
Got ESTCS?

Satisfied with your Elementary Science Teaching Content Skills? If you'd like more (and even if you feel you have none), you should apply now for Project BEST (Better Elementary Science Teaching).

While helping improve your science instruction, Project BEST offers:

- ◆ Up to **18 FREE graduate credits** from UWM.
- ◆ Two days to observe MPS peers. (Project BEST will fund your substitute.)
- ◆ Saturday sessions paid at your individual salary rate.
- ◆ Stipends earned for selected project sessions.

There are only 18 positions still open for this 60-teacher program. Elementary and middle school teachers (Grades 1-8), regular and exceptional education, are eligible. **April 24** is the deadline for applications.

Along with the application form, you need to send a letter of intent from you (or your team) and a brief note of support for project activities from your principal, learning team leader, or other school administrator.

For details and application forms, call the UWM Center for Mathematics and Science Education Research at 229-6646.

Calendar Survey Online Now!

Your bargaining team is preparing to propose calendars for the next two school years: 2009-10 and 2010-11. You can help shape the proposals and set your union's priorities in bargaining the calendar with the School Board's team by taking the brief survey at mtea.org.

This online survey is for members on the traditional calendar. (We are working with the Building Representatives in year-round and IB schools on separate surveys.)

The survey deadline is Friday, April 3.

Sign-Up for E-Mail Updates

When you take the calendar survey, please sign up for e-mail updates on teacher contract talks. Hundreds of members already receive timely information from your bargaining team.

For example, e-mail notice of the calendar survey was sent on March 23. When Sharpener went to press, over 1,200 members had completed it.

The next e-mail update, on April 1, will report on health insurance proposals the School Board's team is scheduled to present at the March 30 and 31 sessions.

Cycle 1 Interviews Underway

The first cycle of school interviews to fill teacher vacancies for next school year begins March 30 and ends April 9. This round is open to currently-employed teachers eligible to transfer, including excessed teachers, and those returning from leave.

Permit Teachers May Interview If...

Permit teachers are also eligible for interview transfers (to any school) if they provide MPS with documentation from their college or university showing completion of a certification program and eligibility for an initial educator's license by the first day of the 2009-10 school year. They must obtain a "Cleared for School-Based Interview" letter from an MPS staffing specialist.

Limits for New Applicants Cleared to Interview

Applicants who have been cleared to interview by MPS staffing (potential new hires who do not have a regular teacher contract), are also eligible to interview during Cycle 1, **but only for positions:**

- ◆ In "high need" certification areas (special education, bilingual education, math, and science) **at any school.**
- ◆ At NEA Focus and SIFI schools **in any certification area.**

Please continue on back...



**Legislative Breakfast -
Saturday, May 2**

The first MTEA Legislative Breakfast was a success. Members discussed issues important to improving the lives of educators and their students. It was a great morning of sharing information and views with Milwaukee-area state legislators.

The Second Annual MTEA Legislative Breakfast takes place on Saturday, May 2, at the Radisson Hotel (Mayfair Road and North Avenue). To register, go to mtea.org (Events) or call 259-1990.

**Delegate Openings
for the WEAC RA**

The Wisconsin Education Association Council's Annual Representative Assembly will be held the weekend of **April 24-26** in La Crosse. WEAC RA delegates act on reports, adopt the statewide legislative program, elect NEA Directors and other leaders, consider resolutions, and establish the WEAC budget and dues.

We need additional members to join our delegation for this key policy-setting meeting. If you'd like to serve as a delegate, please call Linda Scherlie of the MTEA support staff at 256-6760 or e-mail her at lscherli@mtea.weac.org.

Continued from front...

Key Points for Interviewees

If you wish to obtain a position through the interview process, please note:

- ◆ The Cycle I vacancy list and other details are on the MPS Portal.
- ◆ You must apply online to each school that interests you. (If you encounter problems, please call Julie Landry, MPS Manager of Certificated Staffing, at 475-8224.)
- ◆ MPS Certificated Staffing will not process any interview results until April 13-15. Assignment notices will be sent via e-mail.
- ◆ If an interview team asks if you'd accept a position at their school, just say "Yes!" Team members should not ask this question, but if they do, you should say yes to keep your options open.
- ◆ If two or more schools select you, MPS Certificated Staffing will call you to choose the school you want.

You Can't Rescind Online

- ◆ If you do not want a particular school assignment, you must go to Room 124 at the MPS central office to sign a form rescinding your request no later than 24 hours after interviewing at that school.

Tailgate Party and Brewers Game

All MPS employees and retirees, as well as guests, are invited to the Thirteenth Annual Tailgate Party/Brewer Game on Friday, **May 1**, at Miller Park. The tailgate party starts at 4:00 p.m. The Milwaukee Brewers will play the Arizona Diamondbacks at 7:05 p.m.

The MTEA is again sponsoring this fun, social event. The \$11 cost of the tailgate party includes: beer, wine, and soda; hamburgers, brats, hot dogs; salads; chips/snacks; and cookies.

The package cost for the tailgate party and Brewers game is \$25 for loge bleacher seats (with contoured backs) and \$21 for terrace box seats. Ticket prices are at a group discount.

Form and Payment Due April 10

To join in the fun, please return the form below with your check to Sue Dean at Marshall Campus (4141 North 64th St. 53216) by **April 10**. You will receive confirmation after spring break, preferably via e-mail.

Game tickets will be distributed at the tailgate party. To pick up your tickets in advance, please call Sue Dean at 393-2370 or e-mail her at sdean3@wi.rr.com. Seats are limited, so sign up now!

Thirteenth Annual MTEA/MPS Tailgate Party and Brewer Game

Name _____ School _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Please attach your check, **made payable to Sue Dean**, and note how many packages (or tailgates-only) you are purchasing:

____ Tailgate/Loge Bleachers (\$25)

(No game tickets are available without tailgate participation.)

____ Tailgate/Terrace Box (\$21)

____ Tailgate ONLY (\$11) **Send form and check to Sue Dean at Marshall by April 10.**