

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Division of Instruction
Dr. Frances Gipson
Chief Academic Officer

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INSTRUCTIONAL UPDATE – February 2016

ELEMENTARY RESOURCES & EVENTS

ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTION – Resources & Events

Elementary English Language Arts (ELA)

Elementary ELA **Curriculum Maps** resources, assessment blueprints, and Smarter Balanced Claims & Targets synopsis docs are available at <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/6112>.

If your site is using **SBAC IABs**, consider using the **District Interim Assessments as open-book practice activities in class**. District interim assessments are available at <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/6428>.

The MOY window for **DIBELS Next and TRC** ended January 29 for DIBELS Next and TRC, and ends February 5 for **IDEL**. Ref-6550.0 details policy and requirements. For information on assessment: Alison.pickering@lausd.net

Early Language and Literacy Academies are growing, with more schools adopting the model, promoting teacher collaboration and small group instruction according to student need in K-2. Please see resources here: <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/6545>

ETK and TK Instruction

The TK Alignment Document (TK-K standards), an FAQ detailing the similarities and differences between ETK & TK as well as other TK support resources, can be found here: <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/6503>

Elementary Mathematics

Please visit this webpage for general information from the Mathematics branch <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/1237>

NGSS Elementary Science Study Group: “An Elementary Science Salon”

LAUSD Elementary Science is forming a study group that will be learning and discussing elementary science topics and issues. You can register at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uPcuvthAneTR0TZ-MqDTFbwGrtWJ3IGaUxHVJalJvzQ/viewform?usp=send_form or contact Lillian Valadez-Rodela at (213) 241-5689 or email lillian.valadez-rodela@lausd.net

Elementary Instruction continued...

FOSS Donations:

Recycle old versions of the FOSS kits through our recycling program Please email: lillian.valadez-rodela@lausd.net and/or call Nancy Bentov (818) 831-8330 at the Granada Hills Science Materials Center. The materials will be reused to build new kits for schools that are short on materials within LAUSD.

FOSS Kit Refurbishment Program:

Do your FOSS kits need help? We have a program that can provide permanent items that are available at the Granada Hills Science Materials Center. Please email: lillian.valadez-rodela@lausd.net and/or call Nancy Bentov (818) 831-8330 at the Granada Hills Science Materials Center.

Elementary History/Social Science

Grade 5 Reading Like a Historian

Stanford History Education Group will lead a one-day overview of the Reading Like a Historian program on **Saturday, January 30, 2016** at Maya Angelou SH. This professional development is open to the first 120 fifth grade teachers who **have not** already attended a previous one-day overview. Registration is open on Learning Zone. For more information contact Linda Kidd at linda.kidd@lausd.net.

Grade 5 Reading Like a Historian lessons developed by the Stanford History Education Group are available on-line at <http://achieve.lausd.net/hss>.

Physical Education

Certification for Elementary Instructional Minutes

Elementary school principals will continue monitoring physical education instructional minutes during the 2015-16 school year to ensure that students receive 200 minutes each 10 school days, per California Education Code. Certification of elementary physical education instructional minutes will be completed using the same paper certification as last school year. Furthermore, all elementary schools are required to post the school's physical education instruction schedule in the main office or on the school's website.

Upcoming Fitnessgram and Assessment Training

The Physical Education Programs office will provide a trainings on the Administration of the *Fitnessgram*, Assessment and Standards-Based Instructional Design. This training is available to secondary teachers and 1 fourth or fifth grade teacher (or school designee) per elementary school. Space is limited. Teachers may register on the Learning Zone until capacity is reached. The remaining trainings are scheduled for the following Saturdays:

January 30, 2016	Byrd MS
February 20, 2016	Washington Prep HS

Physical Education Programs Website

Please visit the physical education website at <http://achieve.lausd.net/pe> for PE related resources.

SECONDARY RESOURCES AND EVENTS

SECONDARY INSTRUCTION – Resources and Options for Growth

Secondary Science

- NGSS aligned interim assessments items will be posted this month on the district webpage- <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/6428>
- The second session of One Water Initiative Lecture Series will take place on Thursday, February 25th 4pm-6pm. Please visit the [LAUSD Science Webpage](#) for more information.

Please check <http://science.lausd.net> for up-to-date information on district, county, and state opportunities in science education.

Secondary Literacy

LAUSD is preparing to enter our second year in partnership with the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) in its Federal i3 Grant. LDC provides planning tools that:

- Support teachers in using the CA Content Standards to identify and teach the skills students need to access content.
- Guide teachers in a backward design process to plan assignments that help students build the enduring literacy skills they need to write about what they read.

For more information on LDC tools and resources or to express interest in having your school participate in the grant, please visit our webpage: <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/9933>.

Mastery Learning and Grading: Transforming Classroom Practices

Mastery Learning and Grading is a growth-mindset approach to teaching and learning, based on the expectation that everyone can learn when provided with the right conditions and support. It offers all students and teachers an alternative to the limitations of traditional instruction and grading. By refocusing classroom grading, assessment, instruction, and planning on clear learning goals, and by implementing research-based systems honoring individual variation in learning styles, Mastery Learning and Grading allows more students to succeed academically. *If you'd like to learn more about engaging in this PD series, please contact Mastery Learning Instructional Coaches: Melissa Guice (mjg7290@lausd.net) or Chris Grounds (christopher.grounds@lausd.net)*

Health Education Programs

Opportunities for Social Emotional Learning

- Tuesday, February 2 | 11:00 a.m. Pacific | 1 hour Webinar, available to all teachers interested in learning about how to teach Social Emotional Skills and about the Second Step curriculum. Follow the link to register: [Second Step K–5 Suite: Social-Emotional Skills for Student Success](#)
- Tuesday, February 9 | 11:00 a.m. Pacific | 30 min. Webinar, available to all teachers interested in learning about bullying prevention. Follow the link to register: [Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit: Training for Staff, Skills for Students](#)

Nutrition Education Obesity Program/Wellness Policy Resources

- The Dairy Council of California offers free K-12 standards-based nutrition lessons and extension activities. Lessons can be integrated into your units on Math, Social Science, Language Arts, Physical Education and Health Education (<http://www.healthyeating.org/>).

A-G INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT – PASS Professional Development

The PASS team has created a series of professional developments for both Math and ELA that will support teachers in the continued implementation or roll out of a successful PASS program.

PASS Advisors will support participants in learning more about the roles, responsibilities, and strategies for purposeful grouping, and will provide a sample lesson for each course in Math and ELA. Teachers will collaborate in creating lessons using the same planning template to support the PASS program.

These professional developments will take place through the course of the second semester to provide an open forum (both collaboratively and online) for teachers to meet together, share experiences and best practices, and collaborate around ways to support our students' success.

PASS Series Trainings for Math & ELA

Monday, February 22, 2016 **OR** Monday, February 29, 2016
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Beaudry Building

To sign up for the above series, please enroll on MyPLN: <http://achieve.lausd.net/mypln>

The PASS team looks forward to working with all of you!

COLLEGE AND CAREER EDUCATION – On to Spring 2016

From Fall to Spring

Congratulations on a successful Fall semester! With the first semester in the books, Winter Recess provided a quick breath before the Spring Semester run to the finish. Holding IGPs, checking transcripts, and checking for accuracy will ensure that students in the class of 2016 successfully graduate.

Master Schedule Timeline

Anticipation of next year builds as E-cast enrollment projections for 2016-17 will be available soon, new master scheduling scenarios are created in MiSiS, course offerings for next year are discussed, and articulation activities begin. In February, counselors also begin meeting with students about their class choices for next year. February is also an exciting time for Zone of Choice students since they begin their selection process for 2016-17.

National School Counselor Week: February 1-5, 2016

National School Counseling Week 2016, “School Counseling: The Recipe for Success,” focuses public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors across the United States. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by ASCA (American School Counselor Association, <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/>), highlights the huge contributions school counselors make in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. Let’s recognize our school counselors!

GEAR UP FOR LA – PSAT/MNSQT Results

The PSAT and SAT results are out and only online

This year The College Board has moved to an online platform for school to receive and view student scores, including accessing AP potential. School administrators can click on this link to view **Manage Access Tool** <https://dat.collegeboard.org/dat/login> or visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUXynS8UDU&feature=youtu.be> to learn how to create the school account.

Student Resources:

- To learn how to understand the PSAT/NMSQT Score Report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzCSiilL3WQ>
- To access free, personalized practice on Khan Academy, students can link their accounts at satpractice.org. A how-to video is located here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vhfaw8w4G2w>

Please remind your students that there are millions of dollars available to qualified low-income and minority students — and their PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 scores are the key.

LINKED LEARNING – Upcoming Professional Development

There will NOT be a Linked Learning principal meeting following the Wednesday, February 3, 2016 district principal meeting. The Linked Learning staff will be in San Diego for the Linked Learning convention.

Professional Development for invited CTE teachers on Saturday, February 6, 2016, from 8:00 A.M until 12:00 P.M., at Miguel Contreras. At the PD the CTE teachers will perform a self-review of their career pathways based on 11 elements of a high Quality Career Pathway document. The teachers will engage in group discussions and share best practices to meet or exceed all benchmarks of the evaluation.

The Linked Learning office is having an Industry-Alike Best Practices PD on Saturday, February 20, 2016, at the Hawkins **HS Library**. **The focus areas are business and legal.**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM – For 10th Grade Students

Warren Christopher Scholarship Awards Program- 2016: \$20,000 college scholarship offered to 10th grade students in the Los Angeles Unified School District, who demonstrate academic excellence, a commitment to community service, financial need, and ability to overcome hardship.

Runner-up Awards: All runner-up awardees will receive a \$500 one-time scholarship.

I. Scholarship Background

Warren Christopher had a long, distinguished career serving as a lawyer in Los Angeles at O'Melveny & Myers LLP; serving in the United States government as 63rd Secretary of State; and serving California and

Scholarship Awards Program continued...

Los Angeles as Chairman of the Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department in the aftermath of the Rodney King incident. Over the past two decades, that fund has helped close to 200 students in the Los Angeles Unified School District (“LAUSD”) achieve their dreams of attending college, and going on to careers in business, medicine, science, law, public interest, and government.

II. Scholarship Guidelines

1. Award Amount: \$20,000 college scholarship following graduation, payable at the rate of \$5,000 per academic year for each of four consecutive years of college.
2. Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria:
 - a. 10th-grade student for whom this designation, honor, and scholarship will make a decided difference, and who is more likely to remain in school if he or she receives it.
 - b. GPA of 3.25 or higher from the 9th grade and through the first semester of 10th grade
 - c. Financial need including how the current situation will impact a student’s path to college
 - d. Commitment to school and/or community involvement
 - e. Show academic potential, rigorous course load, college preparatory courses, and/or intent to attend college.
 - f. Extraordinary circumstances including adversity students have faced or are facing
 - g. Student authored essay

III. Timeline

1. **January** information to Local District and schools
2. **February** School reviews recommendations and identifies its candidate
Students prepare application and acquire all supporting documents
3. **March 8** **Deadline** for students to submit on-line application.
4. **June 1** Awards ceremony and luncheon

Contact your Local District Counseling Coordinator for more information

LD Central	Carmela Bravo <u>cbravo@lausd.net</u>	LD South	Rebecca Fitzpatrick <u>rfitz1@lausd.net</u>
LD East	Rosanna Carosa <u>rcarosa@lausd.net</u>	LD West	Cori King <u>cgw0973@lausd.net</u>
LD Northeast	Shelley Loftus <u>sloftus@lausd.net</u>	Options	Carmen Hermosillo <u>cxh0164@lausd.net</u>
LD Northwest	Pia Damonte <u>pxd1774@lausd.net</u>		

UCLA/LAUSD Collaborative – Updates

Third Quarter Collaborative Meeting

The third quarter Collaborative meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the campus of UCLA. Our meeting will feature a special presentation by Dr. Pedro Noguera, Distinguished Professor of Education, UCLA and prolific education researcher.

School teams must include the principal, Collaborative coordinator, and a counselor. The Collaborative will also provide a follow-up AP workshop for the same English and science teachers who attended the November 3rd meeting. Please register all participants by clicking on the RSVP link below.

Please Access the following Links:

- **RSVP:** <http://goo.gl/forms/nBX7nZZWZt>
(Schools must RSVP by Friday, January 29th, 2016)
- **Meeting Agenda:** https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2t8_QKi8jjiakJ2VII3Z2hvanc/view?usp=sharing
- **Directions:** https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2t8_QKi8jjic0JZa0JheEY3b1U/view?usp=sharing

Progress Monitoring Data

To support with mid-year reflection, you are now able to access progress monitoring data that are aligned to the goals of the Collaborative. Click on the following link to access data: [Progress Monitoring Data Link](#)

Note: The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires our District and its agents to protect the privacy of our students. Thus, such school-level data must be delivered in a manner that is only accessible to those who are authorized. **Download the spreadsheet in excel before you begin manipulating the folder (failure to do this will cause the data to be unavailable to others).**

If you need any assistance, contact Robert Whitman at rdw5302@lausd.net.

K-12 RESOURCES & EVENTS

Advanced Learning Options – Gate Coordinator Meetings

GATE Coordinator Meetings

Informational meetings for GATE coordinators/administrators and parents will be held in each local district throughout the month of February. Topics covered include general Gifted/Talented Programs updates and information regarding the OLSAT-8 administration to second grade students. For additional information and resources, refer to [MEM-6112.1, Gifted/Talented Programs Meetings and Professional Development Calendar](#).

HEALTH EDUCATION – New Sexual Health Education Requirements

The *CA Healthy Youth Act* passed in 2015, which results in a change to the Ed Code around comprehensive sexual health education requirements for 2016. The legislature changes replaces the *Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV Prevention-Education Act*. The law strengthens the language and includes other components, like healthy relationships, teen dating violence, human trafficking and new biomedical interventions that are required to be covered. The link to the newly updated requirements is below.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?tocCode=EDC&division=4.&title=2.&part=28.&chapter=5.6.&article

District policy is being updated based on this new law that took effect on January 1, 2016. Professional development is being planned on the updates. For more specific questions, please contact Timothy Kordic at timothy.kordic@lausd.net.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE – Events & Opportunities

ITI Task Force

The ITI Task Force will continue to meet every other Thursday at Local District East. For more information, please visit the ITI Task Force website: www.tinyurl.com/ITItaskforce

Educator Effectiveness Grant Opportunities

The ITI has received a grant, which will help provide professional learning opportunities for teachers and principals across the District. Dates are tentative. Below are upcoming opportunities that may be of interest:

- *Instructional Technology Planning Institute*: In-person training for Instructional Leadership Teams. This course supports school Instructional Leadership Teams in developing an informed, effective plan for instructional technology integration that is tailored to each school's needs. (Approximately 300 participants) at x-time (4 Days, Hourly Rate)
- *Technology Integration Professional Learning (Supplemental Digital Content)*: In-person training designed for teachers and administrators to use specific technology tools to support Common Core Instruction, personalized learning and 21st Century teaching and learning. (Approximately 2,000 participants) (3 Hours, Hourly Rate)
- *Fellowship Technology Integration Experts*: Common Core Instruction Development: Professional learning designed to equip teacher leaders with tools and methodologies for effective use of technology to support Common Core instruction. Trained individuals will serve as coaches and mentors for teachers within each local district. (Approximately 60 participants.) (10 days (40 Hours), Hourly Rate)

MULTILINGUAL AND MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT – Growth Opportunities

Elementary Instruction

The *Integrated ELD/Math Elementary Teacher Fellowship* will be held at Dr. Sammy Lee Elementary Medical and Health Science Magnet during the months of February 2016 – April 2016. This Fellowship was

MMED continued...

created to provide teachers with the opportunity to develop their understanding of how to implement Integrated ELD within the context of Common Core mathematics instruction. The purpose of this Fellowship program is to build a network of instructional leaders within the district that promotes the implementation of standards and research based instruction for English Learners. Participants will learn about and implement instructional strategies that they can take back to share with colleagues to support the Comprehensive ELD Program at their school sites.

- The Fellowship Dates: 2/20/16, 3/5/16, 3/12/16, 4/2/16, 4/16/16
- Follow this link to complete the Fellowship Application: bit.ly/2016ELDMathFellowsApp

LAUSD/UC Davis SOAR Teacher/Administrator Institute

UC Davis' Resourcing Excellence in Education (REEd), in partnership with LAUSD's MMED office, is offering a unique opportunity for a 3rd-12th grade school teacher and administrator team to engage in learning around a set of high impact practices for CCSS. The SOAR (Strategic Observation and Reflection) teaching frames™ have emerged from six years of research and development. Teacher and administrator team will receive high impact practices tools and associated rubrics to plan and observe instruction, specifically for English Learners and Standard English Learners. Dr. Susan O'Hara and Dr. Bob Pritchard, authors of the book *Common Core Standards in Diverse Classrooms*, will lead all five Saturday sessions: 2/27, 3/12, 4/9, 4/23, and 5/14 (accepted team applicants are required to attend all 5 sessions)

For more information about the LAUSD/UC Davis Teacher/Administrator Institute and to complete the application, please go to the MMED website: <http://achieve.lausd.net/mmed>

Dual Language/ Bilingual Programs Office

The 2nd Lead Teacher meeting will take place in February with two options to attend: *Wednesday, February 24, 2016 or Monday, February 29, 2016 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Beaudry.*

STUDENT INTEGRATION SERVICES – Magnet Program Update

Magnet Program

- ECAST opens to all principals beginning January 28 and closes on February 18, 2016.

KLCS

Who we are . . .

KLCS is the noncommercial educational television station licensed to the Los Angeles Unified School District, and a PBS member station. KLCS is one of the most-watched public television stations in the country and one of three PBS stations serving Southern California. KLCS is also one of only 5 noncommercial public television stations in the country licensed to a school district. KLCS is carried by Time Warner, DirecTV, Cox, Dish and all of the region's cable systems. Check the KLCS *Viewer Magazine* or your local cable listings for channels.

Contact KLCS at (213) 241-4000 to receive additional information.

KLCS continued . . .

Support for Black History Month 2016

Black History Month officially began in 1976, when President Gerald R. Ford asked Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Every year since then, every American president has dedicated February as African American History Month. Bring the celebration of Black History Month into your classroom with these activities, lesson plans, book resources, and interactive histories.

Opportunities for February

KLCS-TV BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMMING

Please refer to the February KLCS Viewer Magazine <http://klcs.org/black-history-month> for airtimes:

[AFRICAN AMERICANS: MANY RIVERS TO CROSS](#)

[AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRAILBLAZERS](#)

[AFROPOP: THE ULTIMATE CULTURAL EXCHANGE VI](#)

[AFROPOP: THE ULTIMATE CULTURAL EXCHANGE V](#)

[BLACK KUNGFU EXPERIENCE, THE](#)

[BLACK/WHITE & BROWN: BROWN VERSUS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA](#)

[COLORED FRAMES](#)

[DESEGREGATION: A DREAM DELAYED](#)

[THE EASTSIDERS](#)

[EDITOR AND THE DRAGON, THE: HORACE CARTER FIGHTS THE KLAN](#)

[EDUCATION OF HARVEY GANTT, THE](#)

[AN EVENING WITH SHEILA JOHNSON](#)

[FATS DOMINO - WALKIN' BACK TO NEW ORLEANS](#)

[FLY BOYS: WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S TUSKEGEE AIRMEN](#)

[HARPIST'S LEGACY, A: ANN HOBSON PILOT AND THE SOUND OF CHANGE](#)

[HINES FARM BLUES CLUB, THE](#)

[HUBERT H. HUMPHREY: THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE](#)

[LOCKED OUT: THE FALL OF MASSIVE RESISTANCE](#)

[LOOKING OVER JORDAN: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE WAR](#)

[LOST YEARS OF ZORA NEALE HURSTON, THE](#)

[THE MARCH](#)

[MARINES OF MONTFORD POINT, THE: FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM](#)

[MR. CIVIL RIGHTS: THURGOOD MARSHALL AND THE NAACP](#)

[MUSICAL THREADS: EXPRESSIONS OF A PEOPLE](#)

[NICKLES FROM HEAVEN](#)

[ONE NIGHT IN MARCH](#)

[PORTRAYAL AND PERCEPTION: AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN & BOYS](#)

[RIPPLE OF HOPE, A \(2nd Release\)](#)

[SAFE HARBOR](#)

[SOULFUL SYMPHONY WITH DARIN ATWATER: SONG IN A STRANGE LAND](#)

[STOKES: AN AMERICAN DREAM](#)

[SUMMER HILL](#)

[UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIP, AN](#)

[WHISPERS OF ANGELS: A STORY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD](#)

[WILDER: AN AMERICAN FIRST](#)

[WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED: THE LEGACY OF BROWN V. BOARD](#)

KLCS continued . . .

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 1-8

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collection/black-history-month>
<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/black-history-month.htm>

BLACK HISTORY MONTH LESSONS AND RESOURCES

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collection/black-history-month>
http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/black_history.shtml
<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/black-history-month.htm>
<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>
<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>

INTEGRATING AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURES & HISTORY INTO YOUR CURRICULUM

By Phil Nast, retired middle school teacher and freelance writer

Found In: language arts, social studies, preK-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 To help you integrate Black History Month into your classroom, we offer a selection of lesson plans that cover a variety subjects and that can be adapted to fit multiple grade levels. Resources for

- **Grades K-5**
- **Grades 6-8**
- **Grades 9-12**

http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/black_history.shtml

A Black History Treasure Hunt

Students learn about famous black Americans while polishing their Internet surfing skills. Four different hunts -- for students of all ages. Student work sheets included.

Five Lessons in Black History

Primary source materials teach about Rosa Parks, school integration, and the growth of the African-American population throughout history. Plus: Students create a database/timeline and write a rap about a famous figure in Black History. More!

Lessons to Celebrate Black History Month

Ten innovative activities to help you incorporate the African-American experience into your curriculum all year long.

Langston Hughes Was a Dreamer Too

Learn how Langston Hughes expressed his dreams through poetry. (Grades 2-12)

Now Let Me Fly -- A Black History Reader's Theater Script

Celebrate Black History Month by staging a classroom production of this play. (Grades 3-12)

Activities Celebrate Achievements of African Americans

Activities that reflect the positive impact black Americans have had on our nation's history. Included: Internet-based activities to celebrate Black History Month.

The Road to Freedom: Using the WWI to Teach About Slavery

These activities will help students trace the journey to freedom and learn about some of the heroes who paved the way. Included: Activities for teaching about slavery across the grades and the curriculum.

KLCS continued . . .

Climb Aboard the Underground Railroad T.O.U.R.

An online project for those studying the Underground Railroad. Project coordinators say, "Climb aboard!" You will share, learn, and uncover a bit of America's lost past.

Celebrating African American History Month

Lesson plans to encourage students to explore the history of African Americans, learn about their struggles, and celebrate their successes.

Brown v. Board of Education Celebrates 50 Years

On the fiftieth anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, Education World offers this special lesson planning resource. Included: Links to more than 3 dozen lessons.

An Experiment in Unfair Treatment/Prejudice

Pauline Finlay, who teaches at Holy Trinity Elementary School in Torbay, Newfoundland (Canada), submitted this lesson, which offers a simple experiment to help launch a discussion of unfair treatment and prejudice/bias. (Grades 3-12)

The African American Experience: A Research Quilt

Introduce students to the research process as they construct a quilt square highlighting the achievements of a famous Black American. Share the quilt with your community.

A Mirror Into History

Students create poems about themselves *and* a famous African American. They will see that they are not so different from the great people of our past and present.

Famous African-American Fabric Portraits

Doris Metcalf, who recently retired from the Florence (Alabama) City Schools, submitted this lesson, in which students create a fabric-portrait exhibit of famous African Americans. (Grades 6-12)

The Amistad Comes to Life!

Activities across the grades and across the curriculum bring to life the story of the revolt on the Amistad.

Habari Gani? -- What's the News?

Learn about Kwanzaa, the world's fastest growing holiday, with these activities and Internet links.

- See more at: http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/black_history.shtml#sthash.CjVPvSP6.dpuf

This concludes this month's issue of the Instructional Update. Thank you for all you do to support teaching and learning.