

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

Reflection

Now that we are well into the school year, it may be a good time for all of us to pause and reflect on how the year is going. Consider giving your students (or staff) 3-5 minutes in each of your classes (faculty meetings) to think about, and write down, one or two learning, work habit or skill-goals they want to work on for the next two months.

FOR TEACHERS

Educators Sought to Help in NYS Assessment Process

NYSED is looking for educators to go to Albany to assist with the development and quality assurance of all NYS assessments. It is an ongoing need and teachers should be nominated. Travel expense is covered by NYSED. Lodging available if greater than 50 miles. Additionally there is an honorarium awarded. Details can be found [here](#).

MLK Poster Contest

The Tompkins County Office of Human Rights (OHR) joins efforts with the Tompkins County Workers'

Center to present its second annual "What Would MLK Say Today?" Poster Contest. This year's theme is dedicated to what MLK would say today about a LIVING WAGE. The contest is open to all Tompkins County residents, ages 14 and older. Deadline for entries is Jan. 8, 2016. Artwork will be exhibited on the Avenue of Friends at the Tompkins County Library during Black History Month in February. For schools outside of Tompkins County (South Seneca and Candor), the OHR will find a way to recognize your students, as well, although they will not be eligible for the awards. For contest details, click [here](#) for more information or visit this [link](#).

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

Contact Barry to borrow a book or article.

- [Resources to Support Peer Visits](#)
- [Family and Community Engagement](#)
- *The Relationships Between School Poverty & Student Achievement in Maine* (2014)
- [Making Number Talks Matter](#), by Humphreys & Parker
- [Cooperative Enrichment November Newsletter](#)

Quote of the Week

"[It is] critical for [students] to develop increasing awareness of their own learning goals and needs, and to become effective in speaking about and playing a role in addressing those needs."
-- Tomlinson & McTighe, 2006

MORE CONTENT ON NEXT PAGE

tstboces.org

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Mathemagic: Mathematics Professional Development Day

This professional development opportunity, organized by the Mathematics Department at Ithaca College and co-sponsored by TST BOCES, focuses on promoting a positive attitude toward mathematics. This requires experiences with different contexts where mathematics is used to make sense of situations. One of these contexts is the games and puzzles used by Gardner and others interested in recreational mathematics. In this workshop we will explore several of these puzzles. We will practice the magic and study the math behind it. The activities will be accessible to teachers in all grade levels.

Mark your calendars for 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, at the Ithaca Falls Room, Campus Center. Lunch will be on your own from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is \$50. Teachers will receive five in-service hours. For more information, click [here](#) or register [here](#).

Accessing and Using Culture-Generated and 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. Mark your calendars for noon to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, at TST BOCES. For more information, click [here](#).

FOR PRINCIPALS

Testing Reminders

June 2016 is the last date to take the 2005 ELA Regents. Prior to 2013 students entering ninth grade had the option of taking either exam. The Safety Net for students taking the Algebra 1 exam is this June. It will NOT be offered in August.

3-8 Assessment Toolkit Available

The Commissioner has released the 3-8 assessment toolkit for districts to use to assist with communicating with parents on the importance of assessments. It is now available on the NYSED website by clicking [here](#).

INPUT SOUGHT

In preparation for the new Global History and Geography Regents Exam (scheduled for its first administration in June 2018), the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has posted a public survey to inform the test development process.

A brief draft overview of the new Global History and Geography Regents Exam is provided by clicking this [link](#). Please share this with all interested parties, as it is important to hear all voices in the development of a new Regents exam.

The survey will be available until midnight, Nov. 30.



TST
SIS Weekly Bulletin

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

School Improvement Services

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

tstboces.org