

Middle Level Health Education Workshops A Menu of Options

Orientation to the Renewed Middle Level Health Education Curriculum

As the name indicates, this day-long workshop provides an orientation to the renewed 1998 curriculum guide. Workshop participants use the decision-making process from the health education curriculum throughout the day so they have an opportunity to actually see it and feel it in action. The renewed curriculum guide features three sample units for each of grades 6-9. Teachers leave the workshop familiar with the suggested instructional methods, student activities, assessment and evaluation techniques, and student and teacher resources provided in the sample units for their respective grade levels.

Orientation workshops have been offered throughout the province since January of 1999. Teachers who have attended Orientation workshops have repeatedly said things like:

- “Now this is a user-friendly curriculum guide!”
- “Nice to see the resources for the sample units I’ll be teaching.”
- “The HIV/AIDS education sample units require only a few, easy to get resources, and look great.”
- “I now know how to evaluate the process and end up with a mark.”

Unit Planning in Middle Level Health Education

At the conclusion of the Orientation workshop, teachers were asked, “If you were able to attend another Health Education workshop what would you want its focus to be?” The response was clear. Teachers wanted to spend a day with other teachers who teach the same grade level, in order to plan a required unit that is not provided as a sample unit in the curriculum guide.

At the Unit Planning workshop, teachers spend the morning concentrating on three things:

- Identifying community resources that might be used to support the required unit
- Planning for a variety of instructional methods to meet the needs of students and the communities in which they reside
- Selecting the instructional methods that best match specific learning objectives for each of Levels A, B, and C of the decision-making process in health education.

The first part of the afternoon is dedicated to evaluating resources for the required units that are not provided as sample units in the curriculum guide. The

second part of the afternoon focuses on matching assessment techniques to the learning objectives and selected instructional methods.

Workshop participants have said things like:

- “By actually unit planning with the curriculum guide I see how everything fits together” and
- “I learned so much from this hands-on day and from other teachers who teach the same grade.”

Resources in Middle Level Health Education

Teachers who attended the Unit Planning workshops indicated that they would appreciate a follow-up workshop dedicated to resources. The Resources in Middle Level Health Education workshop is very much a hands-on event.

Participants rotate through three working sessions:

- evaluating print resources for the required and optional units at their grade level
- viewing and evaluating video resources that support their grade level
- spending time in a computer lab evaluating Internet web sites to support Middle Level health education.

Teachers have responded very favourably to this workshop.

- “I found out about a variety of resources that are available at low cost and without a lot of time or trouble.”
- “The Internet is free and the information is current. I learned how to evaluate web sites and decide which are good and which are not.”
- “I had no idea that such a thing as Infotrac existed! We are really short of resources and Infotrac can help us overcome this problem.”
- “I learned about Media Group, videos placed there with duplication rights, and being able to purchase a video for \$1.00 plus applicable taxes.”

Student Assessment and Evaluation in Middle Level Health Education

Participants begin the day by reading a sample of student work from Level A – Extend Knowledge Base of the decision-making process in health education. Grade 6 teachers are given an assessment instrument to assess a grade 6 student’s work, grade 7 teachers are given a different assessment instrument to assess a grade 7 student’s work and so on. In grade alike groups, teachers then compare how they assessed the student’s work to how others assessed it.

In the next segment of the day teachers are given a sample of student work from Level B – Make an Informed Decision. Teachers of different grade levels use different assessment instruments because the instruments are designed to match the work sample. Following their individual assessment, participants

compare how teachers of the same grade level assessed the same student's work.

The third segment of the workshop is arranged in a similar fashion but the focal point is Level C – Design and Carry out an Action Plan of the decision-making process. Individually, and then in grade alike groups, teachers assess students' action plans in the design phase.

Participants practise assessing the implementation of a student's action plan next. Teachers have the opportunity to use a variety of assessment instruments to assess a student's implementation log or journal.

The workshop closes with a move from assessment to evaluation. Teachers leave the workshop knowing how to make a judgement, based upon authentic assessment data, to determine a student's mark for Levels A, B, and C of the decision-making process and ultimately for the unit.

Student Action Plans in Middle Level Health Education

Catalyst teachers for Middle Level Health Education are often asked about student action plans. This workshop has been developed to answer those frequently asked questions about designing, implementing, and evaluating student action plans.

Throughout the day teachers work in grade alike groups with examples of student challenge statements, goals, and action plans along with assessment tools to assess both the design phase and the implementation phase of action plans.

To register for one of these workshops, or to arrange for one in your school division, contact the Regional Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction in your Saskatchewan Education regional office.

The Regional Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction are listed below along with their phone numbers.

Sandra Prystay	Weyburn	848-2428
Eleanor Corby	Swift Current	778-8247
Cheryl Bashutski	Regina	787-6075
Lyle Markowski	Saskatoon	933-5028
Ed Bourassa	Melfort	752-6166
Daryl Arnott	North Battleford	446-7434
Toby Greschner	LaRonge	425-4313