

Michael L. Fisher, Jr.

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Summary:

I've been in education for fourteen years, working with both students and teachers with the simple goal of always doing what's best for students. I enjoy sharing practices and resources that I know will make a difference in classrooms. I understand the paradigm shifts that are currently needed to incorporate best practices and technology on an integrated level. While my primary goal of doing what's best for students is important, it is just as important to reflect on and support what's best for teachers as well; because ultimately, they will be responsible for transforming their own classrooms into suitable learning environments for their students.

Professional Experience:

Erie 1 B.O.C.E.S.: Coordinator of Instructional Technology (2008-2009)

- ◆ Developed and implemented Professional Development workshops around web based and computer based software.

Starpoint Central School District, Lockport NY: Critical Thinking Specialist (2005 – present)

- ◆ Developed and implemented curriculum for Critical Thinking / Study Skills program for 7th grade students.
- ◆ Taught Critical Thinking Skills through content in a "Push – In" and "Pull – Out" Program.
- ◆ Planned and implemented Staff Development for teachers on topics including: Curriculum Mapping, Technology, Mentoring, Brain-Based Instructional methods, Classroom Management, Classroom Techniques and Methods, Science Instruction, and Differentiation Strategies.
- ◆ Serve on committees for Professional Development Plan, Mentor/Intern Program, Olweus Bullying Committee, District Critical Thinking Committee, and Building Leadership Team.
- ◆ Advisor for Student Newspaper, the Science & Technology Club, and Destination Imagination.

Starpoint Central School District, Lockport NY: 7th Grade Science Teacher (2004-2005)

- ◆ Taught New York State 7th Grade Science Curriculum, as well as an 8th and 9th grade Academic Intervention Science Classes
- ◆ Planned and implemented Staff Development for teachers on topics including: Classroom Performance System, National Board Certification, and Effective Communication between Home, School, and Student using "Checkwithmom.com."
- ◆ Served on committees for district's Professional Development Plan and Mentoring Program.

Kannapolis City Schools, Kannapolis NC: 6th Grade Teacher (1998 – 2004)

- ◆ Taught North Carolina 6th Grade Science and Language Arts Curriculum, with Academically Gifted Inclusion.
- ◆ Planned and implemented staff development in our school system for both experienced and novice teachers. Past topics include: Effective Communication, Classroom Differentiation, and Using Music as a High Interest Teaching Strategy.
- ◆ Previously served as Grade Level Chairperson, as well as Chairperson for several committees.
- ◆ Helped implement New Teacher Induction programs as well as assisted with New Teacher Recruitment.
- ◆ Mentor for Initially Licensed / Intern Teachers since 2001.

Kannapolis City Schools, Kannapolis NC: Teacher Assistant (1995 - 1998)

- ◆ Assistant to several teachers in Special Education, Second, and Third Grades.
- ◆ Taught Remedial Language Arts skills (Reading and Writing) to small groups.
- ◆ Worked individually with at-risk students in one-on-one Reading Recovery program.

Education:

- ◆ M.S. English, Buffalo State College, August, 2006
- ◆ Grades 6-9 Teaching Certification, Science, UNC-Charlotte, Charlotte, NC, 2001
- ◆ Grades 6-9 Teaching Certification, English, UNC-Charlotte, Charlotte, NC, 2001
- ◆ K-12 Teaching Certification, Academically Gifted Children, UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, 2001
- ◆ Bachelor of Arts in Biology, UNC-Wilmington, Wilmington, NC, 1994

Publications:

- ◆ "Building your Circle of Wisdom," IN Transition, Journal of the New York State Middle School Association, Spring 2009. Vol 26, No. 3 Pp 15 – 18
- ◆ "Slam Dunk Superb: Gifted Blogging with Notice, Think, and Wonder," currently writing.
- ◆ "Orbiting 'The Box': Middle School Students in College," currently writing.
- ◆ "Notice, Think, and Wonder: New Pathways to Engage Critical Thinking," IN Transition, Journal of the New York State Middle School Association, Fall 2007. Vol 25, No. 1. Pp 15 – 18
- ◆ "Equity in Science Education Through Popular Music." Science Teacher's Association of New York State Bulletin, Nov. / Dec. 2005
- ◆ "Teachers Put Stars in Their Eyes." The Charlotte Observer, Nov. 7, 2002
- ◆ "The Effective Communicator's Toolbox", North Carolina Middle School Association Journal, in press.
- ◆ Contributing author to Reaching Beyond The Classroom To Impact Student Learning: Stories From Accomplished Teachers. (Edited by Adrienne Mack-Kirschner, in press)
- ◆ "Multi-Task Folders: A Strategy for Differentiation" NCMSA Journal, 2001
- ◆ Written various articles for Kannapolis City School system's Initially Licensed Teacher Newsletter.
- ◆ Weekly Columnist for Kannapolis newspaper, The Independent Tribune, with educational articles including, "Together, We Can Ensure No Child Left Behind," "A New, Important Step for the New School Year," "Breakfast Enhances Learning Experience," "Proposed Uniform Policy," "Budget Fix Still Broken," and more.
- ◆ Many blog postings on academically related subjects and Instructional Technology.
<http://www.digigogy.blogspot.com>

Staff Development and Presentations:

- ◆ Curriculum Mapping Initiative Support
- ◆ Classroom Motivation and Management for Intern Teachers
- ◆ Using the Classroom Performance System (CPS)
- ◆ Advanced Users of the CPS System
- ◆ Teaching with Multiple Modalities
- ◆ Instructional Coaching (Specifically around Technology, Mapping, and Brain Based Instruction)
- ◆ Using Teacher Websites and Academic Blogging
- ◆ Workshops on Enhancing Professional Practice: A Framework for Teaching by Charlotte Danielson

- ◆ Activating the Brain with Hands-On Learning for Intermediate Science Students
- ◆ #1 H.I.T.S. – High Interest Teaching Strategies through Popular Music
- ◆ Introduction to Brain Based Learning Techniques
- ◆ Brainigami
- ◆ Year long programs for teachers seeking National Board Certification
- ◆ New Teacher Induction and Best Practices for First Year Teachers
- ◆ Workshops on being an effective Mentor Teacher
- ◆ Guest Lectures for graduate students at D'Youville College and Buffalo State College
- ◆ Instructional Technology

Certifications:

- ◆ New York State – Biology/General Science 7-12 (Permanent)
- ◆ New York State – Gifted Education Extension (Permanent)
- ◆ National Board Certification, Early Adolescence/Science, November, 2002

Awards and Recognitions:

- ◆ 2002 Kannapolis Middle School Teacher of the Year
- ◆ 2002-2003 Kannapolis City Schools System District-wide Teacher of the Year
- ◆ 2003 North Carolina Southwest Region Teacher of the Year Finalist (One of 16 competing for North Carolina State Teacher of the Year)
- ◆ Selected as Presenter at 2003 North Carolina Distinguished Teachers Conference
- ◆ Teacher Scholar in Residence, North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Summer 2003
- ◆ Selected as Subject Area Representative for the Science Teacher's Association of New York State, 2006
- ◆ 2006 Nominee for Disney Teacher of the Year

Organizations and Memberships:

- ◆ School Administrator's Association of New York State
- ◆ Science Teacher's Association of New York State
- ◆ New York State Middle School Association
- ◆ New York State Association for Computers and Technology in Education
- ◆ Previous member of North Carolina Science Teacher's Association, North Carolina Middle School Association, North Carolina Reading Association, Cabarrus County Reading Association

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST