

2008 Professional Development Offerings – Berlin Central Mentor Program

Date	Title	Objective	Description	Presenter	Inservice Hours
January 17 th	"Understanding by Design"	<p>Introduction to the tools used to design rigorous and relevant instructional units.</p> <p>Develop essential questions from state standards to clearly communicate expectations to students.</p> <p>Use backward design process to uncover student misconceptions.</p>	<p>Understanding by Design is a Berlin Central School District initiative used to assist educators in designing units that focus on deepening students' understanding. UbD is based on six facets of understanding; explanation, interpretation, application, perspective, empathy, and self-knowledge. Using a backward design approach ensures a purposeful task analysis, beginning with the end (desired results) in mind and deriving the evidence of learning called for by the goals and standards. This ties closely to another district initiative, Curriculum Mapping.</p>	Lauren Nichols	1.5
February 14 th	<p>"Technology available in the Berlin Central School District- a Brief Overview."</p> <p>AND</p> <p>"Thinkfinity- best practices and resources for teachers."</p>	<p>Overview of the district technology plan and initiatives</p> <p>Introduction to Thinkfinity, An educational and professional development resource site</p>	<p>The District coordinator will present the District Plan, how she is integral to the teachers' needs, best practices and best sites for technology.</p> <p>Thinkfinity is integrated into the NYS Virtual Learning System and provides best practices for teachers and staff. The introduction of this training will provide teachers with ideas that will meet NYS learning standards.</p>	<p>Karen Deiana, district coordinator</p> <p>Thinkfinity- A. Vanderhoef</p>	1.5

March 20 th	“Special Education Services in the Berlin Central School District: A Brief Overview.” AND “Brain-based Learning” Introduction	Overview of the district special education program and initiatives. AND Research-based strategies for brain based learning.	The Director of Pupil Services will discuss 504s, IEPS, and identifying students. AND Brain-based learning - participants will learn the critical principles that guide all elements of instruction and discover strategies to make teaching purposeful.	Special Education- Jennifer Morris, Director of Pupil Services Brain based Learning- Leslieanne Wright	1.5
April 10 th	Brain-based Learning	Research-based strategies for brain based learning.	Brain-based learning-continuation of March 20 th presentation	Brain based Learning- Leslieanne Wright	1.5
May 15 th	End of the year checklist and Professional Development opportunities available to Berlin Central School teachers.	Understand respective school policies pertaining to the end of the school year.	Each school has specific end of the year expectations of the teachers. Checklists will be provided and questions will be answered. Professional Development opportunities available to staff will be presented – Summer offerings, district initiatives, educational opportunities.	Lauren Nichols And Guests	1.5
June 12 th	Program evaluation and celebration	Share and critique mentor and intern experiences.	Participants in the district mentor program will complete end of the year surveys and discuss the mentor program.	Susan Hoffman and Audrey Vanderhoef	1.5