



SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE of
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
OFFICE of EDUCATION



Picking Up the Pace

Continually growing
the Kingdom with a
focus on Excellence

August 7, 2017
Volume 1, Issue 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 9

School begins

August 28

Opening Reports due

Data Roll Up errors fixed

August 31

School Billing Fees due

September 4

Labor Day—No school

September 5

K-8 Balanced Literacy and
Math Rotations to begin

School Budgets due to
SACOE

September 14-17

Southern Union Academy
Leadership Conference

September 15

Midterm Reports sent home

September 25-29

IA Testing

October 2

3-way Matching Scholarship
deadline

October 4-8

Oakwood University Live

October 6

First Quarter ends (42 con-
tact days)

October 8

K-12 Board of Education

October 9

Teacher Work Day—No
school

October 10

Second Quarter begins

Welcome Back

Dear Faculty and Staff of South Atlantic Conference Schools. It seems in some ways that summer vacation only began, and yet the calendar is telling us that for many of our schools, students will eagerly walk through the doors and hallways of our campuses this Wednesday.

As we embrace the excitement of learning that takes place each day in our classrooms, you will hear a common theme. South Atlantic Conference is *Picking Up the Pace*.

You may wonder what *Picking Up the Pace* means. In a nutshell, it means that South Atlantic Conference is embracing an exciting initiative. When 70% of Adventist students are not in a Seventh-day Adventist School, we need to go back to the foundation of success. We can rebuild our system. Better. Stronger. More Competitive. Over the course of this school year we will have a committee dedicated to looking at industry best practices, and developing a five-year strategic plan with the goal in mind - *Pick Up the Pace*.


If you are new to South Atlantic Conference, you are on the forefront of an epic journey. We are glad you joined us. If you are returning, then we are so grateful for your service, expertise, and are looking for your forward-thinking support.

One thing is for certain. We all work for the Almighty King. He deserves and expects the best, and with His help we are going to deliver a truly GREAT education to all our students at all our campuses.

Standard Grading Procedures

This year South Atlantic Conference Office of Education (SACOE) has rolled out a standard grading procedure. We looked at industry best practices according to leading educational researchers, and the Berkley Educational Research Center.

As schools, we cannot afford to be individual islands with a cultural mindset of, "Our school does it this way." It is important for any school systems to have a unified procedure for identifying student performance. This keeps inconsistencies and headaches from occurring during student transfers within the system, and provides parents with a continuum of expectation from grammar school through early college. Additionally, a truism of student achievement is that if you want your students to succeed, you must first qualify their learning by building relationships. Once qualitative data has been obtained by the teacher, the quantitative will naturally fall into place.



RenWeb

You must have a RenWeb Parent Alert subscription in order to use this application.

District Code:

User Name:

Password:

LOGIN

RenWeb

Prior to pre-industrialization all the way through the late 20th Century teachers used what was called a blue book to register student information such as demographics, addresses, medical concerns, and grades. In the 21st Century, schools in the North American Division use an electronic blue book, called RenWeb.

RenWeb is our official legal registry. All student demographic information and grades for students in first through 12th must be entered in a timely basis into this data base.

If you are having difficulty logging into RenWeb, please let our office know immediately. We will work with all expediency to help resolve your issues. We appreciate your support and implementation of this new procedure as we strive to *Pick Up the Pace*.



Teaching Standard 1: Instruction

a) Effective planning is evident. **b)** Plans for differentiated instruction . **c)** Selects appropriate instructional goals and resources



Teaching Standard 2: Teaching Strategies

a) Evidence of a Christ-centered classroom **b)** Lessons are clearly introduced and motivating **c)** A variety of activities provide for differentiated abilities **d)** Class time is used effectively **e)** Student involvement is evident and students are engaged in the learning process. **f)** Expectations are clearly communicated to students **g)** Teacher demonstrates flexibility and responsiveness

Planbook

Writing daily and weekly lesson plans is the heart of effective teaching. It is a creative thought process which allows teachers to synthesize their understanding of their learners as informed through data-driven instruction. It is the time when professional educators dream of their learning environment, their content and standards they are covering, and the experience they wish to convey to their students.

As your principal has undoubtedly shared with you, Planbook is the SAC-OE online system for recording what is happening in your classroom. This year the Conference-wide preferred (can we say expected?) method of writing lesson plans includes the format ESTOPS. This acronym stands for:

E – Essential Question/hook.

S – Subject.

T – Topic being covered (i.e. Math: Number Sense; 2 digit by 1 digit multiplication).

O – Objectives/Key Learnings.

P – Procedures (activity, assessment, PBL).

S – Standards covered.



Administrative Team: Kim Gaiter, Vice President of Education; Michael Cookenmaster, Associate Superintendent of Schools; Victoria Robinzine, Field Associate and PALS Mentor

School Visits

To influence the culture and climate of their schools, instructional leaders must discover how teaching professionals see the world around them (Shaffer, 2006). Effective leaders observe how teachers solve problems, justify positions, and develop skills and values that become a part of daily routines and practices (Shaffer). An effective educational leader concentrates on building relationships and changing the attitudes and values of followers within the organization by providing follow-up through support, feedback, mentoring, coaching, and evaluating performance (Crane & Patrick, 2007; Tutsch, 2008).

When instructional leaders lead and plan professional development, stakeholders are expected to remain engaged in a recurring learning process of improvement, implementation, and data driven instruction (Hirsh & Killion, 2009). Leaders of excelling schools meet societal needs by communicating and maintaining high expectations, establishing tangible goals, and holding teachers accountable (Duttweiler & Madden, 2001; Jackson & Davis, 2000). The principal is directly responsible for promoting the instructional practices of his or her school, as much as the superintendent's office is responsible for instructional goals, practices and initiatives within the system.

As school gets underway we celebrate every one of you. We are your greatest cheerleaders. Recognizing that you are on the front lines of the Great Controversy every day, we will often visit your schools to cheer you on, provide encouragement and prayer, offer support, feedback, mentoring, coaching and evaluating based on best practices.

Visitation Schedule

Monday, August 7

GAAA – Michael, Presentation on Data-driven Instruction

DAJA – Michael, Present RenWeb & Planbook

Wednesday, August 9

BCJA/GAAA – Kim & Michael

AAIS – Kim & Michael

DAJA & Lithonia – Kim & Michael

Thursday, August 10

Augusta – Kim

Macon – Michael

Monday, August 14

Charlotte, NC – Michael

Lithonia – Kim

Tuesday, August 15

Whiteville, NC – Michael

Wednesday, August 16

Fayetteville, NC – Michael

Thursday, August 17

Raleigh, NC – Michael

Sunday, August 20

Winston-Salem Board Mtg. - Kim

Monday, August 21

Savannah – Michael



Region 1 Focus

On the first day of school Kim and Michael were able to get to all schools and Early Childhood Education centers in Region 1. We were so excited to see our schools in action.

BCDC—At Berean Child Development Center we were thrilled to see the faculty and staff eagerly working with their nearly 15 students. Thank you for all you are doing to set a right foundation with our young kingdom builders.

BCJA—Berean Christian Junior Academy was bustling their first day. With 54 students we appreciate the hard work of the faculty and staff.

GAAA—Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy is off to an amazing start with their first year of early college. The faculty and staff warmly welcomed SACOE during their morning assembly. We appreciate the hard dedication and work the teachers of our academy are putting in as they serve the 75 students they have enrolled.

DAJA—It was so precious to see the babies through pre-kindergarten children at the Early Childhood Education Center. With 26 student enrolled they are the perfect feeder to Decatur Adventist Junior Academy. Our K-8 school in Decatur/Stone Mountain has opened with 98 students. They are also eagerly getting ready to pilot standards-based grading for SACOE.

AAIS—Atlanta Adventist International School is set in such a beautiful and serene location. With 24 students, the faculty and students showed enthusiasm and excitement for this new year. We are praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as Principal Cheryl McGee says the building can accommodate 50 students. Please pray for them as they seek to grow the Kingdom in Jonesboro/McDonough.

LAA—Lithonia Adventist Academy has opened with 81 students. What an exciting group of faculty, staff and students. The seventh graders were particularly interested in engaging Michael in a discussion of places around the world. They even discussed why Greenland and Iceland are named what they are, and why we play the game Marco Polo in the pool.

Focus on Region 1—We ask that you pray for each faculty, staff, administrative member of Region 1 schools, along with their stakeholders. We have room to grow and develop the kingdom. Pray that God will send students and these schools will be able to receive them. Also pray for the stakeholders of each school.

Teaching Standard 4: Learning Environment

- a) Behavior toward students is consistently fair and firm
- b) Appropriate behaviors are positively reinforced
- c) Inappropriate behaviors are effectively addressed
- d) Classroom routines are appropriately managed and enforced
- e) Student-teacher rapport and respect is evident
- f) Classroom and materials are well organized
- g) Classroom is safe, clean, and attractive
- h) Teacher follows all school policies and procedures

YOU LIVE IN YOUR CLASSROOM AND YOU SLEEP AT YOUR HOUSE. INVITE YOUR STUDENTS INTO A WARM, INVITING ATMOSPHERE. YOUR CLASSROOM NOT ONLY REPRESENTS YOU AND STIMULATES LEARNERS, IT MARKETS THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM YOUR SCHOOL IS DELIVERING.

Back to the Blueprint

Education Chapter 13—The mind, the soul, is built up by that upon which it feeds; and it rests with us to determine upon what it shall be fed. It is within the power of everyone to choose the topics that shall occupy the thoughts and shape the character. Of every human being privileged with access to the Scriptures, God says, "I have written to him the great things of My law." "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Hosea 8:12; Jeremiah 33:3.

With the word of God in his hands, every human being, wherever his lot in life may be cast, may have such companionship as he shall choose. In its pages he may hold converse with the noblest and best of the human race, and may listen to the voice of the Eternal as He speaks with men. As he studies and meditates upon the themes into which "the angels desire to look" (1 Peter 1:12), he may have their companionship. He may follow the steps of the heavenly Teacher, and listen to His words as when He taught on mountain and plain and sea. He may dwell in this world in the atmosphere of heaven, imparting to earth's sorrowing and tempted ones thoughts of hope and longings for holiness; himself coming closer and still closer into fellowship with the Unseen; like him of old who walked with God, drawing nearer and nearer the threshold of the eternal world, until the portals shall open, and he shall enter there. He will find himself no stranger. The voices that will greet him are the voices of the holy ones, who, unseen, were on earth his companions—voices that here he learned to distinguish and to love. He who through the word of God has lived in fellowship with heaven, will find himself at home in heaven's companionship.

For the mind and the soul, as well as for the body, it is God's law that strength is acquired by effort. It is exercise that develops. In harmony with this law, God has provided in His word the means for mental and spiritual development.

The Bible contains all the principles that men need to understand in order to be fitted either for this life or for the life to come. And these principles may be understood by all. No one with a spirit to appreciate its teaching can read a single passage from the Bible without gaining from it some helpful thought. But the most valuable teaching of the Bible is not to be gained by occasional or disconnected study. Its great system of truth is not so presented as to be discerned by the hasty or careless reader. Many of its treasures lie far beneath the surface, and can be obtained only by diligent research and continuous effort. The truths that go to make up the great whole must be searched out and gathered up, "here a little, and there a little." Isaiah 28:10.

When thus searched out and brought together, they will be found to be perfectly fitted to one another. Each Gospel is a supplement to the others, every prophecy an explanation of another, every truth a development of some other truth. The types of the Jewish economy are made plain by the gospel. Every principle in the word of God has its place, every fact its bearing. And the complete structure, in design and execution, bears testimony to its Author. Such a structure no mind but that of the Infinite could conceive or fashion.

In searching out the various parts and studying their relationship, the highest faculties of the human mind are called into intense activity. No one can engage in such study without developing mental power. And not alone in searching out truth and bringing it together does the mental value of Bible study consist. It consists also in the effort required to grasp the themes presented. The mind occupied with commonplace matters only, becomes dwarfed and enfeebled. If never tasked to comprehend grand and far-reaching truths, it after a time loses the power of growth. As a safeguard against this degeneracy, and a stimulus to development, nothing else can equal the study of God's word. As a means of intellectual training, the Bible is more effective than any other book, or all other books combined. The greatness of its themes, the dignified simplicity of its utterances, the beauty of its imagery, quicken and uplift the thoughts as nothing else can. No other study can impart such mental power as does the effort to grasp the stupendous truths of revelation. The mind thus brought in contact with the thoughts of the Infinite cannot but expand and strengthen.

And even greater is the power of the Bible in the development of the spiritual nature. Man, created for fellowship with God, can only in such fellowship find his real life and development. Created to find in God his highest joy, he can find in nothing else that which can quiet the cravings of the heart, can satisfy the hunger and thirst of the soul. He who with sincere and teachable spirit studies God's word, seeking to comprehend its truths, will be brought in touch with its Author; and, except by his own choice, there is no limit to the possibilities of his development.

In its wide range of style and subjects the Bible has something to interest every mind and appeal to every heart. In its pages are found history the most ancient; biography the truest to life; principles of government for the control of the state, for the regulation of the household—principles that human wisdom has never equaled. It contains philosophy the most profound, poetry the sweetest and the most sublime, the most impassioned and the most pathetic. Immeasurably superior in value to the productions of any human author are the Bible writings, even when thus considered; but of infinitely wider scope, of infinitely greater value, are they when viewed in their relation to the grand central thought. Viewed in the light of this thought, every topic has a new significance. In the most simply stated truths are involved principles that are as high as heaven and that compass eternity. [\(We encourage you to finish the chapter on your own. Return to the Blueprint for Adventist Education\).](#)