

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.



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FOCUS OF THE WEEK

Connections

This week before we go on break, let's take some time to build and strengthen our connections to one another. We might talk about school, our hobbies, music we like or books we're reading. Let's continue to build community together.

Evaluation Processes that Inspire Great Teaching

Last month, Lynn VanDeWeert (Evaluation Officer for Data, Assessment, Professional Development in the Ithaca City School District) joined me in Albany to work with our colleagues on thinking about how we could support Principals and other Lead Evaluators in their efforts to implement evaluation processes that effectively inspire great teaching. Together, our group created the [attached resource document](#), which we hope you may find useful, whether you are an administrator, teacher, paraprofessional or other educator who works with young people.

New York State Approves New P – 12 Science Learning Standards

"The New York State Board of Regents P-12 Committee today approved new P-12 Science Learning Standards, the State Education Department announced. These standards are based on two nationally respected guiding documents, feedback from teachers, school and district administrators, and on survey data that indicated the need to adapt specific portions of the standards to reflect New York's mission and vision for P-12 science education." Find out more, [here](#).

Association of Educational Service Agencies – **BOLD STEP: Affinity Groups are Here**

"The purpose of an Affinity Group is to strengthen your networks. Affinity Groups will be formed around common interests or issues, rather than common job titles. Members of a group will meet electronically throughout the year. Affinity Groups are intended to support AESA members as they develop deep and authentic relationships with each other. If you work for an ESA that is also a member of AESA, you can join an Affinity Group that interests you! The first Affinity Group discussion about equality, inclusion and social justice is already underway and is open to any employee of any member-ESA who is interested in sharing resources, new learning, and successes around this topic. Interested AESA members can join this Affinity Group by contacting AESA Executive Director, Joan Wade, at jwade@aesa.us, or group moderator, Scott Menzel, at smenzel@washtenawisd.org. We will be happy to get you started!"

Quote of the Week

"Our hope for creative living in this world house that we have inherited lies in our ability to reestablish the moral ends of our lives in personal character and social justice."

-- Martin Luther King, Jr., 1967

**THERE'S
MORE↓**

**THERE'S
MORE↓**

**THERE'S
MORE↓**

FOR TEACHERS

The Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching (DA) Program

The Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching (DA) Program provides funding for highly accomplished U.S. primary and secondary level educators to take part in an intensive professional development program for three to six months abroad. Find out the details, [here](#).

Annenberg Learner

“Our mission is to advance excellent teaching in American schools through the development and distribution of multimedia resources for teaching and learning. We are a division of the Annenberg Foundation, which funds a wide range of programs in education and other areas.”

Do You Teach Social Studies?

Check out these [publications/resources](#) from C3 Teachers – College, Career, Civic Life. If you would like to receive their Monthly Newsletter, you can [join here](#).



FOR PRINCIPALS

Critical Friends Group for Principals

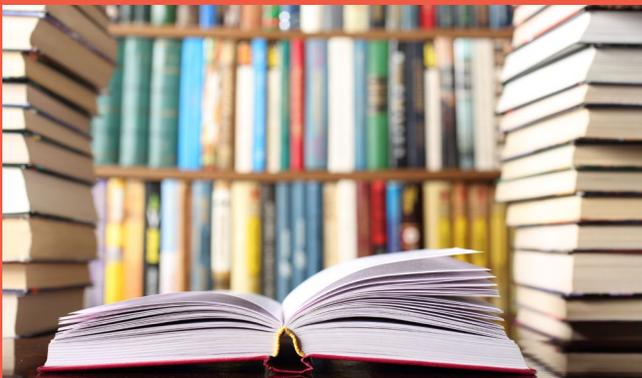
There is a small group of Middle Level Principals who will be coming together as a Critical Friends Group. We currently have three sessions scheduled, with one still to be determined.

If you are interested in participating, please sign up for all three sessions in MLP: [January 10th](#); [February 28th](#); [May 9th](#).

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Ain't I a Woman](#), bell hooks, 1981
- [Guide to the Ida B. Wells Papers, 1884 - 1976](#)
- *Innovation and Creativity in Education and Training in the EU Member States: Fostering Creative Learning and Supporting Innovative Teaching*, Ferrari, Cachia, and Punie 2009

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



[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR ONLINE CATALOG OF UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES](#)



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Youth Mental Health First Aid

8 a.m. to noon | Jan. 10-11 | TST BOCES

This is an eight-hour training course that reviews the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents ages 12-18. It emphasizes the importance of early intervention and covers how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Click [here](#) for more information.

Autism Collaborative

The Autism Collaborative Community is a new opportunity for educators currently working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in their classrooms to collaborate and share promising practices across our region. This community will be co-facilitated by Jennifer Gondek, Instructional Specialist for Inclusion at TST BOCES, Rachel Walker, Autism Consultant for Ithaca City School District, and Justin DiMatteo, Technology Instructional Specialist at TST BOCES. Throughout the series, participants will explore evidence-based practices and interventions with opportunities to plan for implementation and reflect together on data collected. Classroom-based follow-up support will be offered as needed by the facilitators. The shared mentor texts provided to all participants will be You're Going to Love this Kid by Paula Kluth and The Reason I Jump by Naoki Higashida. All participating members will also have the opportunity to interact digitally through an online community platform. This will allow for additional professional development opportunities as well as being a venue for teachers to pose questions and share ideas in between sessions. Dates and sign up information available in [MLP](#). Focus areas will include: communication, visual supports, behavioral supports and other topics of interest determined by the participants during our first session.

Offered by other organizations

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD Albany) is pleased to announce the 2016-17 professional development and parent seminars – The seminars are offered at no cost to participants.



workshop

Addressing the Core Deficits of Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Classroom: Evidence-Based Strategies for Teaching Social-Emotional Skills to Students with ASD

Students with ASD have persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across contexts; these deficits often include social-emotional reciprocity and non-verbal communication. This seminar will focus on foundational social skills, an overview of assessment/curriculum tools and it will highlight several instructional strategies to help support students with ASD.

[Seminar Flier](#)

[Register online](#)

Addressing the Core Deficits of Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Classroom: Supporting the Understanding and Development of Peer Relationships

As a core deficit in ASD, students have deficits in developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships, ranging, for example, from difficulties adjusting behavior to suit various social contexts; to difficulties in sharing imaginative play or in making friends; to absence of interest in peers. This session will discuss the importance of friendships, along with interventions that target the development of peer relationships.

[Seminar Flier](#)

[Register online](#)

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

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