



Inclusive Schools Network News

October 2008

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Inclusive Schools Network

"Supporting Inclusive Education Worldwide"

The Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) is a web-based resource for families, schools, and communities interested in the topic of inclusive education. This network has grown out of Inclusive Schools Week™, an internationally-recognized, annual event sponsored by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC). During the 2008-2009 school year, ISN will be expanding in capacity to offer new products, conferences, online events, and social networking opportunities.



Inclusive Schools Network News is your source for updates and information about the Inclusive Schools Network, Inclusive Schools Week, and other resources and events related to building more welcoming and supportive schools and communities. Click below to subscribe:

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

ISN Events:

Webinar: December 3, 2008, 3:00-4:30 pm EST
**"Reflecting Upon the NCTM Focal Points and
the Role of the Special Educator in Today's Mathematics Classroom"**

As part of Inclusive Schools Week, please join Drs. Hank Kepner and Lisa Dieker in reflecting on the role of special education and general education in providing all students with access to the standards in K-12 mathematics. Dr. Hank Kepner, President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), will provide a discussion of the NCTM standards and focal points. Dr. Lisa Dieker, known for her work related to co-teaching and inclusive practices, will reflect on the role of the special educator in implementing these standards and focal points in mathematics in inclusive settings. Drs. Kepner and Dieker have worked together at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in preparing secondary special educators, mathematics teachers and science teachers. In this webinar, they will use their collaborative understanding of the unique needs of both fields to provide perspective on Dr. Kepner's platform as President of NCTM: "Equity: All Means ALL". Participants will have the opportunity to contribute questions and comments as part of this discussion.

For more information, and to **register online** for this event, go to:

http://www.inclusiveschools.org/Events_Registration

Inclusive Schools Week: December 1-5, 2008
Share your Celebration Plans with ISN!

The Inclusive Schools Network is hosting the 8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week this December 1-5, celebrating the theme, "Together We Learn Better: Inclusive Schools Benefit All Children". Each year, Inclusive Schools Weeks participants from all over have flooded our email box with details about their exciting Celebration Plans for the Week. Once again we invite you to share your Celebration Plans with us and with other educators, families and communities around the world.

To share your Celebration Plans, please submit a short description of activities and events you have planned for this year's Inclusive Schools Week to the ISN email box at: inclusiveschools@edc.org. In November, Inclusive Schools Network will begin posting Celebration Plans from selected schools, districts and communities at: http://www.inclusiveschools.org/Celebration_Plans.

Also in November, look for the opportunity to begin sharing your Celebration Plans with others online in the ISN Discussion Forums!

Other Events:

Global Forum for Inclusion: November 17-26, 2008 "Transforming Rights into Action"

Inclusion International is hosting the Global Forum on Inclusion in Ottawa, Canada, November 17-26, 2008. The Global Forum is on the topic of "Transforming Rights into Action" and includes a variety of events and activities over the nine days. According to the official website: "this Forum will engage self-advocates, families, activists, professionals and partners from around the world. Focused on the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Forum will look at how to transform rights into actions that lead to full inclusion and citizenship for people with intellectual disabilities."

For more information on the agenda and registration for this important event, please visit the website: <http://www.inclusion2008.com/english/index.asp>.

VSA arts Writing Project and Art Contest

VSA arts is sponsoring two events to promote the inclusion of students with disabilities in the arts: a writing project and an art contest.

The Call for Writing, on the theme "At Second Glance", is open to students with disabilities and students who have connections to people with disabilities. The deadline for submissions is November 21, 2008. Additional information and submission guidelines are available at: <http://www.vsarts.org/x889.xml>.

The Call for Art, on the theme "Celebrating Who I Am", is open to all students across the United States. One piece of artwork from each state will be selected for display in Washington, D.C. The deadline for submissions is March 6, 2009, and additional information is available at: www.vsarts.org/allkidscreate.

Resources:

Addressing Accessibility in Mathematics

Addressing Accessibility in Mathematics is a project of Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) that provides information and resources to "teachers and administrators to make middle school mathematics more accessible to a wide range of students, particularly those with special needs." The website features

downloadable PDF documents of Accessibility Strategies, Accessibility Tools, and Guiding Questions to help educators use these resources.

Visit the Addressing Accessibility in Mathematics website at:
<http://www2.edc.org/accessMath/resources/strategies.asp>.

Tip of the Month:

Make Mathematics Instruction Accessible and Engaging for All Students

There are many students, both with and without disabilities, who struggle with math. Not only are these students at a disadvantage in terms of the practical skills they will need throughout their lives, but they also often miss out on the fun and beauty that can be found in the world of mathematics. Mathematics is more than numbers and basic operations; it is a pure logic system and a language all its own, and the discipline that connects all other disciplines. Educators and families can open up this world to all students by finding ways to make math education engaging and accessible.

Here are some helpful hints and strategies:

- Make sure to provide appropriate reading accommodations and support for students. Reading comprehension can be a serious barrier to math instruction for many students, but it doesn't have to be. Take steps to ensure that students understand written directions, word problems and other text-based content, so they can show what they know and so they don't miss out on important concepts.
- Reinforce basic skills with frequent practice by incorporating skills-maintenance activities into lessons on new material. Students often forget certain rules for computation and steps in more complex operations without regular opportunities to use these skills, so ensure that students maintain a strong foundation to support new concepts and material.
- Align instruction for all students with grade-level curriculum standards. Although students who struggle in math may need time to work on fundamentals, it is important that they have access to the full math curriculum. Check out ISN's webinar on December 3, 2008: "[Reflecting Upon the NCTM Focal Points and the Role of the Special Educator in Today's Mathematics Classroom](#)" with Drs. Henry Kepner and Lisa Dieker.
- Look for opportunities to foster group work and peer coaching. With adequate support and supervision, students can learn from each other in unique ways and can team up in applying their problem-solving skills.
- Look for ways to help students make practical connections between math concepts and the world around them. There are direct connections between math and such disciplines as science and engineering, but you can also

challenge students to explore ways in which their own interests relate to the field of mathematics.

- Hands-on activities can increase engagement for many learners. Topics such as measurement, geometry and physics naturally lend themselves to hands-on learning, and can be tied in to a number of other math concepts and skills.
- The internet is a good resource for educators looking to differentiate instruction for diverse learners in their classrooms. Check out the Addressing Accessibility in Mathematics website for a variety of Accessibility Strategies and Tools, at:
<http://www2.edc.org/accessMath/resources/strategies.asp>.

Visit the Tip of the Month section of the Inclusive Schools website to view past Tips, including Tips for the 2008 Inclusive Schools Week, at:

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/tips>

Inclusive Practices Around the World:

International Day of Persons with Disabilities: December 3, 2008
"Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:
Dignity and justice for all of us"

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The United Nations (UN) is observing this milestone with the theme for this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities: "Dignity and justice for all of us". Article 25 of the UDHR provides that each person has "the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age, or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control", and the implementation of the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities this past May reinforces these important principles. Please join the Inclusive Schools Network and the world community in observing the International Day of Persons with Disabilities this December 3rd as part of your school or community's Inclusive Schools Week celebration.

More information on this event is available at the UN Enable website:
<http://un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=109>.

Support Inclusive Schools Network and Inclusive Schools Week!

Here's how YOU can make a difference:

Your purchase of products or tax-deductible contribution supports the work we are doing to support families, schools, and communities around the world to create awareness, build knowledge, and encourage systems change toward more inclusive

educational opportunities for all children. We are a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) organization, and we are extremely grateful for your support!

2008 ISN products are now available for purchase! Use these items, including Celebration Kits, posters, pencils and much more, to promote your 2008 Inclusive Schools Week celebration and to raise awareness about inclusive educational practices throughout the year. This year, ISN is delighted to be collaborating with the Federation for Children with Special Needs, who will host the official online store for ISN products. To view the 2008 products, order online, or download a PDF order form, please visit our new **[Products Page and Secure Online Order Form](#)**:

<https://fcsn.org/inclusiveschools/orderform.html>

Click here to **[download a contribution form](#)** and make a donation today:

<http://www.inclusiveschools.org/files/Contribution%20Form.pdf>

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