



Congratulations
Denise Hitch -
You're the 2008
Jostens Renaissance Review
Rock Star!

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Jostens Renaissance Review #18 September 4, 2008

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Welcome back!

The Jostens Renaissance Review - Information, Ideas, Prizes!

If you are new to the Jostens Renaissance Review, we'd like to introduce you to this e-publication. The JRR is a bi-weekly electronic publication with a very simple goal - to gather and disseminate Jostens Renaissance ideas from across North America thereby providing a networking vehicle for Renaissance students and educators. It features Jostens Renaissance statistics and news articles submitted by schools; keeps you updated with the latest Renaissance workshop information; provides tools for your program; and features informational updates about the 2009 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.

The Jostens Renaissance Review is successful because you make it successful! We count on you to provide the information and ideas that are the heart and soul of each issue. Your support is essential and we'll reward you for that support! The focal point of each issue is an idea that works. Submit your Jostens Renaissance idea and if it's selected as the issue's best idea you'll receive a Jostens Renaissance hoodie and become eligible for the Jostens Renaissance Idea of the Year contest. The winner receives an all expense paid trip for two to the 2009 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.

Another opportunity for you to contribute is by participating in our Educator Services Discussion Board. Leave a comment and you're eligible to win an i-Pod. Every two weeks, one name will be randomly drawn from those people who have contributed to the discussion board. That individual will receive an i-Pod for their effort! <https://edserv.jostens.com/default.asp>

On behalf of Jostens Renaissance, we are thrilled to extend our welcome back to you at the start of your new school year! We hope that you have settled back into school and that you're off to a great start. We know that this is going to be a very exciting and rewarding school year.

Please spend some time looking at the information included in this Jostens Renaissance Review and consider playing a larger role in Jostens Renaissance by submitting your idea and participating in our discussion board. Who knows, you could be our guest in Orlando next summer!

Conference Information

2008 Conference a Success!

According to all accounts, the 2008 Jostens Renaissance National Conference provided an incredible weekend for its almost 1100 attendees. From breakouts providing information about Jostens Renaissance to Friday evening's Recess Olympics to Saturday's awesome rally to Sunday's unforgettable closing session, attendees said that the National Conference lived up to its lofty expectations.

And it's never too early to begin thinking about the 2009 Jostens Renaissance National

Conference! We hope that you'll consider joining us in beautiful Orlando, Florida, July 17 -19, 2009.

Caribe Royale to serve as host hotel

The accommodations for the 2009 Jostens Renaissance National Conference will be spectacular as the Caribe Royale serves as the host hotel as well as the site for the conference. The Caribe Royale is an all suites hotel and will provide the luxurious accommodations that the Jostens Renaissance National Conference is famous for.

To view the hotel and convention center, visit the following link: <http://www.cariberoyale.com/>

Your Ideas

This Issues Winning JRR Idea - Graduating with Honor - Cords!

Mr. Al Chmiel
Keene High School
Keene, New Hampshire

Graduation is the highlight for every senior and for every high school. Part of the pageantry of graduation is seeing students adorning their gowns with honor cords that they have earned through hard work. Most schools will award honor cords to a very small percentage of only the highest achieving students. At Keene High School we have embraced the Jostens Renaissance philosophy by allowing more students to receive honor cords at graduation. And the selection process is really simple yet very rewarding.

Each department sets their own criteria for their departmental honor cords. We have 14 different departments each with their own criteria. Here's a compilation of examples for criteria that are commonly used:

- 4-5 on A.P. test
- Grade of B better in at least three departmental classes
- Participant on the Math/Environmental science team for two years
- Marked improvement in GPA the last two years in departmental courses
- Tutored students who have struggled in classes, i.e. Math, Science, Writing skills

Each department's criterion is posted in the front window of each departmental office.

Each department decides on their honor cord color. Students receive their honor cords as they line up for graduation and each department head places the honor cord on the student. (We use an overhead in the staging area and list each department's honor cord winners. We do one

department at a time. The excitement and clapping is more than you would ever expect).

This is our first year with this program. We graduated 425 seniors and 145 students received honor cords. This is above and beyond the National Honor Society Honor cords. Our graduation program has a code by the name of each honor cord winner and the department they received the cord from. The honor cord colors and departments are also listed on the program.

Also, each department marches into the graduation ceremony with their cap and gown plus their department's honor cord. We had 132 staff at the graduation ceremony all in caps and gowns!

Our parents thought this was the greatest thing they had ever seen. We had some students with 6 cords, some with 2 and a lot with one. We checked the list the next day and over half had never been recognized before for any academic achievements.

If you want to promote academic excellence to the community and students this is a venue you should not pass up!

For more information about Graduation With Honor - Cords! contact Al Chmiel at achmiel@sau29.org

For submitting this idea, Al will receive a Jostens Renaissance hoodie and is now eligible to receive an all expense paid trip for two to the 2009 Jostens Renaissance National Conference.



Hot Stories

no updates this week

Program Enrichment

Still a great message - The Star Fish Story

As the school year starts we'd like to remind everyone that the Star Fish story is the perfect way to kick off the school year and send a powerful message to the faculty and staff of the important role they play each day. Every member of the faculty and staff can make a difference in every life that they touch. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wuSaNCIde4>

If you'd like to purchase a copy of the Star Fish DVD, email Norma Christenson at norma.christenson@jostens.com. Cost is \$12.

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Platinum Program Coupon Books

The 2008 - 09 version of the Jostens Renaissance Platinum Program Coupon booklet looks to be bigger and better than ever! You can order yours now by clicking on this link - http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_500.asp

Events & Reminders

Events

Upcoming Jostens Renaissance Events

October 6, 2008 - CARE Conference, Southern California - Conference will be held at Auto Club Speedway, Fontana, CA. The conference runs from 9:00 - 2:00. Cost is \$35 per attendee. For more information contact Richard Parkhouse at richard.parkhouse@jostens.com

October 8, 2008 - CARE Conference, Northern California - Conference will be held at Deer Valley High School, Antioch, CA. The conference runs from 9:00 - 2:00. Cost is \$35 per attendee. For more information contact Richard Parkhouse at richard.parkhouse@jostens.com

October, 24, 2008 - Heartland Renaissance Conference - Conference will be held at Rockwood Summit High School in Fenton, MO. The conference runs from 9:30 - 2:30. Cost is \$12 per attendee. For more information contact Mitch Lefkowitz at lefkowitzmitch@rockwood.k12.mo.us or Terrie Brueckmann at brueckmannterrie@rockwood.k12.mo.us

Reminders

Educator Services Website

Provides information about Jostens Renaissance. Register and get full access to all the program information. www.jostens.com/edserv

Renaissance Review Archive

Provided to you on our new website: http://www.jostens.com/edserv/renaissance/ren_400_20.asp

Post Cards - Personalize Recognition for Students

We've made post cards out of the three student related motivational posters. The cards are 5" x 7" and are packed individually. Cost is \$.10 per card. To order, email norma.christenson@jostens.com and list the number of cards you'd like and the address to ship them to. We'll put an invoice with the shipment.



Black History Commemorative Poster

To order, please e-mail norma.christenson@jostens.com. Include # of posters, your name, school name, address. \$1.00 per poster plus postage. An invoice will be included with your order.

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