
The MAST E-Rapper

9.21.09

October Conference Prep

Editor's Note

Thank you for taking a few moments to join me as I ruminate on our upcoming conference.

As teachers, we are very careful in evaluating and utilizing time. We have to be sure to pack as much value into our time with students as possible. It doesn't matter whether we have 45, 50, 80 or 90 minutes per class. We do our best to maximize each minute. And so it is with our conference. Your colleagues have organized this event and have used the same thinking all of us employ every day. To that end, there are 3 concurrent sessions being planned. What does this mean? It means I need to find at least 2 other teachers from my department to join me at the conference so that we can attend as many of the sessions as possible! You might consider this idea as well!

NSTA will be at the conference. This looks like an opportunity to find out more about the upcoming regional conference. Have you considered submitting a presentation proposal? Before you dismiss the idea, please consider your talents and strengths. Please reflect for a moment on those lessons you share with your students that have them riveted and engaged. Personally, I would thoroughly enjoy a presentation from a passionate teacher sharing a valuable lesson. Also, if you know a colleague who has something to

share, encourage them to consider presenting it. The regional conference is an opportunity for Maryland Science Teachers to shine a spotlight on our strengths!

I've heard that the National Aquarium will be in attendance and presenting. Here's an opportunity I don't want to miss. MDBio Lab is also coming to the conference WITH THE TRUCK. Have you seen their presentations? Have you been inside the truck? If these were the only 2 groups presenting, it's already an incredible value for the \$\$\$. (I'll share more about who's coming next week!)

Wow, it's already Sept 21st! School starts and the time flies away. All it takes is one or two blinks and it is June (or at least December). The conference is on October 16th so it's time-right now-to submit my registration form. The location is South Carroll High School. It is a central location for multiple counties and if each school sends 3 people to attend as many sessions as possible...this conference could be sold out! (I've provided a copy of the registration form in this issue so you can submit yours asap too!)

Warm regards,

Donna

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Announcements

MAST and NSTA Seeks Presenters for Regional NSTA Conference in Baltimore 2010

The National Science Teachers Association in conjunction with the Maryland Association of Science Teachers has announced the opening for proposals to present at our upcoming regional conference. The NSTA will hold its 2010 Regional Conference at the Baltimore Convention Center in November of 2010.

Committees are forming to assist the NSTA in putting together an outstanding conference for Science Teachers. This upcoming conference will center on the theme **“Charting the Course to Excellence”**. In September through January NSTA will be open for receiving proposals from local teachers to present at this conference. There will be approximately 300 presentations for attending teachers to select. NSTA and MAST would like to encourage you to make a presentation at this conference so you can share your favorite lessons, activities, and/or teaching experiences with others.

MAST and NSTA have identified three strands for professional development emphasis. We would like to encourage you to use this opportunity to present to fellow science teachers as a way to enhance your resume, share your expertise and contribute to the professional development of our regional science teachers. When you submit your proposal, please indicate the strand in which you wish to be included. The following lists the strands and goals for each. Please also note that it is not necessary to present in a particular strand. Proposals will be accepted at www.nsta.org under the Conferences and Institutes Tab.

Strand One: Teaching Science in the 21st-Century Classroom

Today’s student learns differently. The 21st-century student deserves and demands an interactive and student-centric approach to learning. This presents many challenges to educators, including meeting the needs of students with diverse learning styles such as English language learners, special needs students, and advanced and below-grade-level readers. The effective science teacher uses innovative, research-based instructional strategies to facilitate achievement in science for *all* students. Differentiation, universal design for learning, project-based learning, and brain-based learning are just a few of these strategies. This strand will increase participants' knowledge of and expertise in the integration of these and other innovative pedagogies for helping students attain high standards.

Goals: To provide workshops and presentations focusing on one or more of the following:

- Differentiation and culturally responsive teaching in science classrooms.
- Effectively integrating cutting-edge technology to enhance student learning and support science teacher professional development.

- Teaching practices such as universal design for learning, response to intervention (RTI), or multiple intelligences.
- Implementing cognitive science to enhance learning.
- Inquiry-based instruction and its impact on student learning.

Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated on the extent that they:

- Promote the use of teaching strategies to match the learning styles of today’s learners.
- Provide evidence of effective use of innovative teaching strategies.
- Share examples of effective learning/achievement in “21st-century” learners.
- Align with one or more strand goals.
- Align with state and national science education standards (NSES and Benchmarks).
- Are based on current and available research and issues in science.
- Involve participants through activities and/or discussion.

Strand Two: Embracing the World from Our Own Backyard: Environmental Education

Our environment is threatened, and science educators are a powerful tool for change. Once empowered, our students will be key to achieving this change. In this increasingly interconnected global community, all members must understand the implications of our choices and the impact we can have both globally and locally. This strand will increase participants’ knowledge of effective practices to help students understand, appreciate, protect, and restore our natural environment.

Goals: To provide workshops and presentations focusing on one or more of the following:

- Implementing outdoor science experiences and programs that connect children with nature (e.g., No Child Left Inside, Children in Nature).
- Empowering environmental actions, including service learning, and environmental education activities.
- Becoming a certified Green School.
- Exploring the science of green technologies such as recycling, alternative energy resources and energy conservation, and green building techniques.
- Using 21st-century skills to protect local ecosystems, such as water monitoring, invasive species eradication, restoration projects, riparian buffers, runoff prevention, and GIS mapping.

Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated on the extent that they:

- Focus on student-centered learning opportunities.
- Model successful strategies for incorporating the local ecosystem into instruction.
- Align with one or more strand goals.
- Align with state and national science education standards (NSES and Benchmarks).
- Are based on current and available research and issues in science.
- Involve participants through activities and/or discussion.

Strand Three: Building Tomorrow’s Workforce: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

Imagination, invention, and creativity drive development in our world. In preparing today's students to be tomorrow's workforce we must prepare them for all jobs, even some that do not yet exist. Educators must help guide students into careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This strand will highlight classroom practices that emphasize skills in critical thinking, leadership, problem solving, collaboration, communication, media, and technology in the transdisciplinary context of STEM.

Goals: To provide workshops and presentations focusing on one or more of the following:

- Real-life applications of STEM activities that encourage preK–16 students to think like scientists and engineers.
- Using problem solving, innovation, and imagination for development of products and applications.
- Using authentic hands-on/minds-on activities where students work as teams to design, construct, and analyze.
- Giving teachers the tools to integrate aspects of engineering and technology into everyday activities and discussions.
- Providing teachers with information on cultivating and sustaining nurturing, meaningful partnerships within their communities.

Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated on the extent that they:

- Integrate a STEM focus within the current curriculum.
- Provide student opportunities for collaboration and 21st-century skills development.
- Demonstrate effective application of appropriate technologies.
- Align with one or more strand goals.
- Align state and national science education standards (NSES and Benchmarks).
- Are based on current and available research and issues in science.
- Involve participants through activities and/or discussion.

Please feel free to contact Elizabeth McCook at elizabethmccook@emast.org, Program Chairperson for the NSTA Baltimore 2010 Conference if you have further questions in regard to your proposal. All submissions of proposals will go to the NSTA Office. If you wish to assist the Maryland Association of Science Teachers in working with NSTA on the development of this conference you may also contact her or Conference Chairperson, Mary Weller at mcwelle@carrollk12.org

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MAST Fall Conference Pre-Registration Form

Access to Excellence

South Carroll High School

October 16, 2009

(Please Type or Print)

Name _____
Last First

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School System _____

School Name _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Nickname or Title (for badge) i.e. Mr., Mrs., Ms., Dr., etc., _____

Level

_____ Preschool _____ Elementary _____ Middle/Jr. High _____ High School

_____ College _____ Supervision _____ Student _____ Other

Conference Pre-Registration (Lunch will be provided)

.....\$ _____

MAST Member = \$15

Non member = \$30.00 (includes 1-year membership)

Payments must accompany pre-registration form. Group checks must be accompanied by separate forms for each participant. Make checks payable to MAST. Any forms received after the deadline will be held for on-site registration and will be subject to on-site fees.

Send form to (Forms must be received by October 9, 2009):

MAST

P.O. Box 368

Finksburg, MD 21048

Office Use: Received _____ Check date _____ Check number _____

Membership to _____ Code MER921

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Maryland Association
of Science Teachers

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Welcome to MAST! Please print, complete, and mail this form to the address below.

Type of Membership – Please check one space in each column.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year – \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 year – \$40.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student – \$5.00 (1 year) | |

Member Information – Please fill this out completely!

Last Name		First Name		Level – please check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-K <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Student <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisory <input type="checkbox"/> Middle/Jr. High <input type="checkbox"/> High School <input type="checkbox"/> College/University <input type="checkbox"/> Organization (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
Street Address				
City		State	Zip	
Local School System		School		
Home Phone	Work Phone		Cell Phone	
Email Address		Alternate Email Address		

I would like to donate \$ _____ to support:
 the MAST Awards for Excellence in Science Education Program
 the MAST Mini-Grants Program

Please make your check payable to the Maryland Association of Science Teachers (MAST) and send it with this completed application to:
 MAST
 P.O. Box 368
 Finksburg, MD 21048

For Office Use: Date Received _____ Amt Paid _____ Membership to: _____
 Cash _____ Check Number _____ Check date _____

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