

Press Release



Community Unit School District 303

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Richmond Joining Take One! Program Teachers Accept Invitation to Join Certification Program

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The teachers of Richmond Elementary School will be entering the National Board Certification process as a group through the Take One! program starting next fall.

Take One! is an introductory program for teachers that can lead to status as a National Board Certified Teacher. Richmond Elementary is one of two schools in Illinois that are taking part through the National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University. In order to be considered for this program, a school must qualify as a high needs school and have 100% of the teachers agree to participate in Take One!

“This opportunity came together because of several factors, most important is the Richmond teachers are accepting the challenge to improve instruction,” said District 303 Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donald Schломann. “We also have support from the federal government and the National Board Resource Center that allows all the Richmond teachers to participate.”

The fee for the Take One! program is \$395 per teacher. Federal funds pay for \$295 of the cost while District 303 will pay the remaining \$100 fee for each of the 29 Richmond teachers. Take One! is a unique offering from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards that provides a standards-based approach for improving teaching practice and links student learning to effective instruction. Teachers prepare and submit one pre-selected video portfolio entry from any of the current certificate areas of National Board Certification. After completing Take One! a teacher has the option to continue the NBCT process.

The benefit to students in the classroom is that teachers enhance their skills and that leads to enhanced instruction. “As a District, we promote the National Board Certification process for all our teachers,” said Dr. Brian Harris, District 303 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. “In District 303 we have over 100 teachers who either have or are pursuing National Board Certification. The Richmond teachers are taking advantage of an opportunity to get introduced to the National Board process.”

As for the process of Take One!, teachers select one of 25 areas to pursue National Board Certification. Next they collect video of their work in the classroom and then provide written commentary and analysis of their lesson. Teachers then get feedback on their classroom work and get a score which can lead to continuing with the National Board process.

“Teachers are using the Take One! Program and National Board Certification as a lever to improve teaching,” said Lynn Gaddis, Director of the National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University. “The teachers focus on and analyze their methods and that leads to improved student learning and achievement.”

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