

# 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

#### Planning Strategies

Whether we are teachers, administrators, or other educational support staff, we all have strategies we use for planning. Let's talk to some of our colleagues this week about the ways in which we each plan. For those among us who don't use the backwards design approach, ask your colleagues who do use this approach to tell you why they use this method and how they manage the process.

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### NYSAA Testing Support

NYSED has released a document titled "Technical Issues: Supports and Assistance," to assist individuals who are administering the CBT portions of the NYSAA in the event that a technical issue is experienced during test administration. The document identifies several potential technical issues, possible causes, guidance on whether to stop testing and steps to resolve the issue. Because of the varied technical support structures present in New York State, [this document](#) is available as a Word document to allow for local customization. For example, districts may want to replace the generic "contact local technical support" with specific names and/or phone numbers of individuals who should be contacted in the event of an issue.

#### Tech Savvy Registration

Tech Savvy, a daylong event designed to show girls firsthand how studying STEM and pursuing STEM activities can lead to exciting careers, is now open. Registration will close April 4, 2016. Girls in grades six through nine and the adults who accompany them will be welcomed to Tompkins Cortland Community College on April 9. A \$5 registration fee includes a light breakfast, lunch, a savvy girl T-shirt, and a full day of activities and hands-on

workshops. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m.; the program will conclude by 4:30 p.m.

Workshops for the girls include: Cycle for Science on the Sol Cycle; Cracking a Cell's Supercode - All About DNA; Programming Lego Mindstorm Robots; What's Statistics Got to Do with M&M's? Girls will also have a choice of such "savvy skills" workshops as How to Stay Smart and Safe on Social Media and Build a Savvy Future with Critical Thinking Skills.

Adult sessions will focus on preparing and encouraging girls on their path to a STEM career. The program will conclude with a keynote address for both the girls and adults by Kathryn J. Boor, Dean of Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Click [here](#) for details about the program and registration.

#### Quote of the Week

"Many teachers have observed that the backward design planning process makes sense but feels awkward, as it requires a break from comfortable habits. We have found that when people plan backward, by design, they are much less likely to succumb to the problematic aspects of activity- or coverage-oriented teaching."

-- Tomlinson & McTighe

THERE'S MORE ↓

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

### **BWET Chesapeake - Mapping and Geospatial Workshop II**

The New York Geographic Alliance has a grant from NOAA as part of the BWET Chesapeake Program. Our job is to train teachers in the Susquehanna Region in watershed education. Last November, we held the first Mapping & Geospatial Workshop, and we are back for an encore! Activities will include using topographic maps and aerial imagery, interpreting Pictometry images, ArcGIS basics and story maps. There will be two sessions, for beginners and for intermediate (you've been here before).

Email Tim McDonnell ([tmcdonnell@monroecc.edu](mailto:tmcdonnell@monroecc.edu)) or call the NYGA Office at 585-292-2398 if you have any questions. Sign up in [mlp](#).

### **Developing a Quality IEP**

This workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 2 at TST BOCES. Need to know how to write an IEP or want to make sure you are writing your IEPs the correct way? Come to this New York State Department of Education vetted workshop! The IEP identifies a student's unique needs and how a school will strategically address those needs. This training provides extensive information about developing an IEP consistent with state law and regulation. It encompasses details about the state's required IEP form and accompanying guidance document, and provides a step-by-step approach to the IEP development process. We will cover Present Levels of Performance to Measurable Annual Goals and then some! There will also be a discussion on how to align the IEP to the Common Core Learning Standards. Click [here](#) for more details and to register.

### **Earth Science Teacher Workshop**

The DH Cadwell Earth Science Workshop will take place from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 7, in the New York State Museum in Albany.

This one-day earth science teacher workshop will consist of talks by State Museum scientists and a State Museum collections tour. Lectures and activities will cover topics on geologic time, evolution and fossils, plate tectonics, rock and mineral identification, economic geology of NY, climate change and glacial geology, extinction of Pleistocene mega fauna, and geologic hazards. In addition, there will be open



# workshop

discussions regarding future trends in earth science education and the future of geoscience literacy.

The workshop fee of \$35 includes coffee and snacks and lecture activity outlines. Participants are responsible for providing their own lunch\* and transportation to the museum. *\*Lunch options include off-site restaurants or participants may choose to bring a bagged lunch—space at the museum will be provided for those who choose to bring a lunch. A list of off-site restaurants will be provided at the workshop.*

Registration deadline is April 29, and the workshop is capped at 35 attendees. For more information, including the application form, please click [here](#).

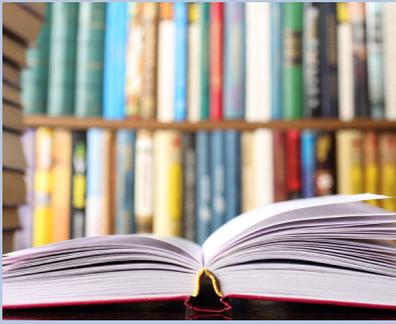
### **Teaching Students to Ask Their Own Questions**

Jennifer Gondek will present this workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 3 at TST BOCES. In this full-day workshop, kindergarten through fifth grade teachers and librarians will identify instructional strategies to strengthen students' abilities to produce, categorize, improve and prioritize their own questions. Emphasis will be placed on the characteristics of high-quality questions and questioning techniques that enable students to deepen their understanding of curricular texts and formulate text-based answers. Time will be provided for participants to apply the concepts and strategies to their own curricular texts. Click [here](#) for more details.

### **Behavioral Assessment & Behavior Intervention Plans for Preschool Students**

This workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 12 at 602 Hancock St., Ithaca. Participants will learn about best practices in developing functional behavioral assessments, using data to drive behavioral intervention planning and monitoring intervention integrity & effectiveness. Click [here](#) for more details and to register.

THERE'S MORE ↓



## LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- <http://pdk.sagepub.com/content/97/6/69.full.pdf>
- The Value of Using Podcasts in Class
- [Opening Minds to Change Lives](#), by Peter Johnston, 2012
- [Weekly Bulletins Online](#)
- [Resources to support the professional development seminar – Marco Polo at the Johnson](#)
- [Beyond Books - Family Reading Partnership E-News](#)

Contact Barry to borrow a book or article.



## FOR PRINCIPALS

### Grades 5-8 Math Testing

This year, the grades 5-8 mathematics reference sheets are not included as a page in the test books, but rather are being printed as separate documents by the Department's contractor, Questar. (For the 2016 tests, Questar will be printing and shipping to schools all test materials with the exception of the [School Administrator's Manual](#), which will be printed and shipped to schools by the New York State Education Department.) The shipment of secure mathematics test materials that schools receive from Questar will contain sufficient quantities of the reference sheets for schools to

distribute one sheet per student for each test session. Details can be found [here](#) or by clicking this link to the [Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Educator Guides](#). Following testing, schools may keep any unused copies of the mathematics reference sheets to be used for instructional purposes. Used reference sheets should be returned to Questar as directed on page 41 of the School Administrator's Manual.

If schools have questions concerning the materials they receive in their shipment of test materials, they should contact Questar by phone at 1-866-997-0695 or via email at [ny.3-8.help@questarai.com](mailto:ny.3-8.help@questarai.com).

## FOR TEACHERS

### Chemistry Teachers

The New York State chemical management [web page](#) provides two guidance manuals, DEC Chemical Management Guidance Manual for NYS High Schools and Environmental Compliance Assistance Guidance Manual for NYS Schools. In addition, they anticipate posting, shortly, templates for chemical inventories and information, including more information on hazardous and toxic chemical and management recommendations.

### The Miner's Canary and Black Lives Matter

This lecture will be presented by Gerald Torres (Jane M.G. Foster Professor of Law, Cornell Law School) and Lani Guinier (Bennett Boskey Professor of Law, Harvard Law School). It will take place from 3:30-4:30 p.m. April 18 at the Alice Statler Auditorium, Statler Hall, Ithaca. Reception to follow. Free and open to the public. Guinier and Torres are co-authors of [The Miner's Canary: Enlisting Race, Resisting Power, Transforming Democracy](#) [Harvard University Press], described by *Publisher's Weekly* as "one of the most provocative and challenging books on race produced in years." Click [here](#) or [here](#) for more information.

### College Board for Excellence & Innovation in the Arts

We are awarding \$5,000 to school arts programs (grades six through 12) in three categories. One will receive an additional \$2,500 as the national winner. Applications are open now and the deadline is April 18. Click [here](#) for more details.

# TST

## SIS Weekly Bulletin

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School Improvement Services

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[tstboces.org](http://tstboces.org)