

End of Semester Exams to be Implemented for 9th Grade Courses

By: Lesley-ann Smillie, CFT Professional Issues Representative

The "Building Futures" CPS Strategic Plan for 2006-2007 specifies that End-of-Semester Exams will be administered. The plan allows for a phase-in. This school year, students (regardless of their grade level) who are enrolled in core 9th grade courses (Modern World History, Integrated Mathematics 1 or Algebra 1, Physical Science, and Ninth Grade English) will take a pilot of a district developed end-of-semester exam. The exams will be expanded to include 10th grade core courses in 2007-2008, 11th grade core courses in 2008-2009 and 12th grade core courses in 2009-2010. There is an End of Semester Exam review group for each content area consisting of teachers throughout the district.

For the 2006-2007 school year the exams will count **up to 25%** of the student grade based on the teacher's evaluation of how well the test assessed the paced indicators for the course. Individual teachers will be able to modify the exam grade that is used to calculate the semester average. The semester average exam grade can be used alone or combined with another teacher developed assessment to determine the grade reported in the "semester exam" area of Integrate Pro. The 2006-2007 school year is **a pilot semester test (PST)** year at grade nine. In 2007-2008, the district semester tests (DST) will count 25% of the students' grades in core ninth grade courses; teachers will not have the option to adjust the percent that the test counts in the grade calculation.

The first semester exam period for 2006-2007 is January 22nd through January 25th. Scan sheets are due in the testing office on January 30th 2007. The second semester exam period is May 21st through May 25th with scan sheets due in the testing office on May 29th 2007. The exams will include multiple choice and constructed response items. Teachers will need to score the constructed response items using a district rubric and record the score on student scan sheets. The district testing office will score the exams and post results on the teacher and principal dashboard. The tests are secure documents so results will be reported by standard and

indicator only. Secure testing procedures are to be implemented, all tests need to be returned to the testing office and no exams are to be copied. Teachers will need to obtain the exam grade from the dashboard and decide

if the grade will stand alone or if other assessments will be included in the exam grade.

Each building should design their exam schedule for January 22-25 and May 21-25 to facilitate the administration and scoring of constructed response items by teachers. The exams are designed to take longer than a typical class bell so the exam schedule should allow up to 2 hours for each exam. The exams are aligned to the district pacing that is posted on StaffNet. The most recent posting should be used (e.g. mathematics shows 2003-2004 as well as 2004-2005, the 2004-2005 should be used). The district pacing can be found on the following StaffNet Links:

<http://staffnet.cps-12.org/Staffnet/EnglishLA/pacingguides.html>

http://staffnet.cps-k12.org/Staffnet/Math/high_school.html

<http://staffnet.cps-k12.org/Staffnet/Sci/pacingdocs.html>

<http://staffnet.cps-k12.org/Staffnet/socialstudies/curriculummaps2006.html>

The End of Semester Exams will be phased in over the next 5 years. The first year a test is administered it will be a Pilot Semester Test (PST) and teachers will be able to modify the exam grades. The second year of the administrations will be a District Semester test (DST) and the exams will count 25% of the semester grade. All core high school courses should include a semester test that is teacher or school developed (TST). A TST will be given in grades 11 and 12 in 2007-2008 to eventually be replaced by PST and subsequently DST. The following chart summarizes the phase in of the semester tests.

TST = Teacher Developed Semester Test

PST = Pilot Semester Test

DST = District Semester Test

School Year	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
2006-2007	PST	TST	TST	TST
2007-2008	DST	PST	TST	TST
2008-2009	DST	DST	PST	TST
2009-2010	DST	DST	DST	PST
2010-2011	DST	DST	DST	DST

2007 OFT Convention Call

The 69th Annual Convention of the Ohio Federation of Teachers will be held March 8, 9th and 10th—Westin Great Southern, Columbus, Ohio

Delegates to the convention will need to be elected at the January 10th CFT/ACPSOP meeting, 5:00 p.m., Laborer's Hall, 3457 Montgomery Road. At least three elected delegates shall be ACPSOP members. (The CFT President, CFT 1st Vice President and the ACPSOP President are automatic delegates.)

Any CFT/ACPSOP member in good standing who wishes to have her/his name placed on the OFT Convention Ballot must send in their name, **IN WRITING**, to: **Jerri Clements, c/o CFT Office, no later than 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 9th. Send via the pony or email to jclements@cft-aft.org.**

CONGRATULATIONS to Two CFT Members!

Lisa Pope, Western Hills University High School Math Teacher, has won the **Financial Literacy Leader Award** presented by the Ohio Bankers Foundation for Financial Literacy, an affiliate of the Ohio Bankers League, and in partnership with the Ohio School Boards Association.

Judy Callahan, Walnut Hills High School Science Teacher, has been awarded the **Environmental Teacher of the Year Award**.

Thanks to both Ms. Pope and Ms. Callahan for the commitment and efforts in the areas of personal finance curriculum and environmentalism respectively. Congratulations on your recognition and achievement

Teachers' Institute "The Canadian Connection to the Underground Railroad"

Presented by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
December 9, 2006 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

The Institute will be presented by Bryan and Shannon Prince, the founders of the Buxton historic site and museum. Bryan Prince is a historian and author of the book "*I Came as a Stranger*". Shannon is the curator of the Buxton Museum.

You will also meet Dr. Karolyn Smardz-Frost, a Canadian born historian, archaeologist, and author of a new book entitled "*I've Got a Home in Glory Land*". Her book is the biography of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn, former slaves who escaped from Kentucky and later settled in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Teachers will receive lesson plans to go along with Bryan Prince's book which will be useful tools for the classroom.

Cost of the Institute is \$20.00 per person. This will include lunch and a copy of Bryan Prince's book "*I Came as a Stranger*".

For reservations, please contact Jackie Wallace @ (513) 333-7586 or email jwallace@nurfc.org.

Professional Development Fund

By: Lesley-Ann Smillie, CFT Professional Issues Representative

The Professional Development Fund was created to "encourage ongoing professional development through participation in professional organizations, conferences, continuing education, sabbaticals, and other professional growth activities" (CBA, Sec. 170 #2). The fund is governed by a joint committee of teachers and administrators. Annually the Board deposits \$175,000 into the fund to be used for travel, lodging, registration fees, substitute coverage, and food. An additional \$150,000 is set aside for summer professional development opportunities. The committee developed operational guidelines to ensure that the fund was administered in a fair and judicious manner.

Operational Guidelines

1. The fund will be budgeted into five equal portions corresponding with the school calendar for first, second, third and fourth quarters, and summer recess.
2. Money will be allocated on a reimbursement basis to teachers who request attendance at a recognized conference or convention if the event directly relates to their area of teaching responsibility.
3. Consideration will be given first to full time employees. Consideration will then be given to part time employees in descending order of percentage of time employed by the district.
4. The fund will be accessible to a teacher once per a year (September 1 through August 31). During the life of the current contract, priority will be given to teachers who have not previously been recipients of this fund.
5. The fund will be used to reimburse teachers for specified expenses as follows:

a. All of the conference/convention registration fees for a member of the organization; for nonmembers, an

amount equal to the member's registration fee; maximum of \$325.

b. A maximum of \$500 for transportation which includes taxis, road fees, parking costs and the prevailing mileage rate according to IRS guidelines. Only the person driving the car can submit for reimbursement for parking.

c. \$50 per day for food for up to three days if conference/convention is out of town or in travel status. The food reimbursement is based on city rates as determined by the IRS guidelines. No alcoholic beverages will be reimbursed. An *itemized receipt* must be submitted in order to be reimbursed. Each person must have their own food receipts regardless of how many people travel or dine together.

d. A maximum of \$135 per day (\$405 three day maximum) for lodging; individuals are expected to secure conference/convention rates.

e. Substitute coverage for up to three days.

6. The appropriate Cincinnati Public Schools reimbursement document, "Claim for Travel Expense and/or Consultant's Compensation", will be paid according to IRS guidelines as stated on the back of the reimbursement form. A receipt must be submitted for anything you want reimbursed. In order for reimbursement to occur, a copy of the approved Professional Development Fund request form, travel reimbursement expense form, and all receipts must be submitted to the Treasurer's office within 30 days after the conference.

7. In order not to deplete a given staff at one time, a maximum of 5% from any one staff is eligible to receive the fund at the same time, even though the re-

quests may be for different conventions or conferences.

8. A request to attend a professional conference/convention may be denied if the Committee administering the fund believes that the absence of the teacher conflicts with a critical event of the district and would have an adverse impact on the education of children (for example, a teacher responsible for administering any CPS mandated test). Prior to making a judgment of this nature, the committee administering this fund will review the matter thoroughly. The teacher who has been denied a request will be informed of the reason for the denial.

Application Process

A standard application form will be available from school offices and CFT building representatives. The application must be completed in its entirety. The application and 2 copies of the application should be submitted to Professional Development Fund c/o Human Resources - Education Center. All applications must be received and time stamped in Human Resources **30 days** before the conference occurs and no earlier than three months prior to the conference date. Decisions regarding approval or denial of a request will be made no later than ten days after the monthly meeting. Both the teachers and the principal will be informed when the approval is granted in order to begin discussing arrangements that need to be made during the absence of the teacher. The committee will also notify those not receiving approval. The Professional Development Fund Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of the month. The chairperson for the committee is Lynn Bryant-Shirley. She can be reached via email at: BryantL@cpsboe.k12.oh.us

An Experience You'll Never Forget by Lesley-Ann Smillie, CFT Professional Issues Rep

Children's International Summer Villages (CISV), an international, non-profit apolitical organization promoting cross-cultural understanding is unique in both scope and age range. Through CISV's cross-cultural educational programs participants have fun and make new friends while learning first hand about different cultures and ideas, encouraging respect for cultural differences, and promoting tolerance and communication through educational and cultural activities. **Many of the program leaders are teachers who are interested in international opportunities.** This year there are opportunities in Korea, Austria, Brazil, and Sweden. For more information about CISV programs, dates and locations of the information sessions and local community work please visit our web site <http://cincy.cisvusa.org/> or call 513-981-7711.

2007 Union Plus Scholarship Applications Now Available

Applications for the 2007 Union Plus Scholarship program are now available. AFT members as well as their spouses and dependent children are eligible to apply for scholarships, which range from \$500 to \$4,000. The deadline for the 2007 awards is Jan. 31, 2007. For details about the scholarship and to download an application, visit: <http://www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/scholarships/up.cfm>

Classifieds

"Chocolates & Cappuccino" - A 10 day, all-inclusive (air, room, guide, tours) vacation to northern Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Germany leaving CVG July 24, 2007. Cost: \$3413 double-occupancy (less for 3-4 person occupancy) for this European vacation. You can see glass being made in Venice, visit Mozart's house in Austria, explore "Mad" King Ludwig's castle (the Disney prototype), go to the top of Mt. Pilatus in Switzerland, and visit the magical house and gardens of Isola Bella on Lake Maggiore in northern Italy. These are just a few of the sights you'll experience on this wonderful adventure. For information, contact Cathy Hunter (Gamble) at 923-1931. All you need now is the application & \$495 deposit. The balance is due March 1, 2007.
Oh yes, don't forget to get your passport!

FLORIDA VACATION FOR SALE

December 22-29, 2006

1 Bedroom Villa at the Gates of Disney World located at Mystic Dunes Resort, 5 Star, Kitchen, Washer/Dryer, Whirlpool, 4 heated pools, 2 story Waterslide, activities. \$525.00
Call Susan Fischer 513-688-1550

The 2006-07 CFT/ACPSOP Directories are being prepared. If you have an address or number change, please contact us at 961-2272 or cft@cft-aft.org

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