

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

The Big Ideas

This week, write an essential question or two on your board (or staff meeting/ PD agenda) that will alert students or teachers to the deep thinking you are hoping this week's lessons (meetings/sessions) will help them ponder and discuss. You might want to talk to a colleague to help you develop these.

MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER ELIA

In New York State, we are committed to higher standards and to evaluating the standards on a regular basis with input from stakeholders. The New York State Education Department is conducting a review of the New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. NYSED is conducting a survey to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the standards. The results of the survey will directly inform any changes that we make to the standards as a result of the review. I look forward to hearing from you and reviewing your feedback on the standards. *Click here to access the survey.*



FOR TEACHERS

Regional Priorities

Last year, we used a Google survey to ask all teachers throughout the region to share input about the instructional areas in which you feel particularly effective, and the areas in which you would like more support. We used your input to help us identify regional priorities for this school year (click here).

Cooperative Enrichment Newsletter (click here)

Quote of the Week

"When the curriculum, instruction, and assessments focus on 'big ideas' and essential questions, they signal to students and parents that the underlying goal of all school efforts is to improve student learning of important content, not merely to traverse a textbook or practice for standardized tests."

-- Tomlinson & McTighe, 2006

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Java at the Johnson

An Informal discussion series linking history, literature and art. Co-Sponsored by the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University and Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES. Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, commemorates the signing of the armistice or cease fire ending World War I. The First World War caused the deaths of millions as well as signaling a definitive break with the world of the 19th century. We will begin the first of a series with a discussion of a chapter from Juliet Nicolson's *The Great Silence* and follow that with an exploration of a work by Kathe Kollwitz in the exhibition Imprint/In Print. The discussion will be priceless as will be the java and free parking! Sign up in MLP.

Makerspaces: Revolutionizing in School Libraries [\(click here\)](#)

Regional Social Studies Unit Planning Series [\(click here\)](#)

Accessing and Using Affirming Resources in Social Studies [\(click here\)](#)

Progress Monitoring IEP Goals Series 2 [\(click here\)](#)

FOR PRINCIPALS

NYS Teacher of the Year Program

This flyer is suitable for posting or distributing any way you see fit. It contains a link to the Teacher of the Year web page for access to additional information as well as the application. Thank you for promoting teacher recognition in New York State. *Click here to access the flyer.*

Staff/Curriculum Development Network

Click here to review the Learning Leadership Fall 2015 newsletter, which provides a wealth of information by educators and for educators.

Making the Transition to Computer-Based Testing: Tips from NYSED

NYSED provides valuable resources regarding computer-based-testing. Click here to access

a presentation about making the switch to an online exam model.

School Counselor Symposium

Enrollment is full, but sign up for the wait list and let Barry know. I will reach out to see if I can help get you included. Click here for more information.

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Place Based Education](#)
- [National Youth Leadership Documentaries](#)
- *Blaming the Poor – The Long Shadow of the Moynihan Report on Cruel Images about Poverty*, by Susan D. Greenbaum
- *Fair and Accurate Grading for Exceptional Learners*, Jung & Guskey 2011

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

TST
SIS Weekly Bulletin

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

School Improvement Services

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

tstboces.org