

Nazarene Educators Worldwide

To embrace, encourage, and empower through a network of Christian educators.



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www.naznew.net

Nazarene Educators Need Your Help

NEW is looking for excellent educators to serve on the 2017-2021 Executive Council

We are looking for excellent educators to serve on the 2017-2021 Executive Council of Nazarene Educators Worldwide. We need two individuals to represent each of these areas:

- Public and private schools (K—Secondary)
- Preschools/ Early Childhood Learning Centers
- Homeschool
- Christian Schools (K-Secondary)
- College/University Education Departments

We also need to elect a Chairperson to guide the work of this council. A job description for the general officers and of the chairperson can be found at NEW's website: www.naznew.net.

Please consider the educators you know. Would you be willing to nominate someone to serve on the council? From you, we need the educator's name, area of education, and contact information (email, postal, and phone). Please write a few sentences describing what you know about the individual. We are interested in people who are passionate about the area of education they represent.

Our nominating committee will contact each person nominated and provide additional information to the nominee about the responsibilities.

Please send nomination information by Wednesday, February 15 to Lance Howard at MrLanceHoward@gmail.com.

Thank you for helping us to find the best individuals to serve and support our Nazarene educators in their ministry.

Lance Howard
Current NEW Chair



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Local Celebrations

Submitted by Melodee Simmons—Representative for Preschool/Early Childhood Learning Centers

Children love celebrations. We plan special activities for our classes for the big holidays, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter and others. What about the smaller holidays or more local special days?

We are looking at the Super Bowl coming soon to our city. The children hear their parents talking about the game and the teams who will be playing. Teachers can encourage each child to make a poster for the team he or she wants to win. There could be a day for the children to dress in their favorite team's colors. You could look at a map and show the children where to find the cities from which the teams are coming.

We also have Rodeo coming soon. It is a major event here. Teachers plan many activities that teach about cowboys, horses, farm life, how food grows, and many other things connected to the rodeo that are appropriate for this age level. We observe "Go Texan Day" by having the children dress as cowboys and cowgirls. We invite a photographer to take their pictures. Parents love this. We have many families from other countries in our center, and they really enjoy this very American theme and the pictures of their little cowboys and cowgirls. Last year we even had one family from Uzbekistan that asked if they could come in and have a family picture taken. They arrived in full cowboy clothes and had their picture taken to send home to show their family their life in Texas. It is fun to serve a Cowboy lunch (hot dogs and baked beans).

If you think about it, you could probably celebrate several local events in your community. Louisiana has Mardi gras. Plan a school parade and let the children make a mask to wear. Boston has a marathon. Have a run around the playground and award ribbons for running. Many places have county fairs. Make your own mini fair with games and food. There is so much you can do that will teach the children about new events. The children and teachers will enjoy learning something different.

There are also many small holidays throughout the year that are fun to observe. On Groundhog Day, show the children a picture of a groundhog. Tell them about the story of a groundhog predicting the weather. See what he predicts, mark a calendar, and see if the groundhog's prediction was correct. Another day you could celebrate is May Day. Teach the children the tradition of leaving flowers in a basket on a friend's doorstep. They could make flowers to give to family members or leave them for the other teachers. Let the children hang the baskets of flowers on the doorknob of each classroom or office.

Make it a challenge to have a special event each month. Teachers and children like having fun activities. Be sure to invite the parents to these activities. Parents love to help and join in the fun. See what ideas you can do this year to celebrate local events.

A decorative background featuring various colorful elements: a large green starburst, a yellow starburst, a red starburst, a blue starburst, and several colorful swirls in orange, yellow, and blue. There are also small colored dots scattered throughout.

CeleBRate.







What's Not to Love About Rubrics?

Submitted by Marilyn J. Dominick, Retired School Administrator

The assessment of student learning is receiving more attention today than ever before. In fact, most teacher evaluation systems stress the importance of evaluating how our students are processing information and what that looks like in their work products and participation in classroom discussions, collaboration as part of a team, and even in formal testing situations. So, for many good reasons, there is currently a spotlight on assessment.

I have just completed a round of teacher evaluations in a local school district. I feel some help may be needed so that teachers get the most out of their hard work and increase understanding about how classroom performance is rated. The following questions come to mind when pondering this concept of assessment:

-  Do you have formative assessment criteria in place for evaluating your students' work products and participation?
-  Do your students know how their work will be assessed by you?
-  Do parents of your students have a clear understanding of how you are grading their children?
-  And, finally, are your evaluation methods for students clear to administrators who may be evaluating the effectiveness of your instruction?

If you have answered no to any of the above questions, consider the value of using rubrics to communicate your standards to everyone who has a need to know how you are assessing your students. A well-designed rubric allows students to know what high quality work will look like and may motivate them to reach higher levels than they thought possible. A rubric gives intentional direction toward improvement, even before they begin an assignment. Such a rubric can be developed with students, posted in a conspicuous place in the classroom, and provided to parents who can then do a more effective job of assisting their children. It will result in high marks for you when you are evaluated by administration. A good rubric leaves very little to chance - it is objective and fair.

So, what kinds of rubrics should you be using? The answer - many kinds! And more good news, you don't need to begin from scratch to create these handy tools! I took some time to "Google" different types of rubrics, and you can, too! There are rubrics for writing pieces, classroom discussions, working collaboratively as a team, and many others. In less than 20 minutes, I was able to find high quality rubrics for a myriad of subjects and assignments. (Continued on page 5.)



KIDS REACHING KIDS INTRODUCES...



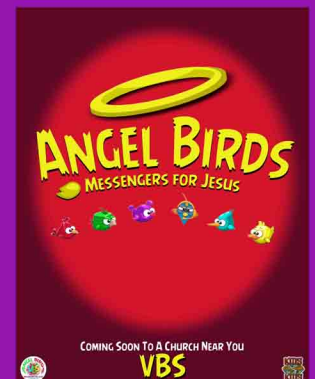
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Jesus is calling His disciples to accept a very important mission. This mission is to share His message of love and hope with the world. The **ANGEL BIRDS** Vacation Bible School will help you prepare the children of your local ministry to accept this mission and become **MESSENGERS FOR JESUS**.

MESSENGERS FROM THE BIBLE

ANGEL BIRDS features five stories taken from the Old and New Testaments that will introduce the children in your local ministry to five individuals who accepted God's call to be one of His **MESSENGERS**. Children will learn how these **MESSENGERS** fulfilled calls to **TEACH, LEAD**, and to proclaim **SALVATION** and **TRUTH** that can be found in Jesus. They will also learn how to call others to become **MESSENGERS OF THE MISSION**.

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When I Play, I Learn Homeschooling Your Young Child

Submitted by Jan Wilton, Homeschool Representative

You are doing your best to provide preschool/pre-kindergarten instruction at home for your child. You have the plan and the curriculum, and you are committed to preparing your child to begin learning for a lifetime of success and adventure. The room is ready for teaching shapes, colors, numbers and the alphabet. Workbooks, worksheets, and all necessary supplies have been procured for the big day, THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Then it happens! Your child adamantly says, "Mommy, I don't want to learn my letters, colors, shapes or numbers! I just want to play!"

Every day homeschooling is a battle in your home, and the battle cry is, "I just wanna play!" Parental coercion and begging only leads to more intense meltdown, you and your child. You feel totally defeated and begin to wonder if your passion to homeschool your child is not for you. Is it time to just give up, spend the money, and enroll your child in a quality preschool?

You spend time talking to your spouse and other parents. You start reading every blog that pertains to your situation.

Have you taken time to listen--really listen-- to your child? The child is saying, "I just want to play." Could play be the key to success? Could this be the answer? Instead of giving up on homeschooling, use play as a learning environment that could help your child learn in a fun way.

I recently was in conversation with a discouraged homeschooling mom who was in this exact situation. Her 5-year-old, high-functioning autistic child was not cooperating with THE PLAN. Her comment was, "I am a failure! I cannot teach my child." To add further discouragement, the family lives in another country, and there is no school with a program to teach her autistic child. As we discussed her situation, we began to talk about how he could learn through play. She began to interact with her child during play. The battle was over.

When playing with your child, ask for items by color or shape.

Counting, estimating, and math calculations can be introduced while you and your child play with his/her favorite toy. Teaching and learning becomes fun. Playing "I Spy" for letters and adding the sound becomes a fun car ride, as your child watches for each letter. Count the horses in a pasture or the cars on a train, walk and watch for bugs and plants. . . and the learning goes on and on. Your child is developing vocabulary, learning shapes, colors, numbers and mathematical concepts.

As your child becomes interested, or perhaps obsessed, with creation, sports, trains, planes, cars, gardening, or stars, use these or other topics as opportunities to expand knowledge. Incorporate the basics of early math and early reading skills. Children learn when they are interested in the topic and when they play.

Many adults have been heard to say that when children play, it is a time-filler with no real value. Gayle Denny, President of ELEA*, states, "When I play, I learn many things; the most important is that I am wonderfully made." When you teach your child through play, your child learns that small children are valued, cherished, and loved. What counts most in the world-- Jesus loves ME!

Play with your child. Watch the stress level decrease. Watch your happy child learn and grow.

*Evangelical Lutheran Education Association





What's Not to Love About Rubrics?

(Continued from page 3.)

The use of rubrics can also be expanded. Many state assessments use a rubric-like format to rate the process and final answers in the constructive response sections. Consider examining those point systems and work them into your own every day rubrics. This helps students and their parents become familiar with how their state assessments will be graded.

Another great use of rubrics is to have entire grade levels or subject areas develop a common set of rubrics so that the student achievement field is level for everyone. In one district I worked with, the 11th and 12th grade English teachers met with the English educators at the local colleges to develop a rubric that would help high school students become familiar with how their college writing pieces would be assessed. Students could see the connection between what they were doing in high school and what they would face in college. It was a Win - Win - Win, since it is in everyone's best interest to do the best job possible in equipping our students for their future.

In this educator's opinion, rubrics tell us almost instantly if our students are learning what we intend for them to learn and to what extent. Most teachers I know who use rubrics tell me that they see a marked improvement in the quality of student work products, the level of depth in classroom discussions, and improvement in how students work together on projects.

As you can no doubt tell, I am a big fan of rubrics. If you haven't tried them, find a teacher who has. We are so much more effective if we share our skills and expertise with each other instead of working in isolation.

So, go ahead! Have fun with this and tell me what you think. I would love to hear from you! Tell me what you think about this topic. If you are already using rubrics, or are just thinking about it, email me at mjdominick77@gmail.com



Image found at <https://clipartfest.com/>

Membership in Nazarene Educators Worldwide

Nazarene Educators Worldwide is comprised of individuals and schools associated with the Church of the Nazarene who recognize the need for a support network to provide fellowship and resources to strengthen their educational ministries.

During the months of February and March, NEW will encourage all educators and Nazarene educational institutions to join and /or renew their membership.

This spring, the organization will produce a ballot for the officers of the NEW Council who will guide the ministry of this organization, Nazarene Educators Worldwide, for 2017-2021. In order to vote in this election, you must be a member of NEW.

Members are active or retired:

- * Educators (licensed or in-training)
- * Administrators
- * Professors
- * Support staff
- * Pastors

In:

- * Christian schools
- * Early Childhood Learning Centers/ Preschools
- * Public schools
- * Private schools
- * Home schools
- * College/University Education Departments

Nazarene Educators Worldwide Member Benefits

- Discounts on annual conventions and workshops
- Access to Members Only sections of the NEW website (blogs and discussion board)
- Helpful resources and articles
- The NEW, a monthly electronic publication providing resources for more effective ministry
- Directory of Nazarene Christian Schools and public and homeschool teachers
- Job search and placement resource for teachers, directors, and administrators of Nazarene Christian schools
- Current legislative updates affecting childcare and weekday school ministries
- Ideas for public school teachers to legally and appropriately include Judeo-Christian thought and values in the classroom

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Membership in Nazarene Educators Worldwide

(Continued from page 5.)

There are four types of membership:

Student

FREE for full-time students preparing for a career in education or full-time Christian ministry. This includes all benefits except voting privileges.

Individual

\$35.00 per year per person for teachers, early childhood learning center/preschool workers, homeschool parents and teachers, administrators, or pastors. This includes all benefits and voting privileges.

Retired Educator

\$30.00 per year per person is for retired teachers, early childhood learning center/preschool workers, homeschool parents and teachers, administrators, or pastors. This includes all benefits and voting privileges.

Institutional

\$100-\$200 per year per institution is for schools, preschools and early childhood learning centers, homeschool co-ops, universities/colleges, and other Nazarene institutions. The fee is based on the number of employees per institution. This includes all benefits and voting privileges for four people. 1-5 employees, \$100. 6-50 employees, \$150. 51+ employees, \$200.

Go to www.naznew.net to download a membership application. Submit electronically or mail to
Nazarene Educators Worldwide
Global Ministry Center
ATTN: Dan Harris
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Lenexa, KS 66220

