

## Polar Bear Summer Academy 2010 Workshop Descriptions

**Build Your Own Curriculum (BYOC):** Participants will learn more about the BYOC online service from district experts. We will guide you through a process to improve continuity and consistency in curriculum using the BYOC online service. BuildYourOwnCurriculum was specifically designed by educators to meet the needs of fellow educators, students, parents and administrators. Educators have the opportunity to quickly view curriculum district-wide and to gather ideas from other districts. Students may look at the standards they are expected to learn and master. Parents have the opportunity to view curriculum and standards from home, work or the library. The list goes on! Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about BYOC and update your online curriculum documents.

*As a reminder, our goal is to have all District curriculum documents in BYOC format by September of 2011.*

**Designing dynamic Web sites:** Participants will create an interactive classroom Web site, share ideas and suggestions with colleagues, and learn more about the district Web site as the “go to place” for disseminating information about school and class activities. Sufficient time and training will be provided for participants to utilize Web site editing tools and develop a working Web site that communicates effectively with students and parents. Additionally, participants will enhance classroom instruction by linking to online resources and recommended Web sites; creating slideshows, online surveys, and class discussion boards; and embedding videos within your own dynamic Web site. By the end of the summer academy, participants will have created a fully functional Web site ready to update to begin the 2010-2011 school year!

**21<sup>st</sup> century communication:** Ok, it is 2010. Join this group to learn more about communicating in the 21<sup>st</sup> century using email, calendar, digital phone services, and the district website. Participants will learn how to manage email using folders and rules, how to invite others to meetings using the calendar, and how to use a digital phone service to review voice mail and contact directories. We'll help you post important information for parents and students on the school district website.

**Skyward Gradebook:** In this class, teachers will learn how to best use the Skyward's Educator Access Plus system. We'll walk you through the great resources available to improve instruction, such as grade book reports, attendance records, schedules, and reviewing what parents see in Family Access. We'll also show you how to send updates and messages to parents and create online tests and assignments for students with scores that can import directly into your grade book. Improve instruction and student success by reviewing and learning about information available in Skyward Educator Access Plus.

**Making digital projects:** Do you want to learn about digital projects? Enhance your instruction using digital cameras, digital voice recorders, video and Movie Maker. In this course, you will learn how to use digital equipment and create great instructional resources. We'll help you challenge students to create 21<sup>st</sup> digital projects, too.

**Digital resources using Destiny and United Streaming:** This course will help educators to find and share great digital resources (websites, articles, pictures, videos) for use with students. Using Destiny, the new

library catalog system, we'll carefully point you in the direction of finding great resources in all our schools and librarian recommended websites. Participants will also review United Streaming content, practice using online modules, and review the tools. A class unit will be developed using Destiny and United Streaming resources.

**Computer Applications in the K-12 Classroom:** This course will take teachers through some of the computer applications used in the Hortonville Area School District. Specifically we will look at the Office 2007 Suite as well as file and folder management. At the end of the course, participants will have created a unit using at least 3 of these basic applications.

**Interactive whiteboards in the Classroom:** Interactive whiteboards can be used to engage students and add to your existing lessons. During this class, we will learn some of the basics of the Smart Notebook program that comes with the SmartBoard. You will explore lessons that have already been created using this software. You will spend time creating your own lessons as well. Additionally, you will learn about Elluminate.com interactive whiteboard services. Bring some school related materials to work on a Smarter lesson!

**Healthy Choices and Stress Relief for Educators – part I:** Do you want ideas on how to live a healthier less stressful life? This course offers many enjoyable activities that will help guide you toward achieving that goal. Some of the activities that you can participate in are: recipe makeovers, taste tasting healthy foods, taking a stress free walk, using a pedometer and heart rate monitor while exercising, making smoothies, taking part in daily stress relief activities and many more! You will also explore relaxation techniques both for personal and classroom use. Come and enjoy this interesting class with us!

**Healthy Choices and Stress Relief for Educators – part II:** Do you want more ideas on how to live a healthier less stressful life? This course offers more enjoyable activities that will help guide you toward achieving that goal. We'll also review experiential learning lessons to motivate you and your students. Come and enjoy this interesting class with us!

**Differentiation of Instruction:** This course will examine ways that teachers can effectively support differentiating instruction and assessment to address the complex challenges of meeting the diverse learning needs of all students. Participants will gain an understanding of the reasons and assumptions underlying differentiation and acquire the ability to identify key indicators in a classroom. We will study of a variety of curriculum options to optimize learning for a diverse student population.

**Grants for Excellence Inspirational Lessons:** Have you ever wondered what you could do for your students with a little extra funding? We will guide you through best practice lessons from Grants for Excellence classrooms. By reviewing model lessons and communicating with educators who have already implemented Grants for Excellence lessons, participants will find ways to improve instruction and develop new ideas for the 2010-11 school year. Take advantage of these success stories as you prepare for another wonderful, action-packed year with new students. Along the way, we'll encourage you to dream of your own great ways to improve instruction.

**GPS, Geocaching and K-8 Science tools:** This class period will focus on the function and uses of hand-held GPS units and introduce you to the fun and growing sport of geocaching. Participants will have the opportunity to find and hide geocaches and create their own account on Geocaching.com to become members of the geocaching community. We will also discuss ways to bring geocaching into the classroom. This class will spend time outside, rain or shine, and some physical activity i.e. walking, will be required. Additionally, we will provide an overview of collecting science data with Pasco GLX probeware resources to help students collect data and learn science concepts. From math and science to social studies and language arts, the possibilities to use this hands-on, motivating technology are limited only by the imagination. Potential uses, units, and assignments will be covered and participants will leave the class with a unit they can use in their own classrooms. This is a four hour/day workshop (counts as two classes).

**Exploring Science with Probeware** - Have you ever wanted to explore the use of data collection equipment? Would you like to collaborate on activities from fellow science members? Is infusing technology into your experiments on your agenda? Then join this hands-on workshop with the goal of integrating technology into your classroom. These course lessons will help you improve data collection, analysis, and representation skills. Attendees should bring examples of activities that they would want to modify. The workshop will cover the use of labware, computers, and data analysis software, sensors, and dataloggers. Participants are encouraged to bring their data collection equipment. Special Dates/Times: Aug 16-20 from 6pm- 8pm.

**Great Online Projects:** Participants will learn how to improve teaching and learning using a variety of technology and online tools, including online collaboration services. In this class, we will prepare you to work with students and experts using online services, such as epals.com, turnitin.com, wikis, and illuminate.com. Learn more about video conferencing with experts on virtual field trips. We'll help you integrate technology within instruction using Movie Maker, podcasting, and other tools.

**Technology Integration 101:** This workshop is geared toward elementary teachers who are feeling overwhelmed by the abundant amount of resources out there. Find out how to effectively manage all of the websites you'd like your students to use, connect school to home and explore blogging. Learn tips for how to handle students in a computer lab setting, get them working at their own pace, learn ideas for projects that integrate with your curriculum, see resources for teaching online safety, and try out the basics of several types of programs available for staff and students to use.

**Integrated course activities:** Participants learn ways to enhance instruction with integrated coursework (i.e. STEM, English/social studies). We'll help you find ways to integrate literacy, math, science, technology, and 21st century skills with student team projects and real-world activities. Invest time preparing project-based lessons for students to fully explore the wonders of learning and teamwork.

**Spanish for Educators:** This course will provide participants with the basic communication skills needed to address the specific needs of our Spanish-speaking student population. We will experience the process of learning a new language together. Spanish for Educators will focus on beginning vocabulary and basic conversational skills. Areas of this course will also be dedicated to learning more about

providing a supportive environment for our ELL students, incorporating lessons which foster global awareness into any subject area, and using technology to enhance language learning and cross-cultural experiences. Come prepared for a good time!

**Writing to Learn** - Using writing as an assessment tool has been a long time educational practice, but research has shown that writing is a multifaceted educational tool vital to the educational process. Asking students to explain their understanding deepens that understanding. Come and explore writing as a learning tool that goes beyond assessment, that deepens understanding, that identifies misconceptions, that creates connections. You will experience the writing process and take away techniques and ideas to use in your classroom the first week in September. (Deb VanDalen will instruct)

**Assistive technology tools to meet student needs:** Find ways to meet the special needs of all students with assistive technology tools. Learn how “Kurzweil 3000™” may be used as a comprehensive reading, writing and learning software solution for any struggling reader, including individuals with learning difficulties. “Scan and read” programs enable struggling readers in grades 3 and above to learn from the same content as their peers as it provides access to virtually any text or curriculum, including print, electronic, and Web-based documents.” We’ll also examine word prediction programs and MyWebspiration as a concept-mapping tool to help students participate in the learning process.

**Developing business partnerships:** In this class, we’ll help you to improve instruction by developing business partnerships. Team with volunteers and community representatives to provide relevant and real-world lessons. We’ll help you schedule expert presentations in the classroom, look for awesome video conferencing services, and setup site visits to extend learning for all students.

**Teach with Your Strengths:** Great teachers inspire their students. The Gallup organization has a long history of researching the qualities that contribute to great teachers and the impact they have on their students. All teachers want to know, “Who is the great teacher in me” and “How can I be the best I can be for my students?” The goal of this session is to help you discover some of the most dominant natural talents, those intangibles in you that have always explained, and will continue to explain, your success. These talents deserve your attention. At the conclusion of this session, you will be able to name your talents, own them, and apply them more intentionally than you ever have before. It will also enable you to recognize, understand, and appreciate the talents of your colleagues. Knowing each other’s talents will help you work better as individuals and teams. Discovering your greatest talents and how to use them to be a better teacher, thinker, friend – just being a better you – lasts a lifetime.

**Leading with Your Strengths:** Great teachers inspire their team. In this class, educators examine their own strengths including teaching and learning styles. Together we will develop team leadership skills by exploring topics which include professional learning communities and how they work, building team responsibilities, discussing peer to peer relations, evaluating internal and external communication techniques, and improving communication with parents. You will inspire students and learn leader skills for success.

**Recent Hire Orientation:** Participants will become familiar with district operations, instructional services, building services, and technology services. You will learn more about the district calendar,

mentor support services, evaluation procedures, and how to request maintenance assistance. Over the course of the week, you will learn district expectations by walking through various situations and making sure you know how to get help.