

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

February 4, 2008

Garbage in, garbage out

Last week, CEA sent an email to each of you asking for your input on district testing problems. We are requesting that you register to use the CEA blog and give us your comments. As you know, there are many significant issues that need to be addressed. Among them:

- Many of the answers to district-mandated quarterly assessments are incorrect. Many multiple-choice items appear to offer no correct answers among the choices provided.
- The frequency and number of tests given barely allow teachers time to teach or to evaluate results so they can offer students additional assistance.
- Students are being tested on material that is a step or two ahead of what's prescribed in the district's pacing guides.

But don't take our word for it. A number of your peers already have logged into the CEA blog and written some comments. Here are few:

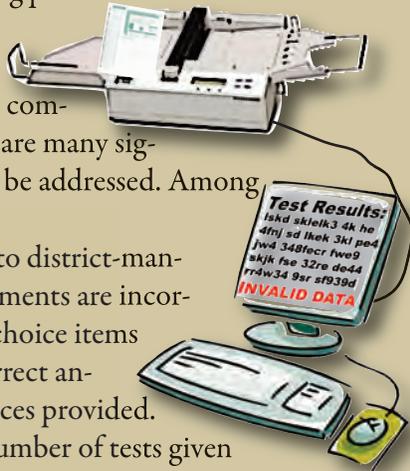
"The Dominic test is the only part of LACES that is in the new reading program. It takes an unbelievable amount of time to individually test each child. With the huge classes that we have now, it took me four days instead of the two reading periods 'scheduled' for us to do them. The DRA worked perfectly fine. We really don't need constant assessments to tell where our students are."

"As of the end of next week, I will have given 46 different OAT and Quarterly Assessment tests to my class of intermediate special needs students this year. This does not include DIBELS and Dominic testing. The approximate length to administer each test is one entire school day. Since I can only read and scribe for one test at a time, the other 2nd grade level students sit and do mostly busy work for the day (learning less and leaving me more to grade)."

"How about the time we have to spend grading short and extended response answers on the *practice* OAT for GLIs that we have not even taught yet? What a joke!" "I have been teaching a long, long time, and there is NO way a good teacher can stick to the ridiculous timeline or would WANT TO! It doesn't allow for many of the skills we need to teach for the OATs! Our students do NOT all progress at the same rate...why would I move on when many of my students aren't ready?"

Give us your comments and read others at blog.ceaohio.org. Here's how:

Click on the *Register* link at the top right-hand corner of the blog. Choose a username (you are not required to enter your real name), and enter your non-CCS email address. A confirmation email with your username and password will be sent to you shortly after you register.



Reach Out and Read® book campaign

CEA is once again very excited to announce its participation in this year's "Reach Out and Read" community book drive campaign.

Not only is CEA a participant in this wonderful community effort, we are also a sponsor.

"Reach Out and Read" is a pediatric literacy program dedicated to encouraging family literacy activities in the home.

CEA is asking each member to donate to the campaign at least one brand new book for children ages 6 months to 8 years old. Our goal is to exceed last year's campaign collection of more than 2,600 books.

The kick-off date for CEA's campaign is Monday, Feb. 4, and will run the entire month of February. Your Senior Faculty Representative will have a location in your building for donated books. For more information regarding the campaign, please contact Tracey Johnson at 253-4731, or email her at tjohnson@ceaohio.org.



Article 211 training

Article 211 training will be Tuesday, Feb. 19, and Monday, Feb. 25. Principals and Senior Faculty Representatives should have received a memo inviting them to attend the training sessions that will be held at the Northgate Center.

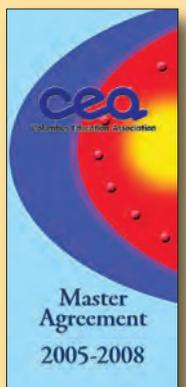
Article 211 of the *Master Agreement* stipulates that vacancies may be filled only through an interview and selection process conducted by a specially-trained faculty team.

The selection teams must be set up in each school and participants trained in procedures. Training is important. Without it, we risk invalidating the selection process.

Each session will cover the following material:

- Update of Article 211 policies and procedures (including timeline for posting positions, interviewing and selecting candidates)
- Creating interview teams
- Legal issues related to school-site interviewing
- Identifying topics and creating appropriate interview questions
- Electronic filing demonstration

Please contact Dean Fowls at Northgate Center at dfowls@columbus.k12.oh.us or call 365-5039 with any questions or concerns.



Form your interview team

It is time to start forming your interview team for the Article 211 process.

This process gives you a voice. You get to talk to candidates and help pick who joins your team.



The time is now to start recruiting for vacancies that exist at your school. And remember: We don't have "no raid agreements" among schools. Everyone is a free agent.

Here are some basics:

- ⌚ The interview panel consists of the principal, the senior faculty representative and one elected member of the Association Building Council, and two parents/members of the school community, or an alternative panel as agreed at the building between the principal and the CEA President.
- ⌚ The administrator shall make the final determination of the applicant selected for the position. If the choice differs from the panel's recommendations, the administrator shall send written notice of the selection to members of the interview panel and to the CEA President.
- ⌚ Many individuals may submit an application for a posted vacancy. However, not every applicant who applies needs or has a right to be interviewed, except the two most senior applicants for the position.

For further information, call CEA.

Do not make statements

In a number of cases that involve allegations of wrongdoing or inappropriate conduct on the part of the teacher, prior to getting counsel involved, many teachers are giving statements to the administration. These statements can then be used against the teacher, not only in the administrative investigation, but also in any Children Services' investigation and/or police investigation which may follow.

It is CEA's recommendation that if a teacher is confronted with allegations of misconduct or inappropriate conduct, she should contact CEA immediately. She then should decline to give any statement (verbal or written) to the administration. Typically, this comes in the form of giving a statement to Waymon Malone, Investigator for the Columbus City School District. We recommend the teacher decline to give a statement and advise the administration (whether it be the principal or Mr. Malone) that she is willing to cooperate but will not do so until she has the opportunity to meet with an attorney.

The teacher must obtain a lawyer through the CEA in order to have her rights protected. We cannot stress enough how important it is that teachers not give any statements to anyone when allegations are made against them. Be sure to contact CEA if you are accused of misconduct or inappropriate behavior, so that you may access an attorney through the OEA Legal Services program.



TQE Camp

The Teacher Quality Enhancement/OSU Math & Science Summer Camp is looking for highly qualified middle school math and/or science teachers to teach math and science lessons to CCS students alongside pre-service teachers. This year, the camp will take place from June 23–July 11

(Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–2 p.m.). Teachers can earn up to \$3,000 of extended time for their work in the summer camp.

In order to teach at the camp, you must successfully complete the OSU Spring Workshop where you will earn four tuition-free graduate credits. During the workshop, you will be responsible for co-planning and writing math and science lessons that will be taught in the summer camp. The workshop will take place on Wednesdays from 4:30–7:30 p.m., Mar. 26–June 6.

Request an application form from Isha Trammell Matthews at itrammell1262@columbus.k12.oh.us or call 365-8600.

Student's memory honored with fund

Dennis Lewis was one of Columbus' brightest. He was an A-student at East High School and a talented musician and vocalist. He always took the time to help others.

On Jan. 16, Dennis attended the CEA Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner as part of a group of students being honored for their achievements.

Two days later, Dennis' life was cut short. Intruders entered his North Linden home. The 17-year-old died defending his mother.

Friends of Dennis have created a scholarship fund in his honor. Each year, a deserving student will receive an award in his name.

Dennis' twin brother, Derris, will receive the first Dennis Lewis Scholarship at graduation later this year.

Anyone who would like to contribute to this fund may send in a check made out to the The Dennis Lewis Scholarship Fund. Send it to Waddell & Reed, 5900 Wilcox Place, Dublin, OH 43016. Mark your envelope: ATTN: Jason Codrea.

This is a non-profit scholarship fund, so all contributions are tax-deductible.

Special notes

- ❑ The **deadline for submission of the Spring 2008 Fee Waiver Applications is Friday, Feb. 8, at 5 p.m.** Send completed applications to **Northgate Center. Priority I or II** status applications must **include the proper documentation**. Your priority status will automatically change to Priority III without the proper documentation.
- ❑ **CEA needs your non-CCS email address.** The Association needs to be able to communicate union business with you via email without the worry of information being monitored by the school system. Send your personal email address to Bob Hern at bhern@ceaohio.org. For questions, call CEA.
- ❑ **CEA Spring Elections:** Members may declare candidacy until Feb. 8 for President, Vice President, Governors for Districts 1, 4, 5, 8 and 11, delegates for the 2008–2009 OEA RAs and the 2008 NEA RA. Campaigning will be Feb. 11–25. Voting will be conducted Feb. 26–Mar. 10. Votes will be tabulated Mar. 11. Declaration forms are available from the CEA office or on the CEA Web site.
- ❑ **If you are a homeowner and have equity in your home,** you may want to consider a debt consolidation/refinance loan or home equity line of credit to pay off high interest rate credit cards. This is a cost effective way to save hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in interest. **NEA members and their families will receive discounts** through the **Wells Fargo NEA Home Financing Program**. Call Home Mortgage Consultant **Dan Olson at (614) 888-6529** for details.
- ❑ Four **Blue Jacket Tickets** are available for the **Feb. 13** Chicago game. Call the CEA office at 253-4731 to purchase tickets.