Praxis II Middle School Science Test

Background:
Teachers who have an elementary license (Indiana Rules 46/47) and are teaching science or other subjects separately from a self-contained classroom – generally 7th and 8th grade teachers – will need to show that they have subject area expertise sometime after June 30, 2010. Also, the passing, or “cut”, scores will be raised after June 30, 2010 for the Middle School Praxis II Exams, for example from 137 to 148 for the science exam. If a corporation is found out of compliance, the teachers will have to teach in areas in which they are certified, i.e., grades K-6. There will be two ways to show subject area expertise:
1. Earn a college minor in the subject area – science (biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, geology, meteorology, oceanography, or astronomy), mathematics, etc.
2. Pass the Praxis II subject area exam for middle school teachers

Solution:
In an effort to help the 40+ South Bend Community School Corporation teachers who fall into this category, as well as those from New Prairie and other local corporations, Dr. Joyce Johnstone, a licensing officer for the state of Indiana who works at the University of Notre Dame, has created an option to license middle school teachers who fall in this category before the June 30, 2010 changes. Her plan is as follows:
1. Teachers who have taught satisfactorily for 4 or more years (documented by a letter from their principals) may take any or all of the 4 Praxis II Middle School Praxis Exams (Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Language Arts) before June 30.
2. Upon passing the exam, a teacher will be licensed to teach that subject for grades 5-9.

There are advantages to doing this now:
- Teachers will not incur the cost and time to earn a college minor (15 credit hours * $185/hour = $2775 plus fees - based on IUSB in-state tuition)
- The exam is only $90 + $50 (one-time annual fee – Sept to Aug.) = $140 plus time studying
- You can do this by signing up with the Educational Testing Service at the Praxis II website (http://www.ets.org) An abbreviated schedule is below.

Further Help:
The Northern Indiana Science, Mathematics, Engineering Collaborative (NISMEC) is offering a course to prepare you for the Praxis II Middle School Science Exam (#0439), and, if there is interest, the Praxis II Middle School Mathematics Exam.

The course will last for 4 weeks for those taking the exam on March 13 and 7 weeks for those signed up for the April 24 exam. The cost for this course is $25 payable to NISMEC. For those who successfully complete the course, you will be refunded your $25 at the end of the course. The commitment will be for the entire time beginning with a face-to-face meeting on Tuesday, February 11.
16, 2010 from 6-8 pm. It will continue on Tuesday evenings through March 9 for the March 13 exam and March 30 for those taking the April exam.

An on-line web course will be offered weekly on Thursdays (or another day as agreed upon by a group and mentor) for those requiring extra help. These will be set up based on science subject area in which a teacher may need help.

Whether or not you take advantage of the NISMEC offer for help, it is suggested that you pay for ($22.95) and download the Praxis II MS Science Study Guide (#0439)* (http://store.digitalriver.com/DRHM/servlet/ControllerServlet?Action=DisplayProductDetailsPage&SiteID=ets&Locale=en_US&Env=BASE&productID=107149600) There is a practice exam in the back. Complete the practice exam in the time allotted and check your answers. For the NISMEC course, please take the exam before the first meeting and send your answers (please list the question number and your answer – right or wrong) to Beth Marchant by noon Monday, February 15 (Presidents Day). We will look at the various content categories, and you will work in a small group with a mentor to learn the basics that you will need to pass the exam in the areas in which you need further help.

**Note**: The Praxis II study guide referenced above is only available for Windows PCs. If you have a Macintosh, you will have to download Virtual Box (free) or other PC emulator first and then you can open the study guide. Please call or e-mail if you are having problems with this. Also, you may want to split the expense with a colleague and share the materials.

**Schedule:**
by Monday, February 15 – practice exam results to be sent to Beth Marchant no later than noon

Tuesday, February 16 – 6-8 pm – meet at Notre Dame Downtown (across from State Theater at 217 S. Michigan Street in South Bend)

Thursday, February 18 – web video meeting - time to be determined (tbd) by sub-group topic

Tuesday, February 23 – 6-8 pm – meet at Notre Dame Downtown

Thursday, February 25 – web video meeting - time to be determined (tbd) by sub-group topic

Tuesday, March 2 – 6-8 pm – meet at Notre Dame Downtown

Thursday, March 4 – web video meeting - time to be determined (tbd) by sub-group topic

Tuesday, March 9 – 6-8 pm – meet at Notre Dame Downtown

Thursday, March 11 – web video meeting - time to be determined (tbd) by sub-group topic

**Saturday, March 13, 2010 – take exam(s) – good luck!**

Tuesday, March 16 – 6-8 pm – meet at Notre Dame Downtown

Thursday, March 18 – web video meeting - time to be determined (tbd) by sub-group topic

Tuesday, March 23 – 6-8 pm – meet at Notre Dame Downtown

Thursday, March 25 – web video meeting - time to be determined (tbd) by sub-group topic

Tuesday, March 30 – 6-8 pm – meet at Notre Dame Downtown

Thursday, April 1 – web video meeting - time to be determined (tbd) by sub-group topic

**Saturday, April 24, 2010 – take exam(s) – good luck!**

**Saturday, June 12, 2010 – take exam(s) – good luck!**

**Sign up or more questions:** Please let Beth Marchant know of your interest (and whether science or math) no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, February 12 at: bmarchant@comcast.net or 574-360-1864.