



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Ms. Jennifer Haberling, 2008-2009 Michigan Teacher of the Year

SUBJECT: Teacher of the Year Report

**In Hudsonville
School Wide**

Students have been busy collecting food, coats, mittens, and gifts for a variety of service organizations, including Samaritan's Purse (Operation Christmas Child), Mel Trotter Ministries, Black Hill Ministries, and Angel Tree Ministries in anticipation of the holiday season and many local and world-wide needs. Operation Christmas Child has wrapped up with more than double the participation compared to last year's collection.

Staff are focusing on strategies for effective formative assessments. This month we are looking at and sharing ideas for comparing and contrasting. Each staff member will bring a strategy to share at our monthly staff meeting, where we will collaborate within and across curriculum areas to increase the fluidity of our teaching and improve the repertoire of our teaching strategies.

In 7th grade

Students are working to finalize the writing of their first major research projects. Next they will be preparing to present their information to the class in a PowerPoint. We will work on creating a visual aid that is interesting to look at, helpful to the listener, and not distracting. Additionally, they will be practicing public speaking skills, and preparing for and giving the presentations.

In 8th Grade

Eighth graders are completing their reading of *Romeo and Juliet*. As we are finishing up this thematic unit, they are comparing the differing ideas of love as presented through the diverse characters in the play. Students will write an essay comparing these characters' definitions of love. When we read the end of the play, students will then test their knowledge of Shakespeare's language by writing their own missing scene, giving us a glimpse into the gaps in the play. Each student's missing scene will then be read by a group in class and several will be selected by the students for performance.

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As MTOY

I have been invited to work with the Michigan Lottery to film a commercial highlighting education. This experience and the interaction with the advertising company will help me teach 7th graders about media and advertising.

I am wondering how the Department of Education can work to use the Network of Michigan Educators to gather information about things like the MEAP test and other educationally relevant topics. It seems like this is a ready-made group of high-quality educators who can give excellent information in a concise and expedient fashion.

Baldwin Middle School applied for the MI Champions scholarship opportunity with MACUL as a result of a conversation I had with Bruce Umpstead. We are assembling a technology team of five staff members in the science and English departments to work on technology initiatives in the next several years.

I was invited to join a group from Michigan that is attending the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices Policy Forum on State Strategies for Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness, December 15 and 16 in Kansas City, Missouri. I look forward to this collaborative experience.