



Ameritech Classroom News

2001-2002 Cohort Teachers Develop Inquiry Units for Ameritech Classroom Experience

The Ameritech Classroom Cohort Summer Experience was held during the week of August 6-10th for the teachers who will be participating in the Ameritech Classroom Experience during the next two years. The workshop facilitators were Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Pryor, the interim director of RCET (Research Center for Educational Technology at KSU), and Mr. Steve Snyder, a Leading and Learning Consultant. The teachers experienced the process of constructing learning communities where everyone is a learner, and new tools and strategies can be adopted. Steve Snyder emphasized that teachers should be focusing on "just in time learning instead of just in case learning". Participants investigated the characteristics of inquiry as a way of seeking new information, clarifying, confirming, rejecting, connecting, and applying it. All participants, including Ameritech Classroom and RCET staff, developed inquiry units based on their educational beliefs using the I-Search approach. Participants constructed essential guiding questions and created presentations using the tools available in the Ameritech Classroom. Teachers learned about the types of assessment and the criteria for determining the scope and sequence of a rubric. Based on an inquiry unit framework, teachers developed units to be taught in the Ameritech Classroom starting with a list of learning outcomes and an essential guiding question. Teachers proposed performance assessments before they worked on the strategies and learning activities integrated with technology. Staff assisted the teachers in the process and meaningful lessons are beginning to emerge.



**Teachers
Move Into
the Loop as
Learners**

Ameritech Classroom

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Mr. Ric Hughes Returns to Ameritech Classroom

Ric Hughes, Brown Middle School Language Arts teacher, was one of the first Ameritech Classroom teachers. His first class did remarkable work in their short time in our facility with the writing of one act plays as well as the designing of sets and costumes. Two of the plays were subsequently selected by the students, and the plays were produced under Ric's direction back at Brown Middle School. This fall Ric will bring another set of students who will be working on an oral history project which he designed in collaboration with Channel 45/49 educational consultant Maria Mastromatteo. The unit gets its focus from the question, *Got Roots?* The students will learn that history is much more than remembering facts, and that feelings and impressions of a variety of people will give a more vivid picture of our past. The seeking of this first hand information will hopefully lead to new understanding of the past and provide a vehicle for preserving it.

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Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool



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is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter

is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business

is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of



Caption describing picture or graphic.

clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

Jennifer Yakubisin's Franklin Elementary (Kent) Students Will Promote Peace

"Enemies today, friends tomorrow? Can't we all just get along?" is the guiding question for Jennifer's unit on promoting peace. She would like the students to be aware that both conflict and peace are a part of our lives. Negotiating, as a peaceful response to conflict, will be emphasized. She hopes the unit will lead to a school-wide conflict management program. She plans to have the students identify the conflicts they encounter in their daily lives as well as the peacemaking they see. Some of the outcomes of this unit will be a graph of these student responses, a

journal describing daily real-life conflicts and resolutions, a brochure outlining the steps to conflict management, friendly letters to other 4th grade students explaining the need for conflict management at Franklin, and an educational video demonstrating conflict management through role playing. The students will read books that illustrate the four types of conflict and will then



"Enemies today, friends tomorrow? Can't we all just get along?"

discuss the peaceful strategies for resolution. Jennifer will utilize the technology in the classroom and campus resources to enhance this unit which she developed in workshops during the last two summers in the Ameritech Classroom. The classroom staff welcomes the fourth graders from Franklin and looks

forward to their journey into peacemaking processes.

Ameritech Classroom Welcomes Leslie Dougherty of Immaculate Conception School (Ravenna)

"How does the study of ancient civilizations affect me?" That is the guiding question Leslie's students will explore. They will focus on comparing the politics and culture of ancient Greece and Rome with that in the United States today. The students will be challenged to learn the genre of folk literature, especially mythology and will demonstrate that knowledge through the production of trading cards. Final projects will be de-

termined by the student's individual questions involving these ancient civilizations and will be demonstrated in a variety of formats such as multimedia presentations, videotapes and skits. Wanted posters for mythological monsters will be produced and displayed in the classroom. Another challenge will involve the retelling of a myth, changing the point of view or format. A trip to the KSU planetarium will allow students to explore Na-

tive American myths in conjunction with this activity. There is a possibility of a visit from Anthony Manna, KSU college of education, to hear of his project in the collection and retelling of Greek Myths.

"Those that know do. Those that understand, teach."

Ancient Greek Philosopher Aristotle

Regina Heimann of Franklin Elementary (Kent)

Is the west really wild? Students will be challenged to look into the disasters which occur in the western USA. Whether it be landslides and mudslides, fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes or earthquakes, citizens face the challenge of the elements wherever they live. Regina would like students to focus on this aspect of living in the west. Regina and Jennifer Ya-

kubisin are both participating this fall in the Ameritech Experience.

Both teachers attended the summer cohort workshop together and supported each other in the creation of their units. To have two teachers at the same grade level from the same building affords a real opportunity for "change" in the building for the integration of technology.



Is the wild west still wild?

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This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

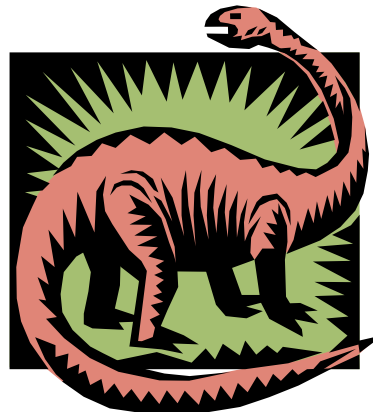
A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all

employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a bi-annual charity auction.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.