

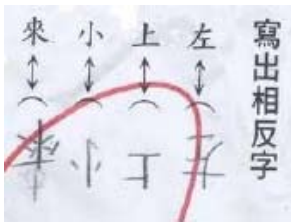
MCIU Update

Fall 2010

The Newsletter of Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23

MyChinese 360 and PDK Partnerships

Districts interested in providing Chinese instruction now have a viable, affordable option through the MCIU. Partnering with TCG Global, the provider of MyChinese 360, the Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Division (CIPD), is offering this unique program for Mandarin Chinese language instruction using an online platform with a real-time, highly qualified teacher. The 4-year, web-based curriculum combines readings, videos, games, offline assignments, vocabulary tools, texts and more to create an engaging experience. Students also receive live, interactive help from a tutor in China and engage in activities in a 3-D virtual world.



The program is available for \$600 per student per course. **A live demo may be scheduled by emailing bneiman@mciu.org or visit <http://www.mychinese360.com> to learn more.** With the support of the MCIU Education Foundation, the MCIU awarded scholarships for six students to enroll in the MyChinese 360 language program for one semester this year.

Also, this year, CIPD will be partnering with Phi Delta Kappa International (PDK) to offer a 3 1/2-day training program designed to prepare senior administrators to examine and evaluate system-based issues in order to optimize the delivery of effective teaching and learning.

PDK is one of the largest education associations in the world and has thousands of members dedicated to improving education, including teachers, principals, superintendents, and higher education faculty and administrators.

"The MCIU will be able to offer the PDK courses at a lower per participant rate, saving districts thousands of dollars on travel and accommodations expenses. These courses are widely known internationally and we are pleased to be able to offer them locally," said CIPD Director, Kendall Glouner.

The program, called Systems Factors: Governance, Leadership, and Support Services, will be held December 13-16, 2010. The program will cover audit premises, standards, internal review, and external audits, policy, staff relationships at all levels, and support services.

To register, visit: <http://tiny.cc/PDK1> (Cost is \$775 for in-county subscribers)



NEW: MCIU Driver's Education Program

The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit will soon begin offering a high quality, cost-effective Driver's Education Program for students in Montgomery County public school districts and non-public schools. The Driver's Education Program will also be offered to out-of-county students.

Driver's Education provides students the opportunity to learn safe driving methods from a trained, experienced, Pennsylvania Department of Education certified educator. The program also provides students with knowledge of the perceptual and practical experience needed to drive in today's environment.



The MCIU program will do more than teach the rules of the road:

- ◆ It will improve perceptual and cognitive skills.
- ◆ It will address inexperience, risky behaviors, peer pressure and the consequences of driving without the proper use of seat belts.
- ◆ It will teach three different defensive driving techniques and focuses on proper attitude while driving.
- ◆ It will provide students with a basic understanding of how a car works, both inside the driving compartment and outside of the car.
- ◆ It will stress the importance of following signs, signals and roadway markings.
- ◆ It will afford students the opportunity to receive their driver's license through the Driver's Education program certified instructor.

Many insurance companies offer a 10% discount for students who have completed Behind the Wheel and Classroom Theory training.

COST:

Classroom Theory (30 Hour Course)

\$190 - Montgomery County students
\$220 - Out-of-county students

Behind the Wheel (6 Hour Course)

\$300 - Montgomery County students
\$325 - Out-of-county students

For more information, contact
Dr. Ken Voss
610-755-9318
kvoss@mciu.org

Expanded Distance Learning Opportunities

Distance learning opportunities for Montgomery County educators will be greatly expanded thanks to two grants received by the MCIU Technology and Information Services Division (TIS).

Using an Act 183 eFund of \$418,579, this summer TIS installed Elluminate web conferencing for use by public school district staff. Polycom equipment was also installed that provides videoconferencing through desktop software.

Through a state grant, MCIU will offer Safari Montage video content to member districts at no cost for 2010-11. In addition to the content, TIS is making additional services available, such as home access and integration with the Follett Destiny Library system.

TIS has been offering workshops on each of these technologies throughout the summer and trainings will continue throughout the school year.

This fall, TIS and the Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Division, will collaborate to bring in a workshop with Heidi Hayes Jacobs. The workshop will be recorded and streamed to districts and other intermediate units. Look for more content to be delivered by distance learning in the upcoming year!

Mark your calendars for the following workshops:

Elluminate Live!
November 23, 2010, 4 to 7 pm

Elluminate Live! is a virtual environment optimized for learning. Whether you have two students—or a hundred—Elluminate Live! enables world-class communication, collaboration, and education that transforms teaching and learning. This course will introduce you to the Elluminate Live! webinar tools and features so you can host your own Elluminate Live session.

Safari Montage
November 23, 2010, 3-4:30 pm (online course)

This workshop will introduce K-12 teachers to Safari Montage and its features. Safari Montage provides video-on demand content which allows teachers to seamlessly integrate rich video and images into their curriculum. Prerequisite: Your school's network must be connected to PAIUnet's network. Please confirm with your technology department or email mgordon@mciu.org.

**Through funding made available via the Pennsylvania Department of Education Act 183 eFund grant, the MCIU is able to provide both of these trainings AT NO COST for public school district personnel.

Students Enjoy Video Game Camp

High school students interested in designing their own video games found their niche at a new summer camp offered through the Technology and Information Services Division (TIS) this August. At the week-long camp, students learned the fundamentals of animation, character design, story development, and game design. Upon completion, the students had produced their very own, personally designed and developed video game to play.

"The camp was really a great success. It helped students move from playing games to designing games," said TIS Supervisor, Troy Sosnovik. "The world of video games is a fast-growing, multi-billion dollar industry. This course was the first step into the world of video game design."

TIS plans to offer the popular camp again in summer 2011.

Pictured below: Josh Gelenberg, a summer camp participant, learns video game development from instructor, Elbert Sadler.



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New MCIU Administrators

The MCIU is pleased to welcome the following new administrators to the organization.



Dr. Leticia Rodriguez (top left) has joined the MCIU as Assistant Director of Human Resources. Leticia most recently worked as the Director of HR for the Spring-Ford Area School District and before that she served as HR Director at Montgomery County Community College.

Dr. Barbara Burke-Stevenson (top right) will serve as Acting Director of Special Education. Dr. Burke-Stevenson will be filling the position previously held by Dr. Jeanmarie Mason until a permanent replacement is hired. Dr. Burke-Stevenson most recently served as acting superintendent of Phoenixville and Methacton school districts and before that as superintendent of the New Hope-Solebury School District.



The MCIU's Anderson School also welcomes George V. Carlino (pictured left) as the interim principal.

Carlino brings a wealth of experience in alternative education, regular education and vocational-technical education. Carlino most recently served as interim principal at Phoenixville Area High School and Great Valley High School. He was also principal at Owen J. Roberts High School for six years. During the 1990s, he developed the alternative program, Center for Alternative Secondary Education (CASE) and he served as assistant principal for the Center for Arts and Technology.

Teaching American History Grant Opportunities Continue

Nearly 70 educators enjoyed a trip to Gettysburg this summer --part of the Civil War Institute program offered by the MCIU's Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Division (CIPD), June 28 to July 1. The trip allowed K-12 history teachers to do a team study of the Battle of Gettysburg -- a turning point in the Civil War where the Union victory in the summer of 1863 ended General Robert



E. Lee's second and most ambitious invasion of the North. Teachers toured the famous historical monuments and heard presentations from professional field guides.

"The visit was a great opportunity for our educators to experience Gettysburg as learners. This gave many of them a fresh look at how to incorporate the use of historical sites into their instruction," said Arthur Mitchell, Assistant Director of CIPD.

The Gettysburg trip was one of many professional development activities being delivered through the George Washington/Valley Forge Institute as provided by the US Department of Education Teaching American History Grant Program. CIPD and its major partner, the Freedoms Foundation, is poised to enter the third year of the

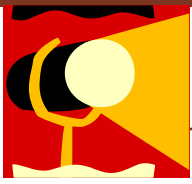
grant, offering workshops presented by some of the top academics and historians in the area. This year, the key components of the program will be:

- American History content presentations from Reconstruction through the Civil Rights Movement;
- Content presentations separated into Elementary and Secondary groups. This will allow for a presentation of the materials that is better suited for the intended student audience;
- After school professional learning community meetings;
- Field experiences where participants will be able to engage historical sites as adult learners;



- A four-day, summer Civil Rights Institute program; and
- Standards Aligned System (SAS) web-page and lesson development.

"Social studies is becoming part of the Keystone Exams, so it is vital that we begin reviewing the curriculum and creating targeted work that aligns with the test documents," Mitchell said, noting that grant teachers will develop lessons to post on the SAS portal for lesson exemplars. For more information about upcoming activities, contact Mitchell at (610) 755-9336 or amitchell@mciu.org.



Spotlight on PaTTAN

Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

Providing quality education to students with disabilities requires extensive support for families, teachers, administrators and the students themselves -- so much so, that PDE has in place a statewide network with three regional offices dedicated to this mission. The purpose of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), with offices located in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and King of Prussia, is to build the capacity of local education agencies (LEAs) to serve students who receive special education or who are at risk for needing special education. An initiative of the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) within the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), PaTTAN supports the efforts and initiatives of the BSE to provide a statewide network of support.

PaTTAN's training and technical assistance is framed by Pennsylvania's Standards Aligned System (SAS). The SAS is a collaborative product of research and good practice that identifies six distinct elements, which if utilized together, will provide schools and districts with a common framework for continuous enhancement and improvement.

What is PaTTAN's relationship to intermediate units?

Key to the effectiveness of the PaTTAN system is the robust partnership with the 29 intermediate units (IUs). Each IU receives support to fund Training and Consultant (TAC) staff who work closely with PaTTAN staff. PaTTAN supports the TAC staff through a train-the-trainer process to build the TAC staff capacity to support their LEAs. TAC staff rely on PaTTAN staff for new initiatives and for supporting the most challenging student and education issues. Together, PaTTAN and TAC staffs provide an effective regional and statewide network of support and services for educators, parents and students, and schools providing special education services.

For educators, schools and parents within Montgomery County, this means that the PaTTAN staff from King of Prussia

work very closely with the five TAC staff at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The TAC staff work closely with the Special Education and CIPD Departments to ensure that local school and district needs are being addressed. Examples of this close partnership are found in a number of initiatives including:

- ◆ Inclusive Practices – IU and PaTTAN staff work together to ensure that schools in need of improvement are provided with on-going job-embedded training and support.
- ◆ Secondary Transition – IU and PaTTAN staff partner to provide training related to measurable transition goals with the IU providing on-going support to schools in the implementation of the goal writing process.
- ◆ Response to Instruction and Intervention – IU and PaTTAN staff have partnered to providing ongoing training and support

This year, PaTTAN and the MCIU are collaborating to provide assistance to Pottstown School District and Norristown Area School District in the implementation of their LRE Improvement Plan and to Pottstown School District and Abington School District as participants in the Membership, Participation and Learning: Educating Students with Complex Support Needs in General Education Classrooms project. Support is also being provided to Hatboro-Horsham, Spring-Ford Area and North



Penn school districts in the facilitation of the SAS Consideration Toolkit. In addition, trainings in the area of co-teaching, curriculum modifications, standards-aligned IEPs, and student-specific support have been provided.

Initiatives

PaTTAN also provides support to schools, parents, educators, students, and administrators on the following topics:

- Special Education Policies, Laws, and Procedures
- Progress Monitoring in Reading, Math, and Behavior
- Data Analysis and Planning
- Special Education Leadership Training and Mentoring
- Educational Interpreters
- Sensory Impairments (Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Visually Impaired, Deafblind)
- Speech and Language
- Paraprofessional Training
- Assistive Technology Services
- Autism

For more information, visit www.pattan.net

MCIU Update

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit
1605 W. Main Street, Norristown, PA 19403
610-539-8550 www.mciu.org

Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley
Executive Director/CEO

Jane W. Mansuy
Asst. Executive Director/
Director of Human Resources

Stan H. Wisler
Chief Financial Officer/
Director of Management Services

Edited by
Kristen Rawlings