

## **Upper Cumberland Teachers Council**

**April 7, 2009**

**3:00 – 8:45 pm**

**Registration 3-4**

**RUC Multipurpose Room**

**Dinner 5:20-6:20**

**RUC Multipurpose Room**

### **Areas/Sessions**

#### **Technology**

##### **Interactive White Boards for the Classroom**

**Jeremy Wendt, TTU Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Grades: K-12**

**Location: TJ Farr 106**

**Time: 4:00-5:15**

In this session, you will get an overview of several types of interactive technologies available for the K-12 classroom with time allotted for hands-on participation. A summary of the SMART hardware & software, including educational pricing, will be shared.

##### **VITAL: Putnam County's Virtual Learning Program**

**Sharon Anderson, Cookeville High School**

**Grades: K-12**

**Location: Henderson 106**

**Time: 6:30-7:30**

Why online learning? This session will focus on myths surrounding virtual learning as well as describe the development process, successes, and pitfalls in the development of the VITAL (Virtual Instruction to Accentuate Learning) program in Putnam County Schools.

#### **STEM (Science and Math)**

##### **Opportunities for Professional Development for STEM teachers**

**Allan Mills, Steve Robinson, Maggie Phelps, Bethany Stevens, TTU**

**Grades: K-12**

**Location: TJ Farr 201A**

**Time: 4:00-5:15**

This session will be used to invite input from teachers on two major proposals being developed by TTU faculty. The Math proposal will provide opportunities for high school teachers of math courses beyond Algebra II (Advanced Algebra & Trig, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, and AP Calculus). The Physics proposal will provide opportunities for high school teachers of physics, chemistry, and physical science. These current projects will also be discussed: the Middle Grades Science Partnership, the Pre-Engineering Math Science Partnership, the K-5 Math Partnership, and the high school biology Summer 09 institute.

## **Math**

### **Linear or Not? Squares, Fences, and More**

**Alicia Page, Stone Memorial High School**

**Grades:** 9-12

**Location:** TJ Farr 102

**Time:** 6:30-7:30

Participants will analyze patterns in data and determine if a linear relationship exists and why. Strategies to meet the new TN standards using graphing technology, specifically the TI-Nspire handheld, will be addressed.

### **Children's Literature in the Teaching of Mathematics**

**Holly Anthony, TTU Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Grades:** K-8

**Location:** TJ Farr 102

**Time:** 7:45-8:45

Children's Literature in the Teaching of Mathematics (Grades K-8)

The new TN Mathematics Curriculum Standards include a process standard focused on using literature in the teaching of mathematics. We will look at mathematically rich literature books/resources that span K-8 and focus on strategies for foregrounding the mathematics (not the literature).

## **Science**

### **Using Formative Assessment Probes to Uncover Student's Thinking about Science**

**Susan Gore, TTU Dept. of Curriculum Instruction**

**Grades:** 3-8

**Location:** Bartoo Hall 302

**Time:** 6:30-7:30

"The most important single factor influencing learning is what the learner knows," (Ausubel, D. Educational Psychology: A Cognitive View). This session will focus on simple techniques that you can use to find out what your students know, or think they know, about science concepts.

### **Easy Classroom Science Demonstrations Using Household Materials**

**Dan Swartling, TTU Dept. of Chemistry**

**Grades:** K-12

**Location:** Foster 220

**Time:** 7:45-8:45

## **Disabilities in the Classroom**

### **Enabling Young Learners with Visual Tools**

**Jane Baker and Laura Graves, TTU Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Grades:** Pre-K – 2

**Location:** TJ Farr 108

**Time:** 4:00-5:15

Visual tools work to improve language skills, provide structure, introduce vocabulary, build concepts, and promote independence. The presenters will demonstrate a variety of visual tools including schedules, choice boards, social narratives, lists, and memory aids.

**Experiencing a Disability through Simulation Activities: Walking a Mile in Their Shoes**

**Helen Dainty and Laura Graves, TTU Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Grades:** K-12

**Location:** TJ Farr 108

**Time:** 6:30-7:30

Through a series of simulation activities, participants will be able to see first-hand the frustration that students with learning disabilities experience in the classroom. This presentation will define learning disabilities and attention deficit and allow participants to "walk a mile in the shoes" of someone with a disability. It will provide an inside look at having a learning disability through varied activities involving reading, writing, math, and perception.

**Foreign Languages**

**Mission statement? What does that have to do with us teachers?**

**Debbie Barnard, Erin Burton, and Julia Baker, TTU Department of Foreign Languages**

**Grades:** P-16

**Location:** Henderson 316

**Time:** 4:00-5:15

Facilitators will share how they are implementing in their classrooms the goals of the Teacher Quality Initiative (TQI) mentoring project and how their plans relate to the mission statements of TTU and the Department of Foreign Languages. Participants will be encouraged through active participation to visualize how they also can apply their school's mission statement to their classroom teaching. Participants are asked to bring along a copy of their school's mission statement and their department's outcome goals if possible.

**Real-world problem-solving and real-world communication in the classroom: What if their "real world" isn't the same as ours?**

**Charlie Alva, Cumberland County High School**

**Grades:** P-16

**Location:** Henderson 316

**Time:** 6:30-7:30

The ACTFL Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the Twenty-first Century include personalized instruction and "real-world" communication. Yet sometimes it seems as if our students live in another world apart from ours. How can we reach them in their world, yet encourage real-world communication that can transfer to the "real world" outside? With the guidance of the facilitator, participants will brainstorm and share ideas on this topic.

**English**

**Welcome to the Upper Cumberland Writing Project**

**Shannon Collins, TTU Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Grades:** K-12

**Location:** Henderson 318D

**Time:** 4:00-5:15

The Upper Cumberland Writing Project (UCWP) is a joint venture between the National Writing Project and TTU. One of more than 200 sites across the nation, the UCWP's mission is to improve writing and writing instruction in our Upper Cumberland schools through providing quality professional development for teachers of all levels (K-16) as well as all academic subjects. This presentation will give an overview of the UCWP and some of its first year accomplishments. Participants will have a chance to discuss how they can make "doable" changes in their writing curriculum regardless of grade or subject, and how to take part in future UCWP activities.

## Social Studies

### **The Sound of Silence: Briskin's Diversity Model for Teaching the Social Sciences**

**Lori Maxwell, TTU Dept. of Sociology and Political Science**

**Grades:** 5-12

**Location:** Henderson 304B

**Time:** 4:30-5:15

Briskin explores how we are energized by discussion and creativity but cautions us to pay special attention to the "silent" students in the classroom. We will applaud local middle and high school teachers who have drawn out the "silent" students – particularly on topics of diversity - and develop a "best practices model."

### **Featured evening speaker**

**(for all, and especially English and Social Studies teachers)**



**Marjane Satrapi**

**Author of *Persepolis***

**7:00 pm - Derryberry Hall Auditorium**

**Presented by TTU Center Stage**

Author and graphic artist Marjane Satrapi grew up in Tehran, coming of age as the Shah's regime fell, and experiencing the social and cultural changes during the Iranian Revolution and the war with Iraq. Using the popular form of the graphic novel, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*, and her more recent books (*Persepolis II*, *Embroideries*, and *Chicken With Plums*), offer accessible, moving, and entertaining insights for Americans seeking to understand complex current events in the Middle East. Ms. Satrapi directed a film version of *Persepolis*, released in the U.S. in December 2007 and nominated for an Academy Award. Following her presentation, she will be available for a question-and-answer session and book signing.