting edge, technology-driven offering to Mississippi teachers. Teachers can earn CEU's or graduate credit by completing online courses.

Visit: www.pbs.org/teacherline. Select: 'Course Catalog' - by state, drop down 'Mississippi.' For more information, contact Jill Boteler, jill.boteler@mpbonline.org, or 601-432-6203.

Mississippi e-Learning for Educators uses an online delivery model to provide effective professional development, leading to gains in educators' content knowledge, improvements in teaching practices and increased student achievement. Participants learn and share best practices and instructional resources through interactive communities. It provides:

- Affordable professional development you need, when you need it!
- Courses that fit easily into a busy schedule
- The option to learn at home with no need to travel or purchase and install special software
- A certificate of participation and/or CEU credits issued to eligible participants
- A seven weeks course that emphasizes theory-to-practice applications (Week 1 is an orientation session to familiarize participants with online course delivery.)
- Course work that includes discussions, reflection, readings and projects.

To register, please visit the Mississippi Department of Education 'Hosted Events' link at <http://register.mde.k12.ms.us/>. Click on the 'Sign up for an Event' link. Note: If you have not registered for an account with MDE, you will be asked you to set up an account. A valid e-mail address is required to establish an account. Please write down your user name (e-mail address) and password for future. View Course Listing at <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/olpd/edtech/elearn/course.html>.

Educational Technology

MPB's Education Services Department introduces *MATRIX MISSISSIPPI!*

In a collaborative effort with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Office of Student Achievement and Growth, five schools/school districts have been identified as leading candidates for MPB's technology integration initiative known as ***MATRIX MISSISSIPPI***. Services offered through the Matrix Mississippi Initiative include: Matrix Learning, *PBS TeacherLine*, *Discovery Education streaming*.

Star Schools, also known as MATRIX Learning (Middle-School Achievement through Technology-Rich Intervention) is designed to improve mathematics achievement of middle school students in urban and rural schools, not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), through the use of mobile technologies, including PDAs, iPods and video cameras. The project provides learning modules and games using emerging

technologies along with Quantum Simulations' online Artificial Intelligence Assessors & Tutors. MATRIX Learning capitalizes on these interests to engage students who may be disinterested in school and mathematics in particular.

Funding for this five-year, ongoing program is provided through a federal grant, issued by the U.S. Department of Education Star Schools program, *PBS TeacherLine*, and AT&T Telecom Pioneers Foundation.

Tech Tips

Are you a novice when it comes to using a computer, or do you know everything there is to know about technology? Regardless of what your aptitude level is when it comes to things “techie”, hopefully, our new section—Tech Tips—will provide you with hints and information on how to master all things technological on your computer.

QUESTION?	ANSWER
How do I reset the font size on Web pages?	<p>1. If your mouse has a scroll wheel, with a Web page window open and active, hold down the CTRL key on the keyboard (do not release), then scroll up or down using the mouse wheel. This will change your font size.</p> <p>2. While in Internet Explorer, you can click on the View or Page option on your toolbar. You will get a drop-down menu that includes Text Size. To permanently set that font size, click on the Tools option in your toolbar. Click Internet Options, which opens a General tab. Click on the Accessibility button and check the box that says "Ignore Font Sizes Specified on Web pages."</p>
<p>Recommendation: Your screen resolution should be 800 x 600 at a minimum, and we recommend 1024 x 768. You can change your resolution through your Control Panel by adjusting your Display settings.</p>	

Early Childhood

The BTL Preschool Literacy Library Project

Mississippi’s largest energy company, Entergy, is teaming up with the Foundation for Public Broadcasting in Mississippi (Foundation), Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB), and Mississippi’s public libraries to power up literacy in pre-kindergarten children statewide. The ***Between the Lions Preschool Literacy Library Project*** places the scientifically-based reading research curriculum of the seven-time Emmy® Award-

winning PBS KIDS series into 17 public libraries this fall, making these libraries a key community tool in teaching pre-kindergarten children ages three to five years old.

Through the ***Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Initiative**, MPB provides resources, expertise, and encouragement to 51 child care centers in the Jackson area affecting 1,114 children with the help of its partners – the Barksdale Reading Institute, WGBH, Sirius Thinking and Mississippi State University’s Early Childhood Institute. Serving as mentors, MPB learning specialists model teaching methods and provide books, materials, and an early reading skills curriculum of the *Between the Lions* series to the child care center directors and teachers.

The ***Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Library Project** is a partnership between the Foundation, MPB, the Mississippi Library Commission, the Mississippi Federation of Women’s Clubs, the national PBS KIDS Raising Readers literacy initiative, and Entergy, the primary sponsor of this project through its *Destination Education* initiative. Visit www.mpbonline.org for more information regarding the ***Between the Lions* Preschool Literacy Library Project** and the *Between the Lions* children’s television series that airs weekdays on Mississippi Public Broadcasting television at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

Adult Education

MPB’s Adult Education programs now being streamed

Did you miss the episode on Ratios and Proportions? Do you want to brush up on your skills before that big job interview? No longer do you have to wait weeks before a particular episode broadcasts again. Mississippi Public Broadcasting’s Adult Education programs *GED Connection*, *Workplace Essential Skills* and *TV411* are now being streamed on the MPB web site. Visit www.mpbonline.org and click on ‘Education Services’ in the navigation bar. Scroll down to ‘Adult Education’ to view the videos for the week.

Alexander N. Charters Adult Education Research Grants-in-Aid Program

The Special Collections Research Center at Syracuse University Library is pleased to announce the Alexander N. Charters Adult Education Research Grants-in-Aid Program for students and faculty interested in the history and practice of adult education. Up to \$4,000 worth of grants-in-aid will be awarded each year. The actual amount of each award will depend upon the scope of the research outlined in the applicant’s proposal. In order to apply, please submit a letter of intent outlining the proposed research topic, including the term of stay, a current résumé, and one professional reference to, Mary Beth Hinton, mbhinton@syr.edu

News You Can Use

Explore ExploraVision!

Since 1992 more than 220,000 students from across the United States and Canada have competed in *ExploraVision*. But this is much more than a contest. *ExploraVision* can be the beginning of a lifelong adventure in science, as students develop higher-order thinking skills and learn to think about their role in our future.

Now in its 16th year, *ExploraVision* is a national science competition that encourages K-12 students of all interest, skill and ability levels to create and explore visions of future technology. Each student on four first-place teams will receive a \$10,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a trip to Washington, D.C. Go to <http://teacherplanet.com.c.topica.com/maahT4oabBkXccjsfr4b/> to enter.

The 2008 *ExploraVision* Awards competition is sponsored by Toshiba and administered by the National Science Teachers Association.

Mississippi Interactive Video Network (MIVN) Schedule for special video-conferencing events

Education Services Foundation Events November 2007

High school 11th and 12th graders are eligible to participate and learn how to make the transition from high school/work to college.

MIVN school sites are encouraged to register early due to limited seating.

You may register for these *important* video conference events on the MPB website at www.mpbonline.org through the MPB Online Registration system (located on the left-hand side of the home page). A valid e-mail account is required.

"Financial Aid" November 13, 2007 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

- * Definitions of types of financial aid, including grants, loans, scholarships, and employment opportunities
- * Determining financial need and understanding how to increase your family's eligibility for need-based aid
- * Cost of attendance and budgeting college expenses
- * Understanding the federal financial aid programs, including the Pell Grant, Stafford and PLUS loan programs
- * Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), including line-by-line explanation of confusing portions of the forms
- * Institutional aid applications including PROFILE
- * Financial aid programs for Mississippi residents, including MTAG, MESH, HELP and teacher education incentive programs

* Merit-based aid and scholarships – their sources, how to identify scholarships appropriate for your student’s profile, and the process of applying

IMPORTANT: This year the Financial Aid workshop is available for an open-house event for parent participation during 6:30 p.m. This is a tremendous opportunity to share this invaluable resource with your community. If you are interested in participating in the evening event, please check with your school site facilitator to ensure that the IVN classroom is available before you sign-up for this event.

“Taking ACTION on the ACT” November 27, 2007

- * Understanding what the ACT is and why it is important to take
- * Performance expectations for the four content areas – English, math, reading, and science reasoning
- * Strategies for each content area
- * Examples of various question formats from actual ACTs
- * How the ACT is scored and how to achieve your target score
- * Timeline for test preparation – planning how you should study
- * Test-taking tips and strategies for multiple choice exams

IMPORTANT: Each MIVN site should assign a lead contact person to create a user account for their school site on the MPB online registration system to register for MIVN special events.

Helpful Links and Resources

The following websites are available for additional teaching tips, professional development, activities and information:

PBS.org

[*Discovery Education streaming*](#)

[PBS Teachers](#)

[Mississippi Department of Education](#)

[PBS TeacherLine](#)

[State Board for Community Colleges](#)

[PBS Kids](#)

[Test Prep Review](#)

[PBS Kids Go!](#)

[Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning](#)

[PBS Parents](#)

www.gedonline.org

www.TV411.org

www.NetSmartz.org

[PBS Literacylink](#)

How Can We Help – What Do You Want to See?

We want to hear from you, and learn what kinds of content you would like to see in the monthly MPB Education Services e-Newsletter. Was the information in this issue helpful? What more would you like to see? We are also seeking questions and comments about the format of this newsletter.

Finally, we want to use this newsletter to answer your questions about Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Education Services. Please email all comments and questions to darrell.lee@mpbonline.org, or you can call us at (800) 922-9698.

For more information about our services and programming, visit our website at www.mpbonline.org.

Our mailing address is:

Mississippi Public Broadcasting
Education Services Division
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211

Educating Entertaining Enlightening