

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

Family Engagement

Let's take time this week to help families connect with what students are learning in school. Teachers, can you find a way for students to engage their families in talking about a specific concept or skill you have been teaching them in class? Principals, can you find a way for students to engage their families in talking about work that is happening across the building? For bus drivers, secretaries, cafeteria staff, and others, we might say to the students we see, "Tell me something you've learned today," and then encourage them to share this with their families. The next day, we'll need to remember to follow-up and ask the student if she/he/they were able to share.

FOR TEACHERS

Universal Design for Learning

"Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is an approach to teaching aimed at meeting the needs of every student in a classroom. It can be helpful for all kids, including kids with learning and attention issues. But UDL takes careful planning by teachers. Here are just a few examples of how UDL can work in a classroom." Check out these [5 Examples](#) of Universal Design for Learning in the Classroom.

Quick Links

- [AC Moore Grant Opportunities](#)
- [School Gardens](#)
- [Resources for PE Teachers](#)
- [Strategies and Resources for Supporting English Language Learners](#)
- [Mental Health in Schools](#)

TST Model Schools Technology Team

Check out this great [commercial!](#) Go to this [link](#) to see all of our current tech offerings.

Thanksgiving Essay Submissions Due Nov. 3

The Ithaca Journal will collecting Thanksgiving essays again this year. Essays should be 75 words or less regardless of grade level. Submissions are being accepted now through Nov. 3. The topic hasn't changed: What students are thankful for this year. As with last year, the Ithaca Journal will run a selection of the essays in print and more of them online. Entries may be submitted [here](#).

'Africa is Not a Country'

Elementary teachers and secondary social studies teachers, check out the [article](#) about a resource created by students from Ithaca College: Africa is not a country - Students' photo campaign breaks down stereotypes.

Quote of the Week

"Bryk and others (2010) identified elements that contribute to strong parent and community ties: (1) school efforts to reach out to parents, to engage them directly in the processes of strengthening student learning; (2) teacher efforts to become knowledgeable about student culture and the local community and to draw on this awareness in their lessons; (3) strengthening the network among community organizations, to expand services for students and their families (pg. 57 – 59)."

-- Brooks, M. 2011

THERE'S MORE ↓

tstboces.org

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Click [here](#) to access our online catalog of professional development opportunities.

Workshops Set for Oct. 21

A full-day conference will be held Oct. 21 at TST BOCES. Workshops focusing on gaming, cultural competency and the arts (music, visual and media arts) will be presented. The day will begin with an arts roundtable discussion and conclude with an artist and vendor networking session with local and regional artists and vendors. [Full-day registration](#) or [half-day registration](#) available.

Media Literacy Week

Project Look Sharp celebrates Media Literacy Week with a webinar on “Media Constructions of Presidential Campaigns” -a timely topic that you can apply immediately to teaching about any presidential campaign, past or present, in your courses and classrooms. For more information, click [here](#).

Tech Voyagers

Join the Tech Voyagers, a facilitated, collaborative and ongoing professional development initiative that allows participants to focus on technology-supported instructional strategies. Participants start with a question, problem or idea. During planning and implementation, participants learn and collaborate with one another and technology integration specialists. Through in-person workshops, online work and in-classroom support, participants will create, implement and evaluate a long-term technology-enhanced learning opportunity for students. For more information, click [here](#).

Autism Collaborative Community

The Autism Collaborative Community is a new opportunity for educators currently working with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in their classrooms to collaborate and share promising practices across our region. This community will be co-facilitated by *Jennifer Gondek, Instructional Specialist for Inclusion at TST BOCES*; *Rachel Walker, Autism Consultant for Ithaca City School District*; and *Justin DiMatteo, Technology Instructional Specialist at TST BOCES*. Throughout the series, participants will explore evidence-based practices and interventions with opportunities to plan for implementation and reflect together on data collected. Classroom-based follow-up support will be offered as needed by the facilitators. The shared mentor texts provided to all participants will be *You're Going to Love this Kid* by Paula Kluth and *The Reason I Jump* by Naoki Higashida. Series dates are Oct. 28, Jan. 18, and April 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Click [here](#) for more information or sign up in [My Learning Plan](#).

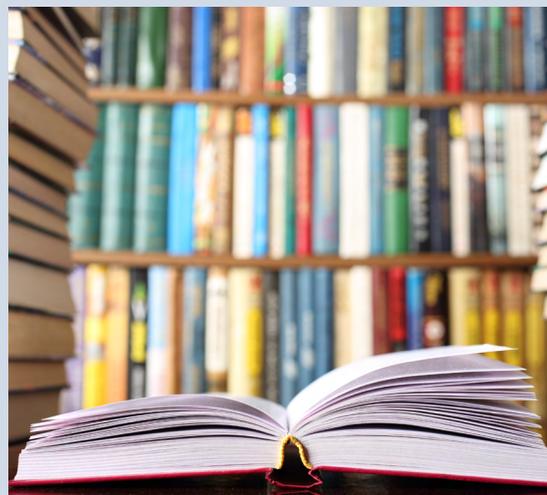
FOR PRINCIPALS

Computer-Based Testing

Please let the appropriate person(s) in your building know about the following Computer Based Testing resources: State [CBT website](#), including [CBT Help Center](#). In addition, the TST School Improvement Services team is participating in weekly update calls with NYSED. You can [submit questions](#) about CBT and our team will generate a regional Q & A/resource document, along with other local digital materials/support.

Education and Policy Analysis

Learn more about education and policy analysis by checking out these free sample [articles](#) from Sage.



LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [The New Jim Crow – Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#)
- *Young Children, Social Issues, and Critical Literacy – Stories of Teachers and Researchers*, Chafel, Flint, Hammel and Pomeroy 2007.
- [DataWise Fall Newsletter](#)

Contact Barry to borrow a book or article.

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