

MRVED UPDATE



MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY EDUCATION DISTRICT
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September 30, 2011

Don't forget to register for the Math/Science Frameworks workshop to be held at the MRVED on October 11 presented by MDE. Go to mrved.com to register under "Announcements" on the home page.

- ◆ The afternoon sessions are for any teachers of history, social studies, science and technical subjects.
- ◆ **MCA Update:** With a new assessment vendor and a new science test, many changes are in store. The current developments will be discussed and questions answered.
- ◆ **English Language Arts Standards:** The 2011 Minnesota English Language Arts standards include Literacy Standards in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects. The session will provide background for the standards and strategies for implementing them.

Follow Brandon's Twitter experiences on his blog. The blog is located on the MRVED website under Staff Development, and Technology Integration.

Webinar Update

There were eight people in attendance. The topic was "Must Have iPad Apps". The documents for the webinar are listed under the webinar archive on the MRVED website. The next webinar will be held on October 10, 2011 and the topic will be Gmail. If you have an idea of a webinar topic, please send that to Brandon at braymo@mnrvd.k12.mn.us.

Ag Best Practice Summary

Gail Polejewski from the SW/WC Service Coop was with us to discuss changes and updates to the Perkins Grant as well as answer a few questions we had. The morning also consisted of an awesome discussion about what technology integration means to an Ag teacher. After discussing what tech integration is, the teachers looked at a teacher technology innovation configuration and what full integration looks like in their classrooms. Awesome discussions were had over lunch at Pizza Ranch. After lunch the teachers spent time reviewing chemistry and physics standards as well as taking a look at the English Language Arts standards. The rest of the afternoon was spent sharing ideas.

Quality vs. Quantity Homework

Are you giving homework of quality or quantity? It is a very interesting question to think about. A 2008 survey showed that one-third of parents rated their children's homework as fair or poor, and 4 of 10 said they believed the homework to be "busywork". When giving a homework assignment, ask yourself, "Does this advance the learning?" The homework debate has come and gone throughout history. Do a Google search on the homework debate and see articles from different time periods to get a full understanding of this topic. Check out some of the recent articles on homework.

[New York Times Article \(2011\)](#)
[Marzano & Pickering Article \(2007\)](#)



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- October 5**
Social Workers
- October 7**
Title III Para's
- October 11**
Math and Science Frameworks by MDE (Science Best Practice meeting will be 2/2/12)
- October 12**
Principals' Council (Morning)
- October 12**
Title I Refresher (Afternoon)
- October 13**
Art

APP OF THE WEEK:

[Counting Bills and Coins & Count Money](#)

We will not leave the elementary math people out this week. If you do anything with learning about money in your classroom you have to check out both of these free apps. Counting Bills and Coins is an iPod app that will still work on your iPad. Kids will love these very interactive money counting games and activities.

TIP/RESOURCE OF THE WEEK

- ◆ iPad app spreadsheet—listing of iPad apps by recommended discipline and grade level. FREE apps are listed in white. Great resource.
- ◆ Testmoz—Use [testmoz](http://testmoz.com) to easily create a quiz or test online. There is no registration for you or your students. The best part, it corrects itself and the student knows their score before they close out. Give it a try today!