The Best Practices in Catholic Schools Initiative

The Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese and the University of Dayton’s Center for Catholic Education and School of Education and Allied Professions are pleased to announce a professional development opportunity for Miami Valley Catholic elementary school teachers.

We are now seeking applications for 5 Early Childhood (K-3) and 5 Middle School (4-8) teams of 2 to 4 teachers interested in a unique professional development experience that involves the following:

1. An intensive Best Practices Workshop from August 2 through the 5 covering such topics as:
   - The National Standards on Best Practices for Teaching
   - Strategies for Collaboration and Team Decision Making
   - Techniques for Guiding Behavior and Building Classroom Community
   - Integrating Curriculum with an Emphasis on our “Catholic Identity”
   - Authentic and Other Alternative Assessment Strategies and Effective Grading
   - Project Based Learning
   - Brain Research

2. Mentoring by University of Dayton faculty and Catholic school teacher leaders

3. Ongoing professional development sessions during the 2004-2005 academic year from 4:30 to 6:30 on the following dates: Sept. 27, 04; Oct. 25, 04; Nov. 22, 04; Jan. 24, 05; Feb. 21, 05; Mar. 21, 05; April 25, 05

4. Training Materials to include the book *Best Practice* by Zemelman, Daniels and Hyde and the Professional Teaching Standards of NAEYC and NMSA.

5. Access to mini-grant funding ($300-$500) to support new instructional strategies.

6. A modest stipend for each participant ($100) and reduced rates (rate not yet determined) on optional UD graduate workshop credit.

7. This initiative is free to schools and team members.

Participants must commit to:

1. Attend all training sessions.

2. Approach the institute and related activities with a disposition that the most effective teaching is based on life long learning, ongoing critical reflection of their own practice, and a desire to explore the most current research that drives the profession.
3. Work with their team to incorporate best practices both during the institute sessions and throughout the year on their own time, in their own school environments.

4. Work with a UD student teacher or practicum student.

5. Design and implement one new integrated project per term that involves all members of the team and can include other teachers in their schools who are not part of the project.

6. Be “change minded”. Engage in the self-study process to determine your strengths and needs in terms of your classroom climate and discipline procedures, assessment and grading practices, family involvement and communication, use of current research practices in academic content areas with a focus on reading and language arts, and opportunities for active and connected learning. Develop action plans to guide your next steps and share information with their school faculty, families and administration.

7. Bring artifacts and documentation of your team’s progress to the 6 follow-up workshops.

8. Participate in an end of the year poster session and reception in order to share your work with the local Catholic School community.

Interested parties should complete the attached application form (1 per team) and send it to shauna.adams@udayton.edu or my mail to Dr. Shauna Adams, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio 45469-0525. Applications need to be received by March 1, 2004. Teams will be notified of their acceptance by mid March. Applications can also be accessed under “Additional Resources” at the following website: http://academic.udayton.edu/shaunaadams

Please contact Shauna Adams, Early Childhood Professor (229-3372) or Susan Ferguson Middle Childhood Administrative Faculty (229-3084) with questions.