

# Southwest Georgia RESA Newsletter

August 2017

## Welcome Back to School Year 2017-2018!

I believe teaching is a special calling and a powerful responsibility that has been given to each of us. We work in an amazing profession that allows for a fresh start every 12 months. Not many jobs can boast that perk.

If you're a rookie this year, just out of college, or even in your first few years, remember that you don't have to reinvent the wheel. There are lots of wheels rolling around that somebody already invented; there are lots of lesson plans available that somebody has already written and tested out. There's lots of **help** out there. If you are feeling overwhelmed, ask for some. We need your enthusiasm, your youth and your ideas. We don't want to lose you!

Maybe you've been at this for a few years. You also take heart. The toughest times are probably behind you, although I say "probably" because no one knows the future. But you have your "teacher legs". You know that you have indeed made it to winter break and then spring break and then...lo and behold, the last day of school more than once and are still here to tell about it. You've seen stuff work and not work. You've picked up what's good and discarded what doesn't fit for you. You can see the "big picture" a lot clearer now, and know that, while you can't save everybody, there may just be something that only you can say to that one kid that may change his life forever. You think that maybe you are on to something here, and are glad you became a teacher. Remember SWRESA is here to serve you! Call us...email us...stop us in the hallway when you see of us to let us know what you need! Check out our **Professional Learning Opportunities** at [www.swresa.org](http://www.swresa.org). Check often, as we are continuously adding to our calendar. Again, welcome back to a new school year!

## Update your RESA Profiles Now

Each year, teachers are reassigned to schools within the district or relocate to a new school district. When this occurs, the principal who approved a teacher's professional learning requests changes, also. The best time to update your SWRESA Profile is now! *Follow the link below to see a video with screenshots and audio describing how to create or update a profile if you need help!*

Link to tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrtBHvVSARUI>

We will continue to award PLU's for our Professional Learning, as I state in the video, but professional learning guidelines and teacher certification renewal requirements have changed and can be referenced by following this link:

<https://www.gapsc.com/ProfessionalLearning/downloads/GlinesforRenewalReqs9-15-16.pdf>

The approval process for Professional Learning has not changed. When a teacher registers for PL on the RESA website, an approval request is sent to the teacher's principal. Once approved by the principal, an approval request is sent to the district office. When the district office approves the request. Upon receiving this final approval, SWRESA (Helen Smith) sends a confirmation, by email, to the teacher.

Please help us by creating or updating your profile and completing the contact information within the profile. If you need any assistance, please contact Kelly Young, [kyoung@swresa.org](mailto:kyoung@swresa.org) or Helen Smith, [hsmith@swresa.org](mailto:hsmith@swresa.org).



## Behavior Strategies That Work: K-5 with Amie Dean

This one-day seminar will equip K-5 teachers and administrators with effective behavior strategies for students with challenging behaviors. Participants will learn how to implement positive techniques that promote appropriate student behavior, minimize verbal disruptions, and increase instructional engagement. A second day follow-up workshop led by RESA Staff is offered October 17, 2017, for those elementary teachers needing or desiring further support in implementing behavior strategies that work. Please register for that date also. **August 15, 2017, 9-3, Day 2-October, 17, 2017, 9-3**  
[Register at www.swresa.org](http://www.swresa.org)



## Behavior Strategies That Work: 6-12 with Amie Dean

This one-day seminar will equip 6-12 teachers and administrators with effective behavior strategies for students with challenging behaviors. Participants will learn how to implement positive techniques that promote appropriate student behavior, minimize verbal disruptions, and increase instructional engagement. A second day follow-up workshop led by RESA Staff is offered October 19, 2017, for those elementary teachers needing or desiring further support in implementing behavior strategies that work. Please register for that date also. **Day 1, August 16, 2017, 9-3**  
**Day 2, October 19, 2017, 9-3**

## SLDS "The New Bells and Whistles"

The Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is designed to help districts, schools, and teachers make informed, data-driven decisions to improve student learning. SLDS is a free application that is accessed via a link in the district's Student Information System (SIS). SLDS provides districts, schools, and teachers with access to historical data, including Assessments, Attendance, Enrollment, Courses, that help Identify students' academic strengths and weaknesses, Increase student achievement and close achievement gaps, identify and address potential recurring impediments to student learning, e.g., problems with attendance or difficulty in mastering prerequisite knowledge or skills, before they negatively affect student success. Come see what is new and different in SLDS!

**August 15, 2017, 9-3**

## Technology Toolbox with Russell Paine, Instruction Technology, SWRESA



Teachers will discover a technology toolbox that provides quick access to educational links relative to the standards and content areas you are teaching, help differentiate your instruction, and prepare your students for tests. Never fear if you are not tech-savvy, there are easy ways to bring your classroom up-to-date, technologically. The morning session will highlight the innovative language and literacy software program called Imagine Learning, that focuses on academic language development, literacy instruction, and strategic first-language support that spells success for students everywhere. **August 9, 9-3**

## Technology Coordinators' Job-Alike Sessions begin August 23, 2018!

The first of 4 annual meetings will be held on August 23 at SWRESA. These meetings are a time of sharing and strengthening for all of the 15 school districts within our Southwest Georgia RESA Consortium. Directors may provide current innovative deployment plans, ideas, resources and best tech practices for the current school year.

There will be four sessions. Please make sure to register for each.

GAESP Fall Conference is set--**Save the date!**  
 November 5, 6, 7th in Savannah-Riverfront Marriott  
 A Riverboat cruise set for Sunday evening to honor  
 Georgia principals !!

Go to [www.gael.org](http://www.gael.org) to register--Registration is now open !

## IKAN and GLOSS TRAINING for Math Teachers



The IKAN and GLOSS are Universal Screeners for Mathematics. They provide an in-depth analysis of a student's understanding in the GSE mathematical domains and assess their understanding of mathematical strategies. Results are aligned to specific Georgia Standards of Excellence Standards. Hands-on intervention lessons are aligned to the student's individual needs and the GSE Standards. Participants will receive an administration manual and all materials needed to perform the assessment. ALL administration materials and intervention lessons are FREE of charge. **August 17, 2017, 9-3**

### 2017-2018 PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMY BEGINS.....

**August 17, 2017, 8:30-11:15**

#### **Who should attend?**

*Principals* benefit from study, reflection and networking. The cohort model of the Principal Academy provides an opportunity for all three. The group is particularly supportive of people new to their position (*which is defined as being in your first five years of your current assignment*). Leaders who've served longer have most likely reached the understanding that learning is essential to growth, so their participation is equally welcomed.

#### **What is the format?**

The essential piece that makes these groups work is the coming together of individuals to form a cohort. Sessions will always be driven by reflection, conversation and the needs of the participants. You learn from each other in ways that will be difficult to replicate alone.

**Who is the instructor?** Dr. Mark Wilson will lead the Principal Academy for the sixth year. In his career as an educator, Mark has been a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal. Currently, he serves as a leadership coach, consultant, conference keynote and author. He has led over 120 cohorts of leaders and aspiring leaders and works with leaders, aspiring leaders, and teachers across the nation. He was the National Principal of the Year in 2009 while at Morgan County High School in Madison, GA.

### 2017-2018 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S ACADEMY

**August 17, 2017, 12:45-3:30- Content will be the same as Principal's Session**

**TKES Re-Certification, AUGUST 24, 2017, 9:00-3:30**

The Teacher and Leader Support and Development team is offering an alternative to the required online TKES Review for those individuals who have already completed the TKES Initial Credentialing. To provide the best required review and service possible, the Teacher and Leader Support and development team is scheduling in all RESAs a one day TKES Credentialing Re-Certification.

#### **Fundamentals Training For Google's G-Suite:**

This training is intended for educators who are new to Google tools, this course will teach you the best strategies for integrating Google in your classroom. **9/6/2017, 9-3**



#### **WRITING CENTERS with NANCY**

#### **SLOCUMB**

This workshop will be a walk through of writing a rough draft all the way to the final draft. The teachers will see new ideas of how to write, edit and revise using centers in their rooms. This innovative method will be a functional way to differentiate using centers all year long.

**September 6, 2017, 9-3**

# Welcome New Superintendents!



Mrs. Laine Reichert, Superintendent, Thomasville City Schools

"Coming back home to Thomasville and becoming a part of the system from which my parents graduated has been such a blessing. TCS is a district rich in tradition and I am excited to deepen the expectations of excellence that is expected by the community."

Mr. James Phillips, Superintendent, Miller County Schools

Mr. Phillips states: "I am honored to have been selected to serve the Miller County School System as Superintendent. This is a great community and as a lifelong resident I am vested in making every effort to build on the success of previous Superintendents. As Superintendent, I will work to forge strong relationships of trust with all stakeholders and work diligently to build a shared vision focused around challenging, supporting, and inspiring our children to be the best they can be."



Mr. Bill Settle,  
Superintendent, Worth  
County Schools

Mr. Settle states: "I am honored and ecstatic to be given the opportunity to lead Worth County Schools! I am committed to do everything in my power and ability to move our schools to even higher levels of student success!"



In **Grades 6–8 NUMBER TALKS**, students build on two important conceptions which have developed throughout K–5, in order to understand the rational numbers as a number system.

Participants will :

- Use models and tools that support student understandings and proficiencies called for in the Georgia Standards of Excellence
- Recognize and support students' understandings of the mathematical properties
- Share strategies in ways that emphasize the important mathematical ideas that are inherent in these strategies. August 23, 2017, 9-3

