

Welcome back! I hope you had an enjoyable summer; I know some of you may have been directly affected by the Floods of 2008 and other tragedies resulting from Iowa's natural disasters this spring and summer. On behalf of the ICN staff, our thoughts and prayers go out to you, your students, and their families who are picking up the pieces of their lives. If we can help in any way, please contact me!

Chinese language courses now available!

Now available for fall semester 2008 – CHINESE! **Registration deadline is September 9!**

Please join in a unique pilot program sponsored by Iowa Learning Online, Great Prairie AEA, and Burlington Notre Dame High School designed to teach the nation's critically needed languages.

This course is an introduction to grammar, conversation, and writing Chinese. Class work is supplemented with an introduction to Chinese culture. Instructor Hye-Seung Lee is a graduate of Daejeon University in South Korea. She received a B.A. degree in Chinese, studied for one year in China and is certified in Iowa.

Responsibilities of Participating Schools

- Provide a proactive coach to support your own students' learning
- Supply needed materials for activities
- Be willing to adjust schedules to accommodate students

Burlington Notre Dame, in partnership with Iowa Learning Online will...

- Pay ICN costs
- Provide online registration system
- Post class on ILO webpage

For questions related to Chinese, contact Richard Dunshee, rdunshee@nd-burl.pvt.k12.ia.us
For questions related to Iowa Learning Online, contact Arlan Thorson, athorson@iowalearningonline.org , 515.238.4765

Visit <http://IowaLearningOnline.org> for more information or to register students!

Iowa educators and students head into the school year with more opportunities to save fuel and time by learning over the ICN!

Last year, over 9,200 hours of video sessions were delivered through the K-12 Connections program, for a 26% increase over the previous year. K-12 Connections is a collaborative effort by ICN and Iowa Public Television (IPTV) and provides live, interactive, distance learning opportunities at no cost to students, teachers, or school districts, unless continuing education or certification credit is involved.

About 25% of the 43,000 participants were adults taking part in professional development opportunities, such as bullying prevention, school nurse certification, and food safety. One session brought together over 2,000 food nutrition workers at 236 ICN video classrooms in the largest session to be held in the Network's 15-year history.

More training and professional development opportunities are being created for the 2008-2009 school year, which will allow school staff and districts to benefit from increasing their expertise in vital educational topics, with little to no fuel costs or travel time. If you know of a hot topic that would interest people working in your area of education, please contact me and I will pass the information on!

A southeast Iowa high school led the way in usage of its videoconferencing classroom on the Iowa Communications Network in the 2007-2008 school year.

Moravia High School connected to the ICN for a total of 1,407 hours from July 2007 through June 2008 to provide additional learning opportunities for its students. For six to seven hours a day, Moravia students shared Spanish classes with Melcher-Dallas and Lineville-Clio High Schools.

Moravia has been a top user for the past five years. Rounding out the top ten educational usage sites on the Network in 2007-2008 were Sumner, Aplington-Parkersburg, Benton-Van Horne, Postville, Valley of Elgin, Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom (BGM), Melcher-Dallas, North Fayette, and Cherokee.

Featured Upcoming Sessions over the ICN

School Dental Screenings

September 10, 2008 - Wednesday, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

House File 906, passed by the 2007 legislature and effective July 1, 2008, requires all children who are newly enrolling in elementary and high school to have a dental screening. This would include kindergarten (or 1st grade if there is no kindergarten), 9th grade, and out-of-state transfer students. The goal of the dental screening requirement is to improve the oral health of Iowa's children and promote the importance of oral health as an integral component of preparation for school and learning.

The purpose of this ICN session, School Dental Screenings, is to provide knowledge and guidance on meeting the school screening requirement. School nurses will be part of an integrated network of health care professionals who will assist in ensuring that dental screenings are completed.

Register at http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8986

IPTV Resources for English Language Learners

September 16, 2008 - Tuesday, 3:15 - 4:15 PM

Iowa Public Television provides free resources for English language learners through the broadcast of programs designed especially for high school students and young adults. Crossroads Café and Connect with English are two series that help young adults acquire English language skills. TV411 teaches basic life skills, and Workplace Essential Skills provides viewers with the skills they need to get and keep a job.

Educators may record the complete series and keep them in their classrooms. The content is ideal for young adults and high school students. Educators may use the videos alone or supplement the series with engaging Web resources. Join us to learn how to use these series in your ESL classes.

Register at http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8848

The Great Debaters

October 09, 2008 - Thursday, 9 - 9:50 AM and 10-10:50

Roosevelt High School's Debate Team was recently named among the nation's top ten programs in the country following a strong performance at the Desert Lights National Tournament in Las Vegas, where they earned the Schwann School of Excellence Award. Over 4,000 public forum teams competed in the national qualifier system and 241 teams made it to the finals.

But how does the experience of debate help a student prepare for life and the world after high school? What skills are learned and how does an individual apply these skills to situations they encounter daily? Join members of this award winning team and their coach, as well as graduates of the Roosevelt program, as they discuss the skills they have honed being involved in debate. Emphasis will be on skills such as time management, the ability to think on their feet and to do extensive research on a topic. As their coach recently said, "These kids can stand up on their two feet and talk in front of anyone." This skill applies to almost every aspect of life from being involved in the community to that critical job or college interview.

This ICN session is great for any high school student: those who know nothing about debate, those who are thinking about debate, and those who are passionate about it.

Register at http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=8919