

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.



Barry Derfel

Assistant Superintendent
for Instruction

607-257-1551, ext. 1004
bderfel@tstboces.org
T: @barry_derfel

TST BOCES
555 Warren Road
Ithaca, NY 14850



FOCUS OF THE WEEK

Student Voice

Let's spend some time this week prompting students to tell us what they think they should be learning in school. We might embed this question into a lesson, ask students informally in the halls or the cafeteria, or even post it on a wall in the classroom with a box for students to put their responses into. For those of us who work in offices, we might ask students this question when we see them in our workspace.

FOR TEACHERS

Universal Design for Learning

CAST Universal Design for Learning (UDL) provides an [online curriculum self-check](#) to help you apply UDL principles in your teaching to reach and engage all of your students. The goal of UDL is to enable all individuals to gain knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for learning. Learn about UDL, check your curriculum, or explore resources for ideas on how to build options and flexibility into each element of your curriculum.

Online Resources

(click links below to access)

- [Learning Stories Assessments](#)
- [Understanding by Design Videos](#)
- [C3 Teachers 2nd Annual IDM Institute and other C3 Information](#)

National Board Certification for Teachers

Do you know about National Board Certification, and the process for becoming a National Board Certified Teacher? There are four components to the certification process: a content knowledge assessment; reflections on student work samples; classroom video and analysis; and documentation of the teacher's impact as a teaching professional. During the process, candidates reflect on best practices and find immediate classroom applications of what they have learned. If you are a reflective educator and are looking for a way to continue pushing your growing edge, this may be just the right opportunity for you. Click [here](#) for more information.

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [What Kids Can Do](#)
- [Young, Gifted, and Black – Promoting High Achievement Among African American Students](#), Perry, Steele, and Hilliard III, 2003.
- [Teaching Students to Ask Their Own Questions Creates a Better Democracy](#) (Book Review of [Make Just One Change: Teach Students to Ask Their Own Questions](#) by Dr. Dave Lehman, 2016.)

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

Quote of the Week

"The stability of the large world house which is ours will involve a revolution of values to accompany the scientific and freedom revolutions engulfing the earth. We must rapidly begin the shift from a 'thing'-oriented society to a 'person'-oriented society."

-- King, M.L. 1967

THERE'S MORE ↓

tstboces.org

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

National Museum of Women in the Arts Teacher Institute

National Museum of Women in the Arts educators, book artists and art and literacy specialists present this free, intensive professional development opportunity. Empower and inspire your students through art during the weeklong institute, set for July 18-22. NMWA education staff, professional book artist Carol Barton, and curriculum and literacy specialists will be on hand for a week centered on NMWA's Art, Books and Creativity (ABC) curriculum and related online education resources. Developed for fourth and fifth-grade classrooms, ABC can be differentiated for a range of age groups (particularly grades three through eight) and learning needs.

This program is free and takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Participants try out book formats — accordion books, self-portrait books, pop-ups, etc. — as well as writing exercises from ABC. Also, participants practice the Visual Thinking Strategies method for facilitating art discussions and brainstorm ideas for integrating visual arts with language arts, social studies, math and science in their own classrooms. Click [here](#) for more details and to apply.

Digital Writing Summer Institute

Seven Valleys Summer Institute provides a digital writing learning opportunity that runs from June 27 through July 15. This is a select summer program for you and your computer, and it gives you time to rejuvenate, reflect and grow as a writer and teacher while earning graduate or professional development credit. Open to K-12 teachers in all content areas. Applications are now being accepted for this opportunity, and a limited number of tuition stipends are available. Click [here](#) for details.

NYS Association for Women Administrators Offerings

Train Up to Move Up: the New York State Association for Women Administrators has compiled a list of spring and summer workshops and conferences. Click [here](#) for more details.

NEWS AND NOTES

Cans Along Cayuga

On May 28 Cayuga Radio Group will once again be in the Ithaca Festival Parade with its canned food drive "Cans Along Cayuga." The effort netted 1,000 pounds of food last year, all of which was donated to the United Way of Tompkins County for various food pantries in the area.

This year Cayuga Radio Group is asking Kids to Help Kids in a can collection prior to the parade in each of Tompkins County's elementary schools. Cayuga Radio Group will put the names of all the participating schools into a random drawing for a pizza dance party that we will provide and host! We will promote the Kids Helping Kids collection on all nine of our radio stations, and Cayuga Radio Group will collect the donations before the parade. All the food collected will be given to the United Way of Tompkins County for distribution to the recipient organizations.

We will work together this fall to find a way for both South Seneca and Candor to be included next year. Click [here](#) for more information.

Martin Luther King Jr. -- Prophetic Thunder

Sculptor Gurdon Brewster presents Prophetic Thunder, an exhibition of 45 images and figures of the Civil Rights movement at State of the Art from now until May 1. The artist, [pictured here](#) with his towering bronze sculpture of Martin Luther King Jr., says the 6-foot-tall sculpture rises "like a flame." The figures behind Dr. King represent the passions of those in the Civil Rights movement.

Brewster says: "My sculpture of King preaching —intense, angry with images of the Civil Rights movement rising up behind him speaks with passionate intensity. They reflect the issues of racism, poverty and war that deeply moved him."

County Youth Services Survey

When Achieving Youth Results launched in 2015, the Tompkins County Youth Services Department committed to working with our entire Tompkins County community to develop strategies for youth and families. After nearly 70 community discussions and meeting with more than 400 individuals, it is now time to prioritize the top strategies and move closer to our final phase of implementation. Tompkins County Youth Services is asking folks to take a few moments to complete [this survey](#), which asks for us to prioritize those strategies. The completion date is Friday, April 15.

FOR PRINCIPALS

- [The Principal Perspective from the Center for Public Education](#)
- [Walking in a Principal's Shoes \(Podcast\)](#)
- [Being a Principal \(Pinterest\)](#)