

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

Magic Wand

This week, let's talk with colleagues and young people about today's quote. If we had a magic wand and could make our school really, really, different, what would it look like, sound like and feel like?

REGIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2017 – 2018

1. **Supporting students' mental, social, and emotional health**
2. **Student-driven learning**
3. **Questioning and discussion techniques**
4. **Engaging students in learning**
5. **Using assessment in instruction**

Each year, the TST BOCES School Improvement Services (SIS) Team collaborates with the Instructional Planning Council (a group made up of Curriculum and Instruction leaders/specialists from all component districts, representatives from local Institutions of Higher Education and Teacher Center(s), as well as members of the TST BOCES School Improvement Services Team) and Superintendents to identify a set of TST BOCES Regional Priorities for the following school year. Since the core of our work is to promote both organizational learning and teacher learning that leads to positive measurable outcomes for all 13,000 students in our region, we create Regional Priorities that are student-centered, systemic, and data-informed. To increase efficacy, we align our efforts with research and we commit ourselves to setting priorities that will help us measure the ways in which our work impacts students.

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Ideology, Culture, and the Process of Schooling](#), (Henry Giroux, 1981).
- [The Essential Underpinnings of Shifting to 'Modern Learning'](#)
- [Modern Learners](#)
- [Busted – America's Poverty Myths](#)
Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book or article

Quote of the Week

"We don't need school to be better, we need schools to be really, really, different"

-- Will Richardson

THERE'S MORE ↓

SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS

Access for Learning

“Welcome to the National Center on Accessible Educational Materials. We provide resources and technical assistance for educators, parents, students, publishers, conversion houses, accessible media producers and others interested in learning more about AEM and implementing AEM and the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS).” Click [here](#) for more info.

CAST Online Course

“We offer both facilitated and non-facilitated scheduled and self-paced online courses. Courses range in length from 5 to 15 weeks, and course topics include Introduction to Universal Design for Learning, UDL and Math, UDL and ELL, UDL and Affect and UDL and Science.” Click [here](#) for more info.

NAMI

“The National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.” Click [here](#) for more info.

FOR TEACHERS

C3 Teachers Blogs

Teachers describing their experiences with the inquiry and the C3 Framework. Click [here](#) for more info.

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database

[This database](#) “has information on almost 36,000 slaving voyages that forcibly embarked over 10 million Africans for transport to the Americas between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. The actual number is estimated to have been as high as 12.5 million. The database and the separate estimates interface offer researchers, students and the general public a chance to rediscover the reality of one of the largest forced movements of peoples in world history.”

Framework for Developing Global and Cultural Competencies to Advance Equity

In January, the U.S. DOE International Affairs Office released [this](#) Framework for Developing Global and Cultural Competencies to Advance Equity, Excellence and Economic Competitiveness. More information about their work can be found [here](#).

FOR PRINCIPALS

Middle Level Program Flexibility

The Board of Regents voted to adopt Emergency Regulations adding flexibility in the Middle Level Program requirements. You can find this information [here](#). Marybeth Casey, an Associate in the NYSED Office of Curriculum and Instruction, explains, “This is a great step forward to insure we keep a robust ML exploratory program that will address the developmental, social, emotional and academic needs of our ML learners.”

Stephen E. Garner Summers of Service

“An initiative to provide paid internships to students working with a United Way member organization, prioritized to local high school students entering their senior year, funded by Cornell University Student United Way Campaign and generous donors, and named in memory of Stephen E. Garner, President & CEO of Tompkins Trust Company, and former UWTC Campaign and Board Chair.”

Please consider sharing this information with students in your building. The application can be found [here](#), the deadline is May 22.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Re-imagining Schools with Will Richardson

August 14 | SUNY Cortland

District leadership teams (innovative administrators and teachers) are invited to SUNY Cortland on August 14, when Will Richardson will challenge us to chart a path from “Old School to Bold School.” Explore the why and how of deep learning at this session, and move from inspiration to action with the help of follow-up support from TST BOCES, OCM BOCES and SUNY Cortland. Over the course of next year, we will collaborate to help districts further their work to begin, implement and or sustain their vision for a Learning School. Sign up now in [mlp](#).

Summer Unit Planning for All Learners

Similar to last year we will be offering two sessions of this three-day series. Take a look at this [flier](#) for more details.

Sign up here: [Series One](#) (July 10, 11 and 12) and [Series Two](#) (August 8, 9 and 10)

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants

Educator Wellness: Calm is My Superpower

3 - 4:15 p.m. | May 18, 25 | TST BOCES

“A happy, healthy educator is an effective educator. This study group will create a supportive community that learns and applies holistic strategies to reduce and manage stress, and explore the guiding question: “How does my wellness impact my students?” Topics will include breathing techniques, meditation and nutritional strategies, with specific sessions created out of the group’s needs and interest. Learn to activate your body’s relaxation response, practice the “pause” before responding, make clear decisions and live happier and healthier lives. Come relax, feel good and make calm your super power. This is open to all teachers, school specialists (social workers, psychologists, speech therapist, etc.) and administrators.” Sign up for [May 18](#) or [May 25](#).

The Best New Young Adult Books for Grades 6 – 12

Facilitated by Kathleen Odean. “In this practical, full-day workshop, Kathleen Odean introduces outstanding books published during the last year, with excellent new fiction and nonfiction titles and useful ideas for promoting and integrating the books into classrooms. Topics include genre fiction, poetry and fiction and non-fiction pairs. Participants will learn about activities, websites, print resources and display ideas for motivating teen readers as well. Kathleen’s trademark 100-page handout that’s filled with resources, booklists and activity ideas will also be available to all participants. Kathleen Odean is widely known for her lively presentations on new young adult books. This is her 10th year of presenting workshops for teachers and librarians that routinely receive outstanding evaluations. Kathleen was a public and school librarian for 17 years and served as chairperson of the Newbery Award Committee. She currently works as an

adjunct professor of young adult literature at the University of Rhode Island and as a reviewer of young adult fiction for Teacher Librarian and Kirkus magazines.” Sign up in [mlp](#).

Teaching from Within, Adirondack Teachers’ Retreat

August 13, 14 | TST BOCES

“During the program, participants will be invited to renew heart, mind and spirit through the exploration of the inner landscape of a teacher’s life: to identify and honor gifts and strengths and acknowledge limits.”

For more information check out this [flier](#).

A Complete Mindfulness Curriculum to Use in the Elementary Classroom

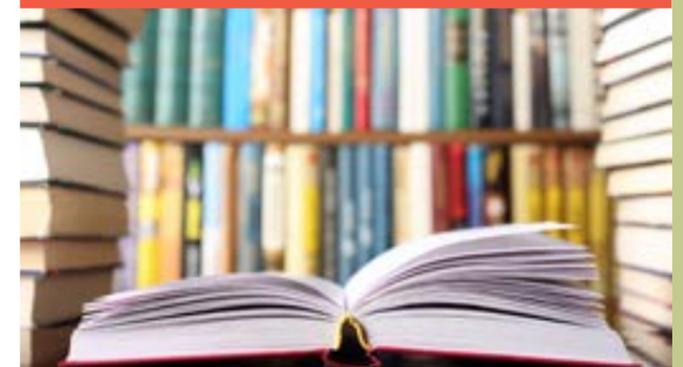
July 14, August 21 | TST BOCES

“This one day workshop will provide you with a twelve week, step-by-step curriculum to introduce effective mindfulness practices to your elementary class next year.” This workshop will be offered twice over the summer.

More information and registration can be accessed by clicking the following links: [July 14](#) and [August 21](#).

Looking for more PD opportunities?

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



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SIS Weekly Bulletin

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Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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