

In-service more than a day off

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What do most students think of when they hear the words "countywide teacher in-service day?" No school!

What many students don't realize is that during these days, teachers are learning things just like a student does during a regular school day. This is the 16th year for the Huntingdon County in-service day. "It started in 1992 to promote collaboration between teachers, and it has since evolved to become an opportunity for teachers to receive Act 48 hours, as well Act 48 requires all teachers in Pennsylvania to participate in ongoing professional education, and this is exactly what happens at an in-service day," shared co-chair Larry Steele, one of Southern Huntingdon County High School's representatives. Amy Newingham, another Southern Huntingdon representative, is co-chair along with Steele.

This year's Huntingdon County In-Service Day is taking place at Southern Friday, April 20. Participating schools include SHCHS, Huntingdon Area, Juniata Valley and Mount Union Area. The theme this year is, "Teachers Encouraging Active Minds at Work!" and Anthony Labriola will be the keynote speaker. Labriola received his bachelor of arts in education from Saint Francis University and his master's degree in education, principalship and letter of eligibility from Penn State University. He is currently pursuing his doctorate at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Labriola started his career as a teacher and then a principal in the Altoona Area School District.

In 1978, he served as the curriculum coordinator at the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit and then left in 1989 to become the superintendent at both Ferrisdale Area School District and Forest Area School District. He returned to the TIU as the executive director in 1993 and retired from the TIU in 2003. His presentation for the in-service day is titled, "Morning-side: A Tribute to Ted Schrieber, the Dinosaur Man."

After listening to Labriola speak, teachers will have the opportunity to participate in a morning workshop and later, an afternoon workshop. Full day sessions, which will give teachers five Act 48 hours, include, "Basic Understanding of Asperger's Syndrome," "Crisis Preventions Institute

Training," "How to Successfully Teach Math Facts and Problem Solving Strategies," "Managing Classroom Data with Microsoft Word," "School Law and Legal Issues," "The New CPR," "The New First Aid" and "Traditional Math Topics Taught in a Non-traditional Way."

Sessions that can be taken in either the morning or the afternoon can contribute either two or three Act 48 hours. These workshops include "A Working Museum," "A.I. Doesn't Scare Me!" "Archaeological Investigation," "Are Your Students Asking, 'May We Have Seconds on the Poetry, Please?'" "BASICS," "Books, Books and More Books!" "Colorful Communications," "Crime Scene Investigation," "Differentiated Instruction," "Digital Discovery," "Fitness for Everyday Living," "Incorporating Horticulture Into Your Curriculum" and "Language in Motion."

Also included are, "Origami: Another Side of Origami," "Performance Based Practice: Teaching Student Athletes to Practice and Compete Like an Expert," "Progress Monitoring," "Sign Language," "Special Education Process 101: A Quick Guide!" "Straighten Up and Fly Right," "Stress Management," "Teaching Students to Think for Themselves," "Team Building," "The Battle of Five Forks, the Beginning of the End" and "Understanding Childhood Mental Health Disorders and the Impact on the Classroom K-6."

Various teachers and members of the TIU will be leading these workshops. Rick Knepper, along with Peggy Stevens and Lorraine Hamilton, will be directing the workshop, "A Working Museum."

"This workshop will be held in our school's museum, the Coulter School. I will be discussing all the work that went in to getting the museum, how we raised funds and what some of our goals were while bringing it about."

Stevens will be talking about how to become a curator. She will explain how to decide what kind of objects to put into a museum and how to go about getting those. Hamilton will provide information on how to relate the Coulter School to the classroom. I am looking forward to directing the workshop," Knepper shared.

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Science teacher Nicolee Christophel remarked, "I am not directing any workshops, but I am taking. 'Crime Scene Investigation' and 'Incorporating Horticulture Into Your Curriculum.' I love to watch CSI, so I am excited to take the crime scene workshop."

"Hopefully, I will be able to incorporate the workshops into my teaching this year and for years to come."

As the school year winds down, students and teachers tend to lose energy. In-service days help to spark enthusiasm in teachers as the school year ends. So, while students are away next Friday resting their brains, teachers will be learning many new ways to help students exercise them.

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