

# TST Weekly Bulletin

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

**TST BOCES**  
TOMPKINS • SENECA • TIOGA

## School Improvement Services

*Leading and supporting school communities in their efforts to provide the best possible learning environment for all students.*



**Barry Derfel**

Assistant Superintendent  
for Instruction

607-257-1551, ext. 1004  
bderfel@tstboces.org  
T: @barry\_derfel

TST BOCES  
555 Warren Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850

## FOCUS OF THE WEEK

### Assessment

Think about the assessments you are using in relation to the six facets identified in this week's quote. Are there certain facets you tend to emphasize and others that you don't? Talk with a colleague or two about what you notice.

## FOR PRINCIPALS

### Critical Friends Group for Principals

There are two series being offered this year, one in the morning and one after school. The Critical Friends process focuses on developing collegial relationships, encouraging reflective practice, and rethinking leadership. This process is based in cooperative adult learning, which is often contrary to patterns established in work environments. Sign up now in MLP for all five morning sessions or afternoon sessions: 10/20/15, 11/17/15, 1/26/16, 3/15/16, and 5/24/16.

### Middle Level Liaison

Josh Hunkle has agreed to serve as our regional Middle Level Liaison. Thank you, Josh.

### Technology Integration Specialist Positions

We are looking to hire two technology integration specialists. Please share the attached posting with colleagues who may be able to help us find excellent candidates.

## LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Our Regional Priorities \(click here\)](#)
- [Cooperative Enrichment Newsletter \(click here\)](#)
- [Five Obstacles to Grading Reform \(Thomas Guskey, 2011\)](#)
- [Instructional Rounds in Education \(City, Elmore, Fiarman and Lee, 2015\)](#)

Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book or article.

### Quote of the Week

"Teachers provide opportunities for students to explore, interpret, apply, shift perspectives, empathize, and self-assess. These six facets provide conceptual lenses through which student understanding is assessed"

-- Tomlinson & McTighe, 2006

THERE'S MORE!

tstboces.org

# {UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES}

## **CKLA Assessment & Remediation Guides (8:30-11:30 a.m. Oct. 15)**

The Assessment and Remediation Guide "is intended for use with students who have mastered some or most of the letter-sound correspondences in the English language, but who are not yet fluent readers because they lack specific decoding skills, and/or have not had sufficient practice in reading decodable text." This workshop will focus on administering the Placement Assessments, understanding the basic and advanced code in CKLA, developing intervention lessons using the explicit instruction template, and using corresponding instructional and progress monitoring materials for each section of the guide. [Click here for flier.](#)

## **Graduate Student School Outreach Program (GRASSHOPR)**

Cornell University's Public Service Center is excited to announce that we are now accepting teacher applications for participation in this year's GRASSHOPR program. Participating graduate students have submitted dozens of course ideas in all subject areas for teachers to select to host in their classrooms during the spring 2016 semester. These courses consist of three to five mini-lessons and can be modified to meet curriculum and classroom needs. To apply to have a mini-course taught in their classroom or to find out more information about the program, teachers can [click here](#). To have adequate time to match teachers and classrooms with graduate students and mini-courses, teachers should apply no later than Friday, Oct. 23. [Click here for flier and details.](#)

## **Poverty is Not a Culture: Supporting Students Dealing with Economic Insecurity**

This series is co-sponsored by SUNY Cortland and TST BOCES and each session runs from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with an hour break for lunch on your own. Session dates are Oct. 29, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11. Work with a team to develop clarity about the ways in which our schools can best support and affirm students and families who are struggling for economic security. We will confront mainstream stereotypes, myths and misinformation relating to poverty by examining how these notions have been constructed over time. We will reflect on our own beliefs to solidify within ourselves an assets-based mindset regarding our students and families who struggle for economic security. We will identify concrete actions we can take to ensure that all of our students are successful. [Click here for details.](#)

## REGIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES NETWORK OPPORTUNITIES

### **Unit Planning Series (sign up in MLP)**

There will be three sessions for those who did not participate in the summer series. Sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 4, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15. [Click here for details.](#)

### **Accessing and Using Affirming Resources**

Participants will learn how and where to access differentiated, relevant and culturally affirming social studies resources to use with students, and for themselves. This will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Nov. 10. Sign up in MLP. [Click here for details.](#)

### **Tuning a Unit Plan (sign up in MLP)**

Participants will help one of their colleagues fine-tune a social studies unit. We will use the National School Reform Foundation's Tuning Protocol to facilitate this process. This opportunity takes place from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Nov. 16. [Click here for details.](#)

### **Promoting Civic Engagement, Taking Informed Action (sign up in MLP)**

Participants will learn how to plan a social studies unit so it is relevant to students, promotes meaningful learning and promotes civic engagement by motivating students to take informed action. Examples of local, regional, national and global opportunities will be shared. This will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 1. [Click here for details.](#)

### **Fall Meeting & Celebration (sign up in MLP)**

Students, educators, families, and community - you are invited to join the TST BOCES Regional Social Studies Network as we celebrate our work to date and brainstorm ideas for what we would like to make happen this winter and spring. This session takes place from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 9. [Click here for details.](#)

**TST**  
**SIS Weekly Bulletin**

**Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES**

School Improvement Services

*Dr. Jeffrey Matteson, District Superintendent*  
*Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction*

[tstboces.org](http://tstboces.org)