

!GNITE

**Sparking creativity and
innovation for a
global world**

In Partnership with
Dr. Punya Mishra and
Dr. Matt Koehler,
professors at
Michigan State University

Birmingham Public Schools
550 West Merrill
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
248-203-3000
www.birmingham.k12.mi.us

What is !GNITE?

!GNITE is an exciting new program that will be available in one 3rd grade and one 4th grade classroom at Beverly, Bingham Farms, Pembroke and Quarton during the 2008-09 school year. !GNITE will be an available option in grades three through five at all of the elementary schools, and in sixth grade at both middle schools during the 2009-10 school year. This optional program will be fully implemented in grades 3-8 during the 2010-11 school year.



This innovative, performance-based program, developed in partnership with Dr. Punya Mishra and Dr. Matthew Koehler, professors at Michigan State University, focuses on maximizing the relationship between technology, course content and teaching practices. Students will work extensively with Web-based technologies such as Moodle, blogs, wikis, podcasts, video casts, and more. Using these tools, activities and projects designed to meet BPS' curriculum will emphasize creativity, communication, collaboration, critical thinking and reflection.



Why do we need such a program?

The rapid changes of the 21st Century require creative, adaptive thinkers who are able to apply content knowledge to new situations. The !GNITE program provides a framework for teachers to leverage emerging technologies to facilitate learning. We must prepare our students to be successful in a changing world that will require them to have new and adaptive skill sets. We can no longer predict the specific range of jobs and opportunities that will be available to our students in the future, but we do know that technology skills, critical thinking and global competence will be more important than ever.

How do I learn more about !GNITE?

There will be information sessions during the winter/early spring of 2009. Information will be provided on the curriculum, the !gnite philosophy and the expansion plans for the 2009-2010 school year. Information about these sessions will be distributed through our elementary school newsletters and will be posted on the district Web site at www.birmingham.k12.mi.us.

What if there are not enough spaces for everyone who is interested?

If demand exceeds capacity, a lottery will be held. Students living in the school's attendance area have priority. Students who wish to open enroll into the program must wait to see if any space is available.



Although the !gnite program is being launched in four of our elementary buildings, it will be offered in each of our elementary schools for the 2009-2010 school year.

