

Happy 2011 to our FUSION partner schools!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS and NEWS...

**Teacher feedback is due after each weekly FUSION session and coordinator feedback is due each month. FUSION Site Support Specialists can provide you with an update on your contact hours (minimum of 64 hours due annually) and your feedback completion when they visit your program this coming spring.

**Mark your summer calendars for our NEW POP Symposium Workshops for ALL IMSA FUSION teachers, veteran and new...to kickoff the 2011-12 school year...JUNE 9, 2011 IMSA...JULY 7, 2011 IMSA...JULY 12, 2011 Springfield (this date was changed).

**Congrats to our Problem of the Month WINNERS...October...Emma Boyle, Schneider Elementary and Roberto Rios, Jane Addams...November...Erica Such, Komarek and Tyler Kauffman, Limestone Consortium! Great work!

**IMSA is having it's second annual Multi-County Professional Development Day on February 25th, 2011 8am-3pm. To learn more and register, visit:
<https://www3.imsa.edu/news/releases/2010/12/21/imsa-host-second-annual-multi-county-professional-development-day>.

**IMSA FUSION is thrilled to announce our new online school application for the 2011-2012 academic year at:
<https://www3.imsa.edu/programs/fusion/application>.

Current FUSION partner schools need **NOT** reapply, but ALL partner schools must do the following:

1. Sign and return the 2011-12 Memorandum of Understanding (attached/Chicago Public Schools have a different form) no later than April 1, 2011 and submit payment for \$750 per program, payable to IMSA FUSION, to participate for the upcoming academic year. All partner schools must submit, via mail, an original, signed MoU with payment each year to IMSA.

Please note that our annual participation fee for schools has increased due to our growing need to support FUSION schools on a limited, decreased state budget. Participation fees help offset our program costs to deliver FUSION

curriculum, lab kits, program evaluation, student incentives and professional development workshops to our Illinois schools.

2. Email Jami Breslin, Project Director, at jbreslin@imsa.edu if you are planning to ADD a second program in your building.

We also ask that you pass along our application information to any schools in your district that may have an interest in our IMSA FUSION after-school enrichment program for 4-8th graders. Our program is committed to working with schools in IMSA's field office regions: Chicago, Metro-East and soon, Rock Island; as well as schools that may have limited math and science resources and opportunities for students and teachers.

Thoughts on INQUIRY...

"Within a conceptual framework, inquiry learning and active learner involvement can lead to important outcomes in the classroom. Students who actively make observations, collect, analyze, and synthesize information, and draw conclusions are developing useful problem-solving skills. These skills can be applied to future "need to know" situations that students will encounter both at school and at work. Another benefit that inquiry-based learning offers is the development of habits of mind that can last a lifetime and guide learning and creative thinking."

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/index.html>

Many thanks for all you do!
Jami Breslin, Project Director