

MIGRANT

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MAGAZINE



Kentucky Migrant Education Program

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Orchestrating opportunities for migrant students

By Madeline Potter, Clark County Recruiter & Advocate

The Clark County Migrant Education Program was very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Haley Hyman of Lexington at our most recent parent engagement meeting.

Mrs. Hyman works with the Lexington Public Library system and Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

As a bilingual individual, she teaches English classes to refugees and regularly hosts sessions for Latino youth through her association with these organizations. She served as a volunteer during our summer school program and we were pleased to be able to work with her again.

Hyman's session was titled "Music: Orchestrating Opportunities for the Future." Starting off her session with a performance on her cello, Hyman quickly



charmed her audience. She discussed the importance of music in one's education and the many benefits associated with participation in musical endeavours such

as orchestra, band or choir. She finished her presentation with a second cello performance, after which the students were allowed to come to

the front to try their hand at the cello as well.

The students and parents thoroughly enjoyed her performances and the discussion at hand.

This session was fun for all involved and inspired several of our students to pursue their dreams to participate in their school music programs.



Pulaski schools' migrant program, others team up to deliver summer camps

By Mardi Montgomery, Pulaski County Migrant District Contact

Pulaski County Schools' migrant, gifted education, GEAR UP and 21st-Century after-school programs teamed up this past summer to host two exciting summer camp opportunities. These

campus, conducted on the campus of Somerset Community College during the last week of July, were in part sponsored by Texas Instruments to promote the use of the TI-Nspire calculator. Two groups

participated in Space Camps, while a third participated in Forensics Camp – TI-Nspire: Pathways to Success. The camps offered project-based math- and science-related activities for middle

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and high school students who met the specific criteria of the gifted, migrant, GEAR UP and 21st Century programs.

Texas Instruments master teachers from Kentucky, Florida and Michigan delivered engaging instruction while integrating technology to enhance student learning of the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) content. Mike Cimino, a master teacher for Texas Instruments, said, "This week I have been lucky enough to work with a group of intelligent, hardworking and energetic elementary and middle school students at the Somerset Community College. Throughout the week, these students completed various activities at Space Camp, including making a scale model of our solar system, urine analysis to diagnose kidney stones, create a polymer spacesuit and many others. Their critical thinking and ingenuity was on full display as they completed these challenging STEM activities. And- did I mention – we had lots of fun!"

"I'm learning new things about space that I didn't know about before," said Israel Flores, a 5th-grader at Eubank Elementary School.



"We learned how the catalase in cow liver breaks down hydrogen peroxide," said Keegan Vanhooser, a 10th-grader at Pulaski County High School. "It was interesting because we got to measure the gas pressure as oxygen was released!"

In addition to three stimulating days of instruction, students finished the week with the highly innovative

and educational program provided by Newton's Attic of Lexington, Ky., and the Dome Theater.

Newton's Attic is dedicated to providing students with highly unusual educational experiences and providing STEM educational resources to parents, students and teachers. Its mission is to stimulate interest in science and engineering through exciting hands-on projects, classes and summer camps. Students at the TI-Nspire: Pathways to Success camps built and launched rockets, catapults and



created and raced their own derby cars – all designed for both speed and distance.

"This camp has been awesome!" said Diego Ramirez, a 5th-grader at Eubank Elementary. "I learned a lot of new things here about building and solving problems."

The Dome Theater is a mobile digital theater. It features innovative, immersive and educational programs and the excitement of museum-quality shows, on a wide range of educational topics in a state-of-the-art mobile digital theater system. Students experienced a real planetarium brought directly to them. This activity revealed realistic skies in real time, simulating the skies from anywhere on Earth. It delivered an engaging way for the students to explore and increase their understanding of the night sky.

Ellie Tarter, a 10th-grader at Southwestern High School, stated, "We experimented with multiple temperatures and its impact on our grip and strength. It was very cool to see many different strengths of many different people at various temperatures."

Alyssa Hyden, a 10th-grader at Pulaski County High School, said, "This week was packed with fun hands-on activities. Camp was definitely a great opportunity for everyone to expand their knowledge. I believe it's safe to say that we're all looking forward to next year."

The outstanding setting of the Somerset Community College enabled students to experience problem-solving and learning in a college setting, promoting strong transition goals for the post-high school setting. Strong collaboration promoted new connections and friendships with peers, in addition to valuable STEM instruction from the professionals provided by Texas Instruments.

Jeff Vincent, a 'significant contributor'

By Michael Hay, Southeastern Regional Coordinator

On behalf of the Eastern Kentucky University College of Education, I was honored to recognize Jeff Vincent and present a plaque to him as he was designated as "Significant Contributor" as a staff member.

The presentation started with a Henry David Thoreau quote: "Don't hire a man who does your work for the

money but hire him who does it for the love of it." As his supervisor, I followed up talking about his experience in migrant education, as a classroom teacher, a counselor, coach and his work as a life and fitness coach.

Jeff is the nucleus of our student service and support component of our program. His extensive field experience

in migrant education enhances our operations and structure in how we deliver services and advocate for supplemental support for our students across our region. He has a great demeanor when working with our families as he helps to bridge the gap between the home and school settings. When working with school personnel, district administrators and community agencies, Jeff is very articulate in presenting our program and finding the best means of collaboration to meet the needs of our students. He is exemplary in defining the role of a team member and leader in our program and he is highly respected among our regional team. His knack for always seeing the positive side and having the “we can find a way” attitude is important to our staff and our program and deserves recognition.

If you have a moment, feel free to send him a note of congratulations! Jeffrey.vincent@eku.edu

Jeff does an excellent job in both planning and implementing the KEYS Academy camp in June of each year for middle and high school migrant students. He never accepts “maybe I can” as an answer. Jeff maintains high expectations for the students and is very sensitive to their struggles and praises their successes. – Madison/Berea District Migrant Staff

Jeff is a very motivated individual. He is always ready to work and do the right thing. When I have gone out recruiting with him he is always eager to find migrant families; even though neither one of us speak Spanish, he is always willing to communicate the best way he knows how. He is always happy; I don't think he ever has a bad day! I aspire to be as happy and as motivated as he is. Congratulations, Jeff! I don't know of a better candidate! Keep up the great work! – Christina Benassi, State ID&R Coordinator

ACReS

By Heather Rhorer

A group of 16 Kentuckians attended training at the SOSOSY Preconference on Academic Career Readiness Skills (ACReS) for Out of School Youth (OSY). At this training, we learned about a free online educational platform called School-ogy and how we can use it to serve our OSY and other populations. School-ogy allows a user to create classes, assign readings, do website reviews, post pictures and various types of assignments to anyone or everyone in their class. It is a way that we can continue to serve students who move in and out of our districts. It also allows us to better serve those in our programs who are difficult to

reach for many reasons.

Since School-ogy is an online platform, it can be accessed anywhere and anytime if you have an Internet connection. A youth can easily access the ACReS curriculum through School-ogy on their smartphones, tablets or computers when it is convenient for them.

ACReS is a curriculum developed by SOSOSY to help youths gain the skills they need to thrive in our communities and possibly to enroll in GED classes. The curriculum is available in both English and Spanish and is written to be easily readable and of high interest. Since most of our OSY

have not completed the 10th grade and have been out of school for a while, it is important the materials we present to them are easy to read and of interest to them.

ACReS offer lessons ranging from basic math to study skills and test-taking strategies. I am very excited to have attended this training and to be able to train the rest of Kentucky MEP staff on this curriculum and School-ogy.

During March, a group of district and regional staff will come to the regional meetings to train you on how to use these great resources to serve OSY.

What is new??

Some initiatives from the Kentucky Department of Education

By Christina Benassi, ID&R Coordinator

Web-based Application (Web App)

The Kentucky Department of Education is trying to find better ways to share student-level data. In December, I worked with Management Services for Education Data (MS/EdD), and Kevin Donn at MS/EdD developed a “attach supporting documents” interface on the web-based application. This interface can be found on the Edit Student Needs section of the MS/EdD web app production. Since this is a new development, it will not be mandatory to use until the start of the 2015-16 school year. However, starting to use it now will be great practice. This Select button allows you to upload supporting documents to verify the needs assessment in a safe and secure way. I highly encourage you to start uploading test scores, and other student data using this device. The red arrow shows the Select button.

Immunizations are up to date for Kentucky requirements for school enrollment
Please be sure to keep supporting documents for each checked box in the student's file.

Attach supporting documents

Attachments

Select

6. Parents are LEP

7. By Kentucky definition, student is considered 'homeless' *

The only downside to this process is that files cannot currently be deleted once uploaded. We have discussed adding a script where you could possibly delete the files, but at this time it is not needed. Be sure you upload the correct documents.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (502) 564-3791 (ext. 4025) or by email at Christina.benassi@education.ky.gov.

MSIX data review

Recently I reviewed some of the reports and information from MSIX (the Migrant Student Information Exchange). MSIX has several different roles assigned to a variety of people at the state, regional and district level. Currently, Kentucky has 147 MSIX users. The majority – 127 – of people are primary users. Primary users are the ones that can search students and initiate a merge. In 2014 we had 58 users actually log into MSIX at one time or another; this comes to 39.4 percent of the total users.

Most of you are aware that students in Kentucky tend to stay in Kentucky and move to different districts; however, some students move out of state. The top four states that Kentucky sends students to are Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, and Alabama.

| State (TO) | Student Count | Percentage |
|------------|---------------|------------|
| Georgia | 371 | 40.66 |
| Florida | 163 | 17.81 |
| Tennessee | 58 | 6.34 |
| Alabama | 41 | 4.48 |

*Report taken from MSIX on December 22, 2014

In 2012, instead of sharing students with Tennessee, we shared students with Indiana. Now, according to our data, we have zero students that moved to Indiana. Our population is changing. We still are receiving students from the same four states as we have in the past.

| State (FROM) | Student Count | Percentage |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Georgia | 303 | 38.75 |
| Florida | 160 | 20.46 |
| Tennessee | 68 | 8.7 |
| California | 32 | 4.09 |

*Report taken from MSIX on December 22, 2014

I am thrilled to know that several people are using MSIX. It can be a very useful tool in recruiting and assisting with advocacy. During Fall Academy 2015 we may have some additional training on MSIX. Let's have a goal for 2015 to at least 50 percent of our users logging in and using MSIX. MSIX has lots of information that is very useful. Knowing where students are coming from helps develop better collaboration among these states. Interstate collaboration is very important.

If you need some assistance logging into MSIX or you don't understand how to use it, please let Judy Littleton, Heather Rhorer, myself or your regional service center know so we can assist you.

Recruitment plan

The recruitment plans are being revised to include all the information from the comments that I provided in your 2014-15 recruitment plans. Two recruiters from each region have been selected to review the updated recruitment plans and provide feedback. Once feedback has been compiled and reviewed, the updated recruitment plans will be presented at your regional meeting in May. The updated plans for 2015-16 will be due to KDE by August. Details to come.



Welcome Alexa

Henry County's migrant recruiter, Alicia Mantilla, had her first baby girl at 10:54 a.m. on Nov. 6, 2014. She named her baby Alexa Corinna Mantilla. She was born a happy baby weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Mother and baby are doing well and enjoying their time together at home.

State directors of migrant education to meet in Seattle in March

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) encourages you or someone from your district to attend the upcoming National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education (NASDME) in Seattle, March 22-25. If you haven't been to one of the national conferences, it is well worth your time. There will be 175 workshops and four general sessions. The event takes place in the heart of downtown a few blocks from the famous Pike Place Market and the Space Needle. Washington state has one of the biggest programs in the country with 34,000 students! We hope to see you there!

Important Dates to Remember

Jan. 11, 2015 State Virtual PAC

March 22-25, 2015 NASDME, Seattle

April 18, 2015 State PAC, TBD