

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

This week, let's engage young people in dialogue about what they believe to be the purpose(s) of school. Let's ask them the question, *Why School?* and then listen to what they have to say. Secretaries and clerical folks might do this when students are waiting in the main office, aides, monitors, and administrators might do this on the playground or in the cafeteria, bus drivers might do this while waiting for the bus to fill up before taking students home, and teachers might do this for the first five minutes of class, etc.

NEWS & NOTES

[Welcome Back to School 2017](#)

TST BOCES Regional Priorities for 2017 - 2018 - 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 the 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.

Our 2017 – 2018 Regional Priorities are as follows:

- [Supporting students' mental health, and their social & emotional well-being](#)
- [Student-driven learning](#)
- [Questioning and discussion techniques](#)
- [Engaging students in learning](#)
- [Using assessment in instruction](#)

Regional Demonstration Classrooms - Apply now!

What is Regional Demonstration Classroom? A demonstration classroom is a professional learning lab for educators. The demonstration classroom serves as a job-embedded professional learning model that takes place during the normal school day, allowing visiting teachers to observe promising practices as they unfold in a live teaching environment with students engaged in learning. Each visit to a demonstration classroom includes a pre-observation meeting followed by a non-evaluative collegial discussion with the demonstration classroom teacher and a TST BOCES instructional coach.

Why Regional Demonstration Classrooms? Why regional demonstration classrooms? To visit colleagues' classrooms to share ideas and increase our collective understanding of how to create the best possible learning environment for all students; to participate in non-evaluative collegial discussions that enhance our content knowledge and pedagogical practice; to network educators throughout the TST BOCES region. Application information and more details are available [here](#).

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

[Fostering Resilient Learners - Strategies for Creating a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom](#) (Souers & Hall, 2016)

[Reciprocal Dialogue Between Educational Decision Makers and Students of Color: Opportunities and Obstacles](#) (Melanie Bertrand, 2014).

[A Conversation with Hip Hop Pioneers](#)

Contact Barry to borrow a book or article

THERE'S MORE ↓

Quote of the Week

"If we limit children's ability to experiment and explore, how will they develop their self-concept and self-confidence? How will they gain the skills associated with independence, creative play, problem solving, and critical thinking? Developmentally, children's feelings of competence - including the ability to tolerate stress, identify strengths, accomplish tasks, and develop self-worth - stem from learning, growing, experimenting, stumbling, and getting up again."



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Looking for more PD opportunities?

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

Effective and Practical Co-Teaching (After-school Session, September 19)

This session is a shortened version of the Effective and Practical Co-Teaching workshop. This is for any teams new to co-teaching or co-teaching together for the first time. It will focus on the six models of collaborative teaching, individual and team assessment and planning for collaboration, and tips for co-planning most effectively. Effective models at the elementary and secondary levels will be discussed. There is NOT planning time built into this session, but there will be some time for discussion with co-teachers. More information and registration available [in mlp](#).

Explore Asia at The Johnson Museum of Art (September 26 from 8:30 - 3:00)

Join Johnson Museum of Art staff Carol Hockett, Maryterese Pasquale Bowen and Curator of Asian Art Ellen Avril for a celebration of the newly installed Asian galleries. Included will be hands on artmaking and gallery sessions on the themes of art and nature, warrior culture, word and image and dragons. Tours, small group work, artmaking. A working lunch will be included. Explore Asia is focused on improving teacher efficacy through focused attention on the idea that learning comes from experience. TST's regional priorities addressed include Student Driven Learning and Engaging Students in Learning.

Learning Targets: Participants will engage in a variety of student centered instructional techniques including; maker-space, small group collaboration and Socratic Seminar; participants will discuss/explore affective outcomes of museum visits such as increased motivation or interest, sparking curiosity and improved attitudes towards a topic; participants will examine the connection between the following ideas and student engagement and learning: knowing how things work; being able to think through ideas; having opportunities to ask questions; being able to handle, manipulate and closely examine artifacts and exhibits; and being stimulated through all their senses; participants will explore ways to help student emotionally connect to Art/ artifacts/exhibits without being emotionally confronted. Register now [in mlp](#).

America and the Middle East (Six after school sessions, beginning September 26)

The Department of Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University in conjunction with TST BOCES will host a six-session professional learning network led by various Cornell professors specializing in the Middle East. The six discussion sessions will focus on the relationship between America and the Middle East through the lenses of politics, migration, religion, and literature. Session participants are required to complete a short reading from a book (around 20 pages) or watch a one-hour documentary sometime before attending each session. The six sessions will be held on the Cornell University campus in 410 White Hall on Tuesday afternoons. Sessions will begin at 5:15 pm and conclude at 6:15 pm. More information and registration can be found [in mlp](#).

National Board Certification Awareness Information Session (THIS IS THE SAME AWARENESS SESSION AS JUNE 26)

Created by teachers, for teachers, National Board Certification is the profession's mark of accomplished teaching. National Board Certification is the most rigorous, coveted and respected certification available in education! This workshop will introduce you to the process of National Board, and encourage you to explore its many possibilities and benefits. As a National Board Certified Teacher, you will join the ranks of the nation's most accomplished teachers who help students develop the necessary skills to thrive in school, in the workplace and in the 21st century global economy.

You will get an overview of the National Board Certification (NBC) process for teachers, union leaders or administrators. You will know the requirements, timelines, fees, and options so that you are prepared to dive in, or to encourage others to do so. It will also provide information about the professional, financial and technical supports available to candidates. Click [here](#) for NBPTS website. Sign up now [in mlp](#).

FOR PRINCIPALS

All Things PLC provides many tools and resources to support your efforts to create and nurture effective PLC's: <http://www.allthingsplc.info/tools-resources>

New York State Response to Intervention Technical Assistance has many resources to support you and your teachers for implementing RtI in ways that are good for students. Visit their website: <https://nysrti.org/>

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants

Safety Summit with Navigate Prepared

You're invited to join district administrators, building administrators and first responders for this valuable school safety workshop. Learn from Michael Dorn, the nation's leading expert in school safety. Gain actionable insights you can implement immediately. Participate in a progressive and relevant series of exercises. Discover how tools like NaviGate Prepared can support your safety goals. Registration and additional information can be found [in mlp](#).

Join Village at Ithaca for a fireside chat with Dr. Beverly Tatum, moderated by Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell. Wednesday, September 13, 2017 from 7:00pm-8:30pm at the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca (306 N. Aurora Street, Ithaca, NY). Book signing to follow.

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, President Emerita, Spelman College, author of the critically acclaimed book, *"Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" And Other Conversations about Race* (1997), speaker, renowned authority on the psychology of racism, argues that straight talk about our racial identities is essential if we are serious about enabling communication across racial and ethnic divides. Dr. Tatum discusses racial identity development and the challenges with having meaningful conversations on race. Explore racial stereotypes, beliefs, perspectives and embrace and continue cross-racial dialogue with Dr. Tatum.

For additional information, visit our website, www.villageatithaca.org, email contact@villageatithaca.org or telephone (607) 256-0780.

FOR TEACHERS

[Differentiation Central Videos](#)

Barnes and Noble has a number of discounts and resources available to local teachers. Find out more, [here](#).

Teacher Research Fellows 2017 – 2018: Ithaca College and TST BOCES are collaborating to offer a paid professional development opportunity for the 2017-2018 school year. We're opening a year-long Teacher Research Fellows Inquiry Group to teachers in our TST BOCES region, including teachers from the South Seneca, Trumansburg, Ithaca and Lansing School Districts. If you're interested in applying to join next year's cohort of teacher research fellows, and getting to know an energizing new group of colleagues, please [see the attached](#). The application deadline has been extended through mid-September.

The [TST BOCES Regional Social Studies Network](#) is a collective of educators, families, students, and community working together to promote Social Studies teaching and learning that is standards aligned, inclusive, affirming, relevant and that leads to meaningful civic engagement. Students, families, community members, and educators representing every district in our region and representing diverse demographic backgrounds, including areas of economic security, race and ethnicity, place of residence, disability, sexual orientation, genders etc. are invited to join the network at any time. Please send Barry an email (bderfel@tstboces.org) if you would like to join the network. We will come back together this fall to review the work we've already done, and to set some goals for the new school year.

Supporting All Students:

[Supporting Student Success](#) - by Kiara Alvarez Ferrer and Priscilla Aquino Garza

[Differentiating Instruction – Responsive Teaching](#)

[CAST Online Professional Learning](#)

[GLSEN](#)

[Teaching Tolerance](#)

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

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