



Connected

The Newsletter of the Miami Valley Educational Computer Association

SPRING 2002

MVECA STAFF

Norma K. Stewart, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Gary Bosserman
Director of Operations

Laura Gallogly
Software Specialist - EMIS

Suzan Harvey
Customer Service Coordinator-SIS

Jim Pesch
INFOhio Specialist

Steven Phipps
Network Specialist

Michelle Powers
Fiscal Software Specialist

Thor Sage
Technology Coordinator

Bill Schroeder - Interactive Video/
Distance Learning Coordinator

Sue Ann Welsh
Secretary to Director

MVECA BOARD

David Baits, Board Chair
Superintendent Cedar Cliff Local

Marsha Leonard, Vice Chair
Supt. Greene Co. Vocational District

David Bollheimer - Rec. Secretary
Treasurer Northwestern Local

Terry Fouch - Superintendent
E. Clinton Local

Denny Howell - Superintendent
Greenon Local

Roger Pankake - Superintendent
Tecumseh Local

Tracy Parker - Treasurer
Clinton Massie Local

MVECA

hours 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily
937.767.1468 phone
937.767.1793 fax

<http://www.mveca.org>

The **Data for Student Learning Project** continues to provide administrators and teachers with a valuable tool to access information about students, test scores, and a variety of other information. A feature new to DSL is the addition of off year proficiency data. DSL can now graph performance data for the Stanford-9, OOPT, and ITBS tests which gives schools the ability to study student performance for additional grade levels.

What's in the future for DSL? DSL+ is a new version of DSL that will allow users to enter and modify data. DSL+ would be used to enter attendance, update student demographics, etc. rather than the SIS package. The committee working on a scheduling package for DSL+ has been making progress. We will keep you up to date on the development of this new project. Since this project is funded and supported totally by the MCOECN and 23 DA sites in Ohio, the extent and speed of development is dependent upon the amount of funding and support we are willing to provide. Your feedback about the value of this project will determine its future as well as our involvement.

DSL Users Meeting: March 19, 2002 will be the first DSL user group meeting. The target audience will be building level secretaries. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. at MVECA and last for about two hours. Space is limited so please register by sending an e-mail to GALLOGLY@MVECA.ORG. Come and share ideas, learn what's new with DSL, and get answers to your DSL questions.

VISIT OUR NEW DSL WEBSITE: www2.mveca.org/dsl



The U.S. Department of Education plans a three-year, \$15 million study to gauge the effectiveness of using technology to improve learning. The purpose of the proposed study, as outlined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that President Bush signed into law in January 2002, is to examine "the conditions and practices under which educational technology is effective in increasing student academic achievement, as well as the ability of teachers to integrate technology effectively into curricula and instruction." The final report on the study must be presented to Congress by April 1, 2006. See Feb. 6, 2002 Education Week, or visit www.edweek.com/ew/newstory.cfm?slug=21edtech.h21

Data for Student Learning



DSL FEATURES:

- *STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS
- *STUDENT SCHEDULES
- *ATTENDANCE DATA
- *DISCIPLINE DATA
- *PROFICIENCY DATA
- *OFF-YEAR DATA
- *STUDENT GRAPHS
- *TEACHER GRAPHS
- *CLASS GRAPHS
- *BUILDING GRAPHS
- *DISTRICT GRAPHS
- *DATA EXTRACTIONS
- *ATTENDANCE DATA
- *CIVIL RIGHTS REPORT
- *GIFTED REPORT
- *SEATING CHART W/ PICTURES
- *BIRTHDAY LISTING
- *TRANSCRIPTS

Assistive Technology Infusion Project

There are 2 funding cycles left: April 2002 and October 2002. For each round, LEAs can submit an application for each student that could benefit from assistive technology. Each LEA has a \$200,000 cap on district awards over the course of the grant (which ends Sept. 2003). See www.atip.state.oh.us or contact Susan Wilson at 1-800-672-5474.

SchoolNet Plus Computers for Grade 6

The \$37.6 million available for sixth grade computers will be awarded over the next 2 years. The amount of funding and year in which you receive your funding depends on the number of students in grade 6 and the wealth of your district. Details at www.osn.state.oh.us.

EMIS Redesign by Laura Gallogly

Changes are on the way for EMIS! In addition to the normal amount of changes that we receive every year from ODE regarding EMIS reporting requirements, the EMIS Redesign will cause additional changes.

I will be working on cleaning up your SIS files for June reporting this year and that will include running reports for you to verify that all your student data is up to date and accurate. All duplicate student demographic records will be deleted and you will need to verify several student data elements that are needed for Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) assignment.

By May 1, 2002, I will be sending your current student data to PriceWaterhouseCoopers. They will assign a SSID to each student you have enrolled in your building and send the file back to us. We will then take the information and load the SSID into your SIS files. NWOCA has developed a storage field in SIS for the SSID. The assignment and loading of the SSID for students will all be done on a batch process basis. The only time that a building level representative will have to be involved in the assignment of the SSID is if there is a duplication of the four mandatory fields and further identification is necessary.

The four required elements to be submitted to PriceWaterhouseCoopers for SSID assignment for a student are:

Legal Last Name (From the Birth Certificate)

Legal First Name (From the Birth Certificate)

Gender

Date of Birth (From the Birth Certificate)

The SSID will first be used and transmitted to ODE for the September Summer School reporting of summer, 2002. I will keep you up to date and will be in touch!



INFOhio Update by Jim Pesch

On February 15, 2002, we reached the half way mark for the INFOhio Electronic Resources Vendor Preview. "What is a Vendor Preview?" you ask. INFOhio's Vendor Preview is in its fifth year. Each year INFOhio invites vendors of electronic research databases to provide free access to their products for Ohio's K-12 students and teachers. This year we have 39 vendors providing access to over 150 products – and it's FREE until March 15th. To get an idea of the products available, open your browser to <http://www.infohio.org/ER/preview2002.htm>, choose a database that interests you, and start searching. Most databases are full-text. Don't forget to complete an evaluation of the product you preview. This is an excellent place for your students to do the research for their term papers.

In addition to the preview, the vendors provide discounted pricing for their products. Price lists for the 2002-2003 school year are available from MVECA upon request.

Don't forget to sign up for an Information Literacy Skills Workshop. Once again INFOhio, in cooperation with the MCOECN and OELMA, is pleased to announce the offering of the ever-popular Information Literacy Skills Workshops.

This year's workshops emphasize the use of INFOhio electronic resources for reference and research. The full-day workshops are presented by Dr. Greg Byerly and Dr. Carolyn S. Brodie of the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science. Fourteen workshops are scheduled throughout the state from February through April. Details and online registration can be found on the INFOhio Web Site at <http://www.infohio.org>.

Dates to remember:

April 17 - Inventory Training- Location TBA

May 15 - INFOhio Recognition Luncheon

June 19-21- INFOhio Annual Retreat



Important Dates

Wed., March 6	E-rate informational meeting at MVECA 1:00 p.m.
March 12-14	OEDSA Conference - Columbus
Fri., March 15	MVECA region Tech Coord Mtg.- 8:30 a.m.
Tues., March 19	DSL Users Mtg for Bldg Sec. 9:30 at MVECA
<i>Fri., March 22</i>	<i>MVECA Board Meeting 8:30 a.m. (note date change)</i>
Fri., March 29	MVECA Offices closed
April 8-12	SchoolNet Training Academy at MVECA
Wed., April 17	INFOhio Inventory Training - location TBA
Thurs., April 18	MVECA Assembly Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Fri., April 19	SIS Year-end Meeting 9 a.m. at MVECA
Wed., May 15	INFOhio Recognition Luncheon - Columbus



SUPERINTENDENTS AND TREASURERS: MVECA's Spring Assembly Meeting is Thursday, April 18. Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Meeting 9:30. Our area legislators have been invited to join us for a discussion of MVECA funding and fees for FY 2003, E-rate discounts, the future of DSL, and other important technology issues.

TECH NEWS by Thor Sage

MVECA Spring Tech Meeting to be held March 15

On **March 15th** there will be a meeting of technology personnel and all district personnel interested in technology integration issues. The meeting will be held at MVECA (8:30 am) and will include the following: MVECA Technical Update discussion of the proposed state technology plan and the CELT Corporation's recommendations, IP video-teleconferencing demonstration, discussion of purchasing and savings options through a consortium Platinum program sponsored by CDW-G, E-rate, and a discussion on the creation of online course content by Tom Periatt from Washington Court House.

A *free lunch* will be provided to anyone who stays for an hour-long afternoon demonstration of VarTek's wireless/mobile laptop lab solution.

This meeting promises to be very informative and packed full of valuable content. Please invite any member of your school district/ESC staff or administration who is interested in technology issues or integration. More in-depth meeting agendas will soon be available. Please call Thor Sage at 767-1468 to reserve your seat today.

Got Technology Needs?

Did you know that the **MCOECN VAR** can supply products and services provided by the following vendors?

- o3COM (Networking Products)
- o Allison Payment Systems, LLC (Laser Form Generation)
- o Amer.Com (Networking Products)
- o Champion Computer Technologies (Memory)
- o Cisco (Networking Products)
- o Compaq Computer (Computers, Storage, Services)
- o Gateway Computer (Computers, Storage, Services)
- o Genicom (Dot-Matrix Printers)
- o Hewlett-Packard (Computers, Printers, Services)
- o Krista Micro (Cabling, PC Repair Parts, Accessories)
- o Lexmark (Printers)
- o Printek (Dot-Matrix Printers)

In addition to the above, the MCOECN VAR also has relationships with large distributors and aggregators. Through these relationships the MCOECN VAR can often supply information technology items at costs lower than most entities can purchase them for directly. We have access to nearly EVERY information technology vendor's products. Aggregating the purchasing needs of all Ohio K-12 educational entities through the MCOECN VAR can help all of us to achieve even greater savings through volume purchasing.

Are you looking for third-party memory to upgrade a PC or MAC? How about memory upgrades for your Cisco routers ... that are fully supported by Cisco ... but half the cost of Cisco memory? The next time you have a need for an information technology item, please contact the MCOECN VAR <sales@mcoecn.org> and give them a chance to provide you with some competitive pricing that can help you lower your costs, and increase the buying power for all Ohio K-12 educational entities at the same time! Your contact at MVECA is Thor Sage.

Administrator Training = FREE LAPTOP



Ohio Governor Bob Taft, ODE, OSN, BASA, OASSA, and OAESA have been successful in receiving a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in the amount of \$3.6 million. From 2002-2004, Ohio will extend technology training opportunities to school administrators across the state through "Leadership for Integrating Technology". The state will be able to provide participants with a laptop computer and software through these grant funds, benefiting more than 2300 principals and superintendents from public and non-public schools statewide. Participants will pay a nominal, one-time fee to participate in the three-day training, and districts whose administrators complete the series will receive a laptop computer to practice the skills learned through the course. See more details, see SchoolNet's website at www.ohioschoolnet.k12.oh.us.

SchoolNet Tech Training Academy 2002

Register by March 1 for one of these great Training opportunities. In addition to other courses and locations across the state, there are 4 sessions in the SW region:

Networking the Macintosh	April 8-9	at MDECA
Windows 2000 Server	April 8-12	at MVECA
Netware 5.1 Admin.	April 15-19	at SWOCA
Internet & LAN Security	April 15-16	at SWOCA

Register NOW at <http://www.osn.state.oh.us>.



Student Services Update by Sue Harvey

Spring is just around the corner and shortly afterwards the end of the school year. I think time goes faster every year.

Schools that schedule with SIS should be gearing up to get students scheduled. You may run the B106/B107 to mass move your students from feeder schools to the receiving schools. Please send me a message if you would like your Master Schedule (CMST) rolled over into the new school year. I also have a scheduling checklist and manual available for your use.

I have scheduled a SIS Year-end Meeting for April 19, 2002, at 9:00a.m. at MVECA in the Commons. The meeting will also include some items for the start of the new school year.

Please keep in mind that before the end of the year, I will need the beginning and ending dates of your grading periods for next year to update your attendance fields on the grade cards. Have a great spring and please let me know if I can be of any assistance. Harvey@MVECA.org

Interactive Video/Distance Learning

by Bill Schroeder

New Videoconferencing Members

Xenia Community Schools has recently added two new Vtel minitowers to their district. These units will be shared between the two middle schools and their seven elementary schools. Lou McHarg, fifth grade teacher at Tecumseh Elementary, was the first to give the new technology a shot. She took her class on a virtual field trip to the Columbus Zoo. There they participated in an activity that focused on the food chain and its different parts. This session included work that students had done previous to the lesson. Mrs. McHarg particularly liked how the lesson was set up to allow all of her students to interact with the instructor.

Greenon Local School District has also joined the videoconferencing community, but with a twist. Greenon has purchased several IP videoconferencing systems. These units are comparable in size to a laptop computer, making transporting the unit from room to room a breeze. Furthermore, they are able to videoconference over the public Internet. A gateway at MVECA will allow them to videoconference with any of the existing ATM sites in the state including all of the school districts funded through IVDL and Telecommunity grants.

Reminder: If you are interested in videoconferencing, but don't know what content is available, check out the Schoolvoice website at www.schoolvoice.org. Schoolvoice is a searchable database of videoconferencing content providers around the country.



Fiscal Update from Michelle Powers

Introducing - **SSWAT**
(State Software Web Access Tools)
no flak jacket needed!!!

SSWAT is a USAS Web tool that will display a complete set of USAS transactions, charts, and graphs. I know that you will REALLY be impressed with the ability to export your USAS data to a spreadsheet format. Access to SSWAT will be determined by the Treasurer. Each user granted access will receive a username and password to allow them into the program. You will have the ability to access your districts accounts, transactions, and vendor information with just the click of your mouse. Oh, and let me impress you one last time! With this slick new tool, you will be able to see your USAS history with just a click – export it, graph it or chart it. Watch for the training schedule soon!

"A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams." — John Barrymore



330 E. Enon Road
Yellow Springs, OH 45387