

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

Big Ideas

Let's think carefully about the big ideas and essential questions we will be asking students or staff to explore this week, and come up with a few different ways to have them do this exploration.

NEWS & NOTES

Science Education Update - New NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards

At their December 2016 meeting, the Board of Regents adopted new New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards (NYSP-12SLS), effective beginning July 1, 2017. Information about the science standards has been updated on the Department's [Curriculum and Instruction website](#).

The press release is available [here](#). Questions may be directed to the [Office of Curriculum and Instruction](#).

Putting it all together: Universally Designed Instructional Planning and Delivery

Universal design for learning (UDL) is a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights into how humans learn.

- o [UDL at a Glance \(Video\)](#) and [UDL Guidelines](#)
- o [Resources to create "dynamic, UDL supported learning environments"](#)

Understanding by Design (also known as backwards planning) is a research-based approach to instructional planning and delivery that helps ensure that what we teach really matters, and that our assessment methods will be timely and appropriately aligned. The following resources can support teachers in using this planning approach, and can also help administrators and curriculum specialists support their teachers in their efforts to deepen their UbD understanding and skills:

- o [Jay McTighe & Associates free downloads](#) and [videos](#)
- o [Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University UdD overview and resources](#)

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Born in the Bronx – A Visual Record of the Early Days of Hip Hop](#), by Johan Kugelberg
- [Hip Hop in the Cornell Library](#)
- [Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [The 8 Elements of Inclusive STEM High Schools](#), (Findings from the STEM School Study)
Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book or article

THERE'S MORE ↓

Quote of the Week

"The big ideas and essential questions provide the conceptual pillars that anchor the various disciplines. We do not arbitrarily amend these based on whom we are teaching. Of course, the nature and needs of learners should certainly influence how we teach toward these targets."

-- Tomlinson & McTighe

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Tech Voyagers

February 16, 12:30-3:30 | April 13, 12:30-3:30

Tech Voyagers is facilitated, collaborative, and ongoing professional development. Individuals and teams of teachers focus on technology-supported instructional strategies that benefit student learning. The goal of this professional development is to create, implement, and evaluate long-term technology-enhanced learning opportunities for students. Specific learning targets may vary by participant. Check out the [website](#) and the [introduction video](#).

Participants may sign up for one, some, or all sessions.

PLATO

Beginner and Advanced User Trainings

On Thursday March 2, 2017 there will be two training sessions offered for users of the PLATO online learning system. Stephen Kimner from Edmentum / PLATO will be on the TST BOCES campus to provide instruction and user support.

In the morning from 8:30am – 11:30am there will be a session for new users. In the afternoon from 12:00pm – 3:00pm there will be a session for intermediate and advanced users.

[Beginning Users Training Sign Up \(Morning\)](#)

[Intermediate Users Training Sign Up \(Afternoon\)](#)

What Does It Mean to Be Human: Variations on a Theme

Why Do We Mourn?

Session 5 of the six part course What Does It Mean to be Human: Variations on a Theme hosted by the Johnson Museum of Art and TST BOCES. This course is offered in conjunction with the Tompkins County Library Smithsonian Exhibit: Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to be Human. The course is a blended course and participants will receive 3 credits for each of the six sessions. Participants can sign up for all six sessions, or for each session individually. Participants are responsible for reading a small excerpt and for posting to a class discussion forum on Facebook

Juliet Nicolson's introduction to The Great Silence, a social history of the after effects of World War I, will serve as an introduction to the Johnson's exhibition commemorating the Great War. This session connects with the Smithsonian's exhibit exploration of ancient burials and child burials.

This fifth session will be held on March 2nd at the Johnson Museum of Art from 5:15-6:15.

If you need a copy of the text, please contact smiller@tstboces.org. Sign up now in [mlp](#).

Offered by other organizations

Meet the UDL-Implementation Research Network (IRN)

Wednesday, February 15 | 8:00 - 9:00pm

The Implementation Research Network (IRN) is a global community that works to "change the game" of teaching and learning. Using the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework, IRN educators and researchers inspire practice, share resources, and gather evidence on the impact on learning. Join the UDL-IRN Board

Looking for more PD opportunities?

Check out our catalog via My Learning Plan. The catalog contains dozens of workshops, trainings and conferences.

Click [here](#) to access the catalog online.

of Directors in a discussion to learn about the organization, the 2017 UDL-IRN Summit, and upcoming UDL credentialing opportunities. What does this mean for educators? What are the challenges and opportunities to UDL credentialing? We will share resources with the goal of engaging discourse and practice. Sign up [here](#).

Seminar by Standing Rock Sioux Nation Chairman David Archambault

Thursday, February 16 | 3:30am-4:30pm

David Archambault, a leading spokesperson for protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline and Chairman of Standing Rock Sioux Nation, will present a public seminar at Cornell University in Room 146, Stocking Hall.

Archambault has spoken on indigenous rights before the Human Rights Council of the United Nations, and written on the subject in the New York Times. He recently was named by Foreign Policy magazine as a Global Thinker 2016 for his stewardship of the Dakota/Lakota homeland.

According to his [website](#), from the time he was in the sixth grade, Archambault lived on the Pine Ridge reservation near Kyle, South Dakota, where he eventually moved to Bismarck and then, Standing Rock, where he later opened a convenience store. He was elected in 2013.

Sponsored by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Department of Natural Resources as part of its 2017 Seminar Series on the theme of Hope, in conjunction with the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program at Cornell.

Seven Valleys Writing Project's Writing Matters Conference IV

Saturday, March 11 | 8:30am-4:00pm

Writing Matters IV at SUNY Cortland is the fourth annual teacher-to-teacher conference. All sessions are led by active teachers who use writing successfully in their classrooms. Each presentation is "hands on," where the audience engages in brief bursts of writing. Presenters are from across the curriculum. The Theme is "The Work of Writing." What kind of work is writing? How can writing be "good work" for students? Must writing "work" to produce career readiness? What is the best way to approach the work of teaching writing? Why does it work when teachers are also writers? Other interpretations of the theme are welcome. Keynote speech by Dr. Steve Parks, Professor of Writing and Rhetoric at Syracuse University. 8:30-4:00, half hour for lunch, a total of seven hours of PD. Certificates provided. Walk-ins possible but it sure works better if you pre-register. Breakfast and lunch provided. Parking is free and easily available as the campus is on break that week. Sign up now in [mlp](#).

FOR TEACHERS

Teaching for Change

“[Teaching for Change](#) provides teachers and parents with the tools to create schools where students learn to read, write and change the world. By drawing direct connections to real world issues, Teaching for Change encourages teachers and students to question and re-think the world inside and outside their classrooms, build a more equitable, multicultural society, and become active global citizens.”

Teaching with Fine and Performing Arts-related Primary Resources

“Fine and performing arts-related primary sources allow students to study and investigate how people use creative activity to celebrate and express their experiences. They prompt students to think about multiple perspectives, develop literacy skills, and consider complex forms of problem solving.”

More information can be found [here](#).

Place-Based Education

“Immerses students in local heritage, cultures, landscapes, opportunities and experiences; uses these as a foundation for the study of language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and other subjects across the curriculum; and emphasizes learning through participation in service projects for the local school and/or community.”

More information can be found [here](#).

The Newseum’s [Free Learning Tools](#)

[The Smithsonian American Art Museum Photograph Archives](#)



FOR PRINCIPALS

Evaluation Processes that Inspire Great Teaching

Earlier this year, Lynn VanDeWeert (Evaluation Officer for Data, Assessment, Professional Development in the Ithaca City School District) joined me in Albany to work with our colleagues from the Staff and Curriculum Development Network (SCDN) 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 “[Evaluation Practices that Inspire Great Teaching](#)” which we hope you find useful in your efforts to inspire great teaching.

Social Entrepreneurship: Transforming Lives, Resolving Problems

Invite high school students you know to become agents for change through Ashoka award-winning summer course. Current high school juniors and seniors can study and practice cutting-edge skills for resolving social issues—and design their own social-change initiative—during Social Entrepreneurship: Transforming Lives, Resolving Problems, offered June 24–July 15 at Cornell University. More information can be found [here](#).

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