

TST Weekly Bulletin

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

TST BOCES
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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

Bring out the Positive

This week, let's work hard to notice and acknowledge our students (or faculty) when they make good decisions and exert a positive influence on our school communities. Let's be concrete and specific when telling students (or faculty) what we have noticed them doing that helps create a safe, healthy and effective learning/working environment.

FOR TEACHERS

Science Education in NYS

A one-day workshop titled, "Building and Communicating a Collective Vision for Science Education in NYS," will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 5 at TST BOCES. Learn how to bring positive change to current curriculum, instruction and assessment practice; improve the readiness of students for college, career and civics; help students develop greater confidence in themselves as learners of science; help students experience increased enjoyment as learners of science. Click [here](#) for more information.

NYS Master Teacher Program

What is the New York State Master Teacher Program? Responding to the call to strengthen our nation's K-12 STEM education, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo launched the New York State Master Teacher Program (NYSMTP) in partnership with the State University of New York and Math for America in 2013. The program creates a statewide network of the highest-performing STEM teachers dedicated to sharing their expertise with peers and attracting high school graduates to careers in STEM. Participating teachers receive \$15,000 stipends annually over four years.

What do Master Teachers do? As program participants, Master Teachers make a commitment to engage in professional development work in addition to their regular school responsibilities. Master Teachers meet regularly (evenings and weekends) to participate in NYSMTP activities that lead to individual and collective professional growth. PD programming opportunities include three-session mini-courses. Recent mini-courses have addressed emerging STEM subjects such as nanoscience and hydro-fracturing. Master Teachers form Professional Learning Teams around topics such as student research projects, expeditionary learning, and the Common Core Learning Standards. Master Teachers participate in leadership workshops to better contribute to departmental discussions and mentor early career and pre-service teachers. Master Teachers also participate in the Empire State STEM Learning Network, partnering with local businesses and agencies to better prepare students for STEM careers.

For more information on the program, and how to apply, click [here](#).

Quote of the Week

"In this era of high-stakes testing and accountability, we must start a national conversation about moving relationship to the center of educational practice. This focus on relationship doesn't diminish the role of high-quality curricula and strong pedagogy, but it does mean that your strategies won't succeed if you can't connect meaningfully with students."

-- Souers & Hall, 2016

THERE'S MORE ↓

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WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Java at the Johnson: Religious Literacy

This is an informal discussion series linking history, literature and art. The next in the series will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. April 7.

Art museums are filled with religious objects and paintings of religious subjects. Many students do not understand the background of these pieces of art or the symbolism in them. Many teachers are hesitant to approach the sensitive topic of religion. Ray Williams provides a framework for understanding religious art, and we will begin with a discussion of his article. We will then spend time in the galleries looking at a medieval statue of the Virgin Mary from the Christian tradition and a statue of Kwan Yin from the Buddhist tradition from approximately the same time period. There will be time to examine objects from other religious traditions in the Johnson's extensive collections. Teachers may register at [MyLearningPlan](#).

'Hereville, Comics and Religion'

Graphic novelist and author Barry Deutsch will present "Hereville, Comics and Religion" from 4-5:30 p.m. May 9 at TST BOCES. Hereville is a comic book about an 11-year-old troll-fighting Orthodox Jewish girl. Spunky, strong-willed, 11-year-old Mirka Hirschberg isn't interested in knitting lessons from her step-mother, or how-to-find-a-husband advice from her sister, or you-better-not warnings from her brother. There's only one thing she does want: to

fight dragons! A delightful mix of fantasy, adventure, cultural traditions and preteen commotion, Hereville will captivate children and grown-ups alike with its exciting visuals and entertaining new heroine. Barry will give an overview of his work (Comics 101), walk through the process of creating graphic novels and discuss how comics deal with and focus on religion. School Library System will provide each participant a copy of Book 1: "Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword." Buffalo Street Books will be on hand with Barry's other books in the Hereville series for purchase. Sign up now in [MyLearningPlan](#).

Unit Planning for all Learners

Unit Planning for All Learners Summer Series. Think and collaborate outside of the box. Plan innovative teaching to generate creative learning. The TST BOCES School Improvement Services team will be collaborating to help general educators, special educators and other educators work together to create unit plans that are inclusive, affirming and relevant for all students. This will NOT look like what you are used to - we will NOT be delivering instruction while you sit and get it. Teachers will be doing the work and the thinking - we'll be listening, observing, facilitating, coaching and supporting. There will be three series offered this summer, and each will be three days long. For more information, click [here](#). Sign up now in [MyLearningPlan](#).

NEWS AND NOTES

ELA & Math Standards Review Committees

SED has put out the applications to become a member of the ELA and Math Standard Review Committees. It is an online application, the links for each application are in the [SED web page](#). The work sessions are tentatively scheduled for July. Applicants must have a superintendent, principal or other supervisor sign-off (nomination) that they may be released to participate. They must also submit a member information sheet (general contact information); conflict of interest statement; BFM-1/20 addendum (non-employees receiving compensation form); and a resume. SED will reimburse for travel, meals and lodging only.

'The Raising of America' Series

The Raising of America - Early Childhood and the Future of our Nation. Free streaming of this five-episode series starts April 1. Details can be found [here](#).

FOR PRINCIPALS

NYSED Summary Memo regarding Revision and Implementation of New Arts, Science, and Social Studies Standards ([click here](#))

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Policy Studies for Educational Leaders](#), by Frances C. Fowler, 2000
- [Guiding School Improvement with Action Research](#)
- [Past TST Weekly Bulletins Online](#)
- *Pathologizing the Language and Culture of Poor Children*, Dudley-Marling & Lucas, 2009

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

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