

The 3 R's: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

Problems/issues recently resolved

1. OT position now under WTA.
2. Department chair/team leader stipends amended at the middle school.
3. Union links established for all newly hired teachers.
4. Notification given to all probationary teachers in need of training.

Under review by WTA

7 hour professional development option.

3rd Thursdays– 10 Minute Meeting

November 21st- Free Donuts!

We promise only 10 minutes–

Topic : Seniority

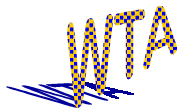


Rule of thumb #3 Know where you are on the seniority list, what it means and how it effects you!

Top 12 ways to be involved in WTA (join a committee!)

American Education , Communication,
Teacher Recognition , Student Recognition,
Nominations, Political Action,
Scholarship, Social,
Constitution, Newsletter
Board of Education Liaison
Weisenreider/Community Outreach.

See your building rep and get involved!



Guest Essayist in Rochester Democrat and Chronicle!

Sylvia Hungerford, one of our very own special education/ reading teachers recently submitted this editorial in which she was featured as a guest essaying in the local Democrat and Chronicle last month on October 29, 2002.

Putting Students of varying abilities in one class works for none of them.

Schools and Standards:

I am a teacher, and I am concerned to the point where I can no longer sit back and watch the very destruction of a profession I have been involved with since 1975.

I have seen the pendulum of educational philosophy swing back and forth many times. Each educational commissioner has wanted to leave his distinctive “mark” on the educational process—some for better and some for worse. My concern is with the philosophical viewpoint that “one size fits all.”

What we currently espouse is basically a one-room schoolhouse. Students, regardless of cognitive ability, are to be “blended / included” into heterogeneously grouped classrooms.

While these classes may be doable at the primary levels, the disparity among cognitive abilities widens and is apparent to all among middle school and high school students and their teachers.

Unfortunately, “tracking” by cognitive ability has become a dirty word in education.

Five years ago, I agreed to try blending my group of special class students into a math class, which would be team-taught by a regular education teacher and myself, with a teacher aid also present in the classroom to assist.

While we worked on solving two-step equations with the group, there were students who had difficulty counting money, telling time, and taking basic measurements and who had no grasp whatsoever of basic math facts.

What essentially happened was that we had three or four different lessons going on in the same classroom. For what purpose? It was distracting, it slowed the pace of learning for all learners and was frustrating for student and teacher alike.

I agree that standards need to be

raised for all students. I believe all students have the ability and desire to learn. However, the point that this educational philosophy misses is that we need to find the baseline of a student’s ability, diagnose and place that student with students of similar cognitive ability or at least within a reasonable range of ability, and enable each student to grow to his or her maximum potential from this baseline.

A successful student’s self esteem will flourish, but we have been led to believe that tracking destroys a child’s self-esteem. However, it was heartbreaking to see the tears of the frustrated students who were totally lost and overwhelmed in that math class. No child in that situation gained self-esteem.

Shame on all of us for allowing these situations to occur. This philosophy is not exclusive to one district., but unfortunately is the way that State Education Commissioner, Richard Mills has decided is best for all of us to educate.

We owe all of our students the very best we have to offer. Unfortunately a one room school house philosophy is not it.

Building Character with WTA Characters!

Three characters from Freewill Elementary have taken the Character Education scene by storm (or should I say by star)! Marty Hanley , Tammy Scheuer, and MJ Hoffman have been spotted around town presenting “Reach for the Stars: A Plan for Character Education.” First they headed to the 17th Annual Child Caregivers Workshop Days in Canandaigua on October 26th then they headed back again to the Building Communities of Character conference at the Inn on the

Lake in Canandaigua on November 6, 7, and 8th.

They have even been featured in the Wayne County Mail as having a “fresh approach.” “We have to get it out in the community and apply it across the community,” says Marty. “It’s more of a philosophy than a program, . . .We try to infuse character into everything we do from activities to literature.” STARS stands for many things, two of which are: Students That Are Really Special



and Sitting down together, Talking about the issue, Addressing any concerns, Relating to each other, and completing a School Assignment.

Rumor has it that they have been invited to Lake George for the New York State School Counselors conference and possibly the Director of School Boards conference! What’s that Wayne’s World saying? Game On!