



June 30, 2010

## **Hazelwood Northwest Middle School science teacher returns from 14-day Teacher at Sea voyage to Gulf of Mexico**

**What:** A science teacher conducted research aboard National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) ship for 14 days in the Gulf of Mexico in June as part of NOAA's Teacher at Sea program. Nicolle Von der Heyde and her shipmates sailed within the area affected by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil well explosion in April. The NOAA team performed seafood safety assessments, catching fish and examining them for oil contamination along with other research. She recorded the team's findings via logs, photos and interviews with scientists.

"Nicolle teaches Earth science," said Carrie Launius, the District's science coordinator. "What she can do now is teach her students about the cyclical approach to her course – the atmosphere, the lithosphere (Earth's crust), the hydrosphere and the biosphere. It will allow her students to make deeper and more personal connections with the curriculum and themselves. They will be able to see how they fit into the Earth."

**Who:** Nicolle von der Heyde, an eighth grade science teacher at Hazelwood Northwest Middle School.

**Contact:** Diana Gulotta at (314) 953-5005 or (314) 575-0503 cell.

**Other Information:** Von der Heyde was selected from more than 250 applicants to the program.

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*The Hazelwood School District serves nearly 19,000 students and is the second largest district in St. Louis County. Communities in the district include Hazelwood, Black Jack, Spanish Lake, a large section of Florissant, portions of Bridgeton, Bellefontaine Neighbors and Ferguson and several square miles of unincorporated St. Louis County. The mission of the Hazelwood School District is to launch learners on a quest for high standards, fairness and distinguished achievement.*

