A TELEVISION NEWS MAGAZINE ABOUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Inside Your Schools' To Premier In September

The American Federation of Teachers and the Learning Channel are launching "Inside Your Schools" a 90-minute monthly national television series focused on our nation's public schools. Premiering this September, the series is the only regularly scheduled national broadcast program on cable, public or commercial television focusing entirely on the issues and events surrounding public education.

"Inside Your Schools" will be broadcast over the Learning Channel, a national cable television network reaching some 5 million households via 400 subscribing cable systems, starting Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 3 p.m. EST and continuing at that time the first Tuesday of each month September through June. The series will also be repeated twice during the first week of each month Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. and Sundays at noon.

"The series comes at a time when public schools are confronted with serious problems and growing criticism," said AFT president Albert Shanker. "However, it is also a time when many people are realizing that the public school system must be improved, not torn down, because in it lies the future of our country."

"In recent weeks, education has gotten enormous attention, but the focus is primarily negative," Stevens said. "Little is mentioned about the many innovative teaching programs, outstanding students, and educational research or positive legislative initiatives. That is what AFT is doing."

"Our video crews go right into America's classrooms to record the latest techniques in teaching the learning disabled, the gifted or non-English speaking children," Stevens continued. "The focus may be an exciting math of science program, or on Capitol Hill or on the funding problems of a local school system.

Presented in magazine format, each monthly show will feature six regular reports, with a teacher host providing introductions and transitions:

- Where We Stand - Critical issues such as tuition tax credits, the crisis in math and science education and school budget cuts are discussed by public officials, leading educators and others who shape the nation's educational policy.
- Scrapbook - Outstanding Americans recall the teacher who most influenced their lives and careers.
- Excellence in Public Education - The color of the classroom wall or the arrangement of the students' desks are factors that can contribute to or detract from the classroom learning environment. This segment looks at such programs designed to enhance the quality of education.
- Teaching - Public school teachers whose classroom techniques have proven successful are shown working with the students and sharing ideas for improving their profession.
- Kids in Performance - On the athletic field, on stage, in the high school chorus or at a state science fair, the spotlight is in on youngsters who talents are being nurtured in the public schools.

- Schools and Society - This segment reports on the vital link between school and the community. For example, businesses help schools develop computer literacy or a broad-based campaign for a tax increase necessary to keep their schools open.