

Profile: Teachers on Special Assignment

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The 2008-09 school year brings a new team of staff development trainers to the district. East Valley School District's Professional Development Team is a service organization that provides quality support to educators. Principals describe Professional Development as leading to increased student achievement. Quality professional development tends to be on-going, collaborative and research-based.

Yolanda Westerberg is returning to the TOSA team as a Literacy/Mentor Facilitator. Prior to that, she was a 6th grade teacher and I-728 Facilitator at East Valley Middle school. She will continue to support teachers in research-based strategies in reading and writing and will continue offering workshops that are relevant, aligned with state standards, and, last but not least, hands-on and fun!

Cari Roderick is returning for her second year as the K-8 Technology TOSA. Prior to that, she was the 6-8 Technology TOSA and Reading teacher for East Valley Middle School for 4 years. She will continue developing technology curriculum with the K-5 computer lab paraprofessionals, begin aligning curriculum with the 6-8 technology teachers, and offer several technology workshops for the EVSD staff.

Kathy Gordon is from CCS where she taught for 11 years in grades 5-8. In the Math/Science TOSA position the first focus for Kathy is to assist East Valley teachers in the transition to the new math standards. As science TOSA she will continue Georgi Delgadillo's work and assist in the new science standards coming early spring.

Ellen Hopkins was at Central Valley for 19 years teaching at the elementary level. She has been instructional coaching for the last four years, and has been summer school principal for three years.

The team looks forward to working with the EVSD staff, and have planned several high-quality trainings based on the professional development surveys completed by building staff last spring. Staff can register for these sessions on the district website.

"EVSD has a new online professional development registration site, accessed at www.evsd.org/classes.php. Educators can now use this to sign up for classes!"

EVSD Classroom Web Pages ...

Last February, EVSD implemented a new online tool for teachers to create classroom web pages. Teachers across the district have been waiting to connect with their students, parents, and the community online. Through the five workshops that have been offered so far, sixty-five teachers started developing their classroom pages. Out of that, twenty-seven teachers have linked their homepages to the staff directory on their schools' websites.

Teachers from a wide array of content areas and grade levels across all of the schools in the district are sharing their classroom news, assignments, student work, and resources online. From classroom expectations to spelling lists, helpful websites, and newsletters, the students and parents can keep up to date with what's happening in the classroom and easily access materials and tools to assist with the class activities. The highlight for some of the current web pages is the showcase of student

work and pictures of student activities. This allows the community to see the day to day accomplishments of the EVSD students.

The overall enthusiasm towards this new tool for teachers is outstanding—there is a waiting list of over twenty teachers to get into the next available workshop. The next workshops will be offered September 17th & 18th, and October 8th & 9th, and will continue to be offered throughout the year as long as teachers are interested in participating. Contact Cari Roderick at roderickc@evsd.org for more information.

Check out the EVSD classroom web pages by going to the East Valley School District website www.evsd.org, click on a school link, select the staff directory from the menu, and scroll through the staff list to find any homepages linked in the right column of the list.

Special points of interest:

- **Profile:** TOSA's
- **Concept Shots:** Tips for Educators
- **Book Review:** The Kids Left Behind
- **What's Coming Up:** Calendar of Events

Retirement Announcement!

On July 30th, the Grade Level Expectations (GLE's) for Math officially announced their retirement. The State Legislature accepted the resignation. You would remember that for the last several years the GLE's have had a distinguished career in our schools, guiding teachers and students toward higher levels of achievement. We nod respectfully to the accomplishments of past standards.



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In their place, the state has adopted

the new "K-8 Mathematics Standards"—much heralded at the OSPI conference in Tacoma. Math teachers across the state are eager to explore this revised approach to math standards.

More consideration has been given to computational fluency, "spiraling" or "looping" is more tightly and clearly delineated; i.e., for every math concept there is a beginning and ending point for students to receive instruction in that concept. Past that point, students are expected to know and be able to use that concept.

The 2009 Math WASL will still be aimed at assessing the current GLE standards.



Shorter WASL in 2009

OSPI is shortening the duration of the WASL in 2009. Terry Bergeson, in her keynote address in Tacoma on July 29, said that the WASL, for grades 3-8, will be considerably lessened, particularly the short answer and extended-response items.

Specifically, the tests will be reduced in approximate duration as following:

3rd grade:	31%
4th grade:	19%
5th grade:	34%
6th grade:	41%
7th grade:	27%
8th grade:	33%

Additionally, there will be more changes in the 2010 testing season: the testing window will be moved to May, so that the WASL is more accurately an "end-of-year" test. Also, the 2010 test will be geared to reflect the Math standards changes.

Also, OSPI will be piloting four end-of-course assessments for high school mathematics: Algebra I and Integrated Math I in 2009; Geometry and Integrated Math II in 2010. These assessments will be administered statewide beginning with the Spring 2011 test. The Class of 2013 may use these end-of course assessments to meet the math standard. The Class of 2014 must use these end-of course assessments to meet the math standard.

Did you know? . . .

The 1-5 Growing With Math "Initial

Assessment" replaces the District Math

Assessment this year.

The Middle Schools are working toward using assessments based on

the Connected Math

Project.

Concept Shots: Tips for Educators

The Most Important Day is coming up! What can we do to make it effective?

1. Involve students quickly.
2. Identify the value and importance of the subject.
3. Set expectations.
4. Establish rapport.
5. Reveal something about yourself.

6. Establish your own credibility.
7. Establish the "climate" for the class.
8. Introduce the subject matter. How is it connected to other kinds of knowledge?

(Tips from Honolulu Community College website.)

Graduation Requirements (a Review)

The State Board of Education's WASL requirements for graduation, beginning with the class of 2008, include Reading, Writing, and Math. In 2007, the legislature postponed the requirement of passing the Math WASL, but did not waive the requirement that students meet expectations in Math.

Members of the Class of 2009 who do not pass the Math WASL may meet expectations in Math by earning two Math credits and attempting—annually—to take an appropriate math assessment, like the WASL, the Math ACT, the Math SAT, a sufficient Math collection of evidence, or a Math AP test (Calculus or Statistics). “Annually” means each September through August. The August 2008 WASL retake was part of the 2007-08 school year.

Students must graduate with a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA). There are optional ways to earn this in Reading, Writing and Math: 1) Pass the WASL; or 2) Undertake a Collection of Evidence; or 3) Use the WASL/Grades Comparison; or 4) Use scores on SAT, ACT or AP tests.

These are not options for schools to provide; rather, they are options for students. CAA requirements may be waived for special, unavoidable circumstances. For specific questions regarding graduation requirements, contact Stephanie Watson, High School Assessment Coordinator (924-5000).



Social Studies CBA Update

The 2008/2009 academic year is the first year in which Classroom Based Assessments (CBA's) are required to be reported to OSPI. As the East Valley School District strives to “stay ahead of the curve,” groups of classroom teachers have met and worked collaboratively to develop the CBA process in Social Studies.

This fall we will continue this work as we align our practice to the frameworks, the law (HB2579), and use our collective knowledge to refine a process that works for East Valley students and staff. School districts shall have in place in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools assessments or other strategies to assure that

students have an opportunity to learn the essential academic learning requirements in social studies, the arts, and health and fitness. Social Studies includes history, geography, civics, economics, and social studies skills. Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, school districts shall annually submit an implementation verification report to OSPI.

The professional development team looks forward to meeting each of you and providing support in this process.

Several workshop dates are scheduled; see the online professional development calendar for details.

“When teachers use data to guide instruction, work to enhance their knowledge and skills, align their curriculum, and target interventions toward low-performing students, they will see improved results.”

*-The Kids Left Behind
(p.185)*

Book Review: *The Kids Left Behind*

This book, by Robert Barr (Solution Tree), discusses the shift in thinking from the “old world” of education to the “new world” of education. Barr posits that schools who have not made the shift effectively, and who also have significant volume of high-poverty students, tend to underserve low-income students. He references several studies that identify best practices and policies across the nation that tend to help to create high-performing, high poverty schools.

Chapter Three in particular is a good summary of best practices, highlighting some commonalities of high-performing, high-poverty schools. They:

- Engage parents.

- Hold high expectations for poor and culturally diverse students.
- Align and monitor the curriculum.
- Create a culture of data/assessment literacy.

“What surprises you about high-poverty and high-performing schools is the whole positive attitude, the can-do spirit . . . They are human bulldozers” (p. 37).

Copies of this book are in each building.



We are on the web!

www.evsd.org



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East Valley School District's Professional Development Team is a service organization that provides quality support to educators. Professional Development leads to increased student achievement. Quality professional development tends to be on-going, collaborative and research-based.



Providing quality support

What's Coming Up

Upcoming professional development activities include:

August 27	Mentor Teacher Training	October 14	CBA Training—8th
August 28	New Employee Training		Document Camera
September 11	Network Basics	October 15	Right Response
September 16	New Math Standards—6th		CBA Training—7th
September 17	New Math Standards—7th	October 16	Internet Safety
September 18	New Math Standards—8th	October 28	CBA Training—6th
September 17 - 18th	Classroom Web Page	November 3	Word
September 23	CBA Training—5th/4th	November 6	LETRS Training
September 24	New Math Standards—3rd		Dyslexia Training
	Web Page Worktime		
September 24-25	How to 6 Traits—K-5		
September 25	United Streaming		
September 29	LETRS Foundations		
September 30-Oct 1	Access to the Core		
October 1-2	How to 6 Traits—Secondary		
October 7	Right Response		
October 8 - 9	Classroom Web Page		
October 10	District LID Day—New Math Standards		

Please verify dates and times with building principals, or by calling district office (924-1830).

Each of these dates and more can be accessed on the district website, <http://www.evsd.org/classes.php>. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Steve Pointer at pointers@evsd.org. Thank you!