

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

Collaboration

This week, reach out to a few colleagues and share one or two of your assessments (quiz, test, homework, project, etc.) with each other. By simply talking together about what you hope each assessment will show you about what your students know and can do, you are likely to gain new insights or ideas.

FOR TEACHERS

Teacher's Guide to Childhood Trauma

This [collection of resources](#) empowers educators to help students when they are hurting from traumatic experiences like divorce, bullying and abuse.

FOR PRINCIPALS

[Preparing Principals to Lead the Equity Agenda](#)

CONTESTS FOR STUDENTS

What Does It Mean To Be Human Photography Contest

The Office of Cooperative Enrichment is hosting a photography competition for high school students in TST component districts. The contest is open to students in grades 9-12 and will be held in conjunction with the Smithsonian traveling exhibit "Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean To Be Human." The exhibit will be on display at the Tompkins County Public Library now through Dec. 23..

Students are invited to submit original photographs that explore the themes of what it means to be human. The photos will be judged by an independent panel at the Tompkins County Public Library in January. One student per grade level will be chosen as a winner. Winning submissions will be announced Jan. 15.

HOW TO ENTER

All entries must be submitted in digital format through our [online entry form](#). To enter, visit this [link](#) and complete the entry form by following the step-by-step directions on that page. Submit an original photograph, taken by you, that conveys "What Does It Mean to be Human." Include a title for the photograph, a written description (100 words or less) of the "moment" captured and how it reflects the theme of what it means to be human.

Quote of the Week

"By working with colleagues to forge consensus about what it looks like when students achieve desired results, educators realize more coherent curricula, more reliable assessments, and greater consistency in grading across classrooms and schools."

-- Tomlinson & McTighe

THERE'S MORE ↓

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STUDENT CONTESTS (CONTINUED)

NYS Archives Research Awards Contest

The New York State Archives invites students statewide to enter the 27th annual Student Research Awards Contest. The contest is open to all NYS students in grades 4-12 who use historical records in their research projects. The deadline for entries is July 1. Three awards will be presented in the fall of 2017.

"The Student Research Award program encourages students to go beyond textbooks to access the real documents of history," said State Archivist Thomas Ruller.

Participating in the Student Research Award program provides teachers and students with the opportunity to develop research questions and then conduct research to answer those questions. It allows students to choose topics that interest them and lets them put into practice the skills they will need for successful completion of state assessments, success in college and in a career, such as: synthesis and analysis of information, making generalizations, identifying enduring themes in history, and developing conclusions based on evidence.

Individual students and groups of students may submit projects to the contest. Eligible projects include: computer-based entries such as websites or PowerPoint presentations; exhibits; documentaries; performances; proposals for a historical marker, property or district; and traditional research papers.

All students must use historical records, as well as other primary and secondary sources, in their research, and each entry must be accompanied by an annotated bibliography that briefly describes how each source was used and how it contributed to the project. Projects must be nominated by teachers or administrators in the school attended by the student(s). Community members, such as municipal historians and public librarians, may also nominate students. Entries from home-schooled students are welcome.

Three awards are presented each year; one for grades 4-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12. The awards consist of a framed certificate, a cash award, and an invitation to an awards ceremony in Albany. Certificates of Merit are awarded to students, other than the winners, whose projects are exemplary.

For more information, call 518-474-6926 or visiting the Archives' [website](#).

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

Contact Barry if you would like to borrow a book

- *Getting Schools Ready for the World*, Will Richardson, 2016
- *Black on White – Black Writers on What it Means to Be White*, David R. Roediger, 1998
- [Food Bank of the Southern Tier](#)

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Youth Mental Health First Aid

8 a.m. to noon | Jan. 10-11 | TST BOCES

This is an eight-hour training course that reviews the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents ages 12-18. It emphasizes the importance of early intervention and covers how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Click [here](#) for more information.

Rtl Repository Design Workshop: Reading

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. | Dec. 14 | TST BOCES

Join us for a one-day work session to create a bank of research-based reading interventions for use within all three tiers of Rtl. K-8 educators; at least one representative from each school with a background in reading and ability to work digitally. Representatives from each school will come together to input interventions into our digital database. At the end of the day, each participating school will have access to a regional repository of interventions accessible in a variety of formats, including a Google site to use with teams and teachers during Rtl meetings. The repository will be updated and maintained by the School Improvement Services team at TST BOCES. An additional work session may be held in the spring or summer if needed. We encourage schools to send a representative that has knowledge of research-based reading interventions (not programs) and the ability to work digitally. For more information, click [here](#) or sign up at [My Learning Plan](#).

Additional workshops, conferences, and webinars

Intellectual Freedom, Materials Selection & Censorship: Issues & Answers for K-12 Educators

8 am to 3 pm | Dec. 13 | The Park Center (SUNY Cortland)

In this workshop, Deborah Caldwell Stone, the American Library Association's Deputy Director for the Office of Intellectual Freedom, will help librarians and teachers learn how to prepare a materials selection policy for their classrooms and libraries; she will also explain why selection policies are essential for addressing challenges to library and instructional materials and for protecting students' intellectual freedom. This workshop will review the fundamentals of intellectual freedom; discuss the importance and need for written policy; identify and explain the elements of an effective selection policy; and discuss some of the ethical issues concerning collection development that face educators today. Sign up [here](#).

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

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