

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

Affirming all members of our school communities

During the next two weeks, let's each try to add three new items to our classroom, bus, workspace or office that affirm the dignity and strength of all kinds of students, staff and families. The challenge is to choose items (posters, books, calendars, poems, sculptures, figurines, pictures, etc.) that testify to the broad range of experiences, accomplishments, and contributions of students, staff and families who may not already see themselves reflected in our teaching/learning/work spaces. Throughout the two weeks, talk to a few colleagues about the impact this challenge may be having or has already had on your own thinking. Was it difficult or easy to find items?

NEWS & NOTES

North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad

“What? A competition for high school students interested in linguistics, languages and computation. Paper and pencil contest, no prerequisites needed, easy problems in the Open Round, harder problems in the Invitational Round – national and team selection. When? Open Round – Jan. 26, Invitational Round – March 9. Where? 200 sites in the US and Canada, including one at Cornell University.”

Please share this with your high school students. Register [here](#) and direct any questions to nacl17org@umich.edu. Students seeking more information can click [here](#); teacher information is available [here](#).

Survey for Review of Draft NYS PK-12 Arts Learning Standards Now Open

“Over the course of the last few years and in collaboration with numerous arts education stakeholders across New York State, the NYS Education Department spearheaded the development of draft New York State PK-12 Learning Standards for the Arts (NYSLSA) in Dance, Music, Theatre, Visual and Media Arts.

To collect feedback related to the new draft arts standards, the Department has posted surveys allowing respondents to comment on each art discipline's draft standards. The surveys may be accessed [here](#). The feedback received will inform revisions to the draft NYSLSA prior to presenting them to the Board of Regents for discussion and eventual adoption.

Thank you, in advance, for participating in this important survey. The survey will remain open until Tuesday, **January 31, 2017**.”

TST BOCES Regional Autism Collaborative

Check it out [here](#)!

**THERE'S
MORE↓**

Quote of the Week

“Cultural dignity is the foundation of a new way of thinking that is aimed at establishing a planetary civilization. It can be achieved only if it is based in an ethics of respect for diversity, solidarity with difference, and cooperation with others.”

– D'Ambrosio, U. 2009

FOR PRINCIPALS

TST BOCES Artist and Vendor App

This app makes it easy for people to view vendor names, areas of expertise, contact information, grade-levels, NYS Standards alignment, costs, etc. for all the vendors who are currently working in collaboration with TST BOCES. Click [here](#) to access the link to this app.

Center for Educational Leadership Webinars

(click to access)

“At the University of Washington Center for Educational Leadership, we believe that *all* students can achieve at high levels. We know that the achievement gap can and must be closed — it’s a matter of equity — and we have identified what it will take for every student to succeed.

The secret? A combination of instructional quality and teacher support from district and school leadership.”

Evaluation Processes that Inspire Great Teaching

Last month, Lynn VanDeWeert (Evaluation Officer for Data, Assessment, Professional Development in the Ithaca City School District) joined me in Albany to work with our colleagues on thinking about how we could support Principals and other Lead Evaluators in their efforts to implement evaluation processes that effectively inspire great teaching. Together, our group created this [resource document](#), which we hope you may find useful in your efforts to inspire great teaching.

FOR TEACHERS

Teaching for Change

“[Teaching for Change](#) provides teachers and parents with the tools to create schools where students learn to read, write and change the world. By drawing direct connections to real world issues, Teaching for Change encourages teachers and students to question and re-think the world inside and outside their classrooms, build a more equitable, multicultural society and become active global citizens.”

Teaching with Fine and Performing Arts-related Primary Resources

“[Fine and performing arts-related primary sources](#) allow students to study and investigate how people use creative activity to celebrate and express their experiences. They prompt students to think about multiple perspectives, develop literacy skills and consider complex forms of problem solving.”

Place-Based Education *(click to access)*

“Immerses students in local heritage, cultures, landscapes, opportunities and experiences; uses these as a foundation for the study of language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and other subjects across the curriculum; and emphasizes learning through participation in service projects for the local school and/or community.”

The Smithsonian America Art Museum Photograph Archives *(click to access)*

The Newseum’s Free Learning Tools *(click to access)*

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Blood in the Water – The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy](#), by Heather Ann Thompson, 2016.
- [Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities](#)
- *Improving Outcome Measures Other Than Achievement*, Moore, Lippman, & Ryberg 2015

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



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered by other organizations

Critical Thinking Resource

Compassionate Critical Thinking: How to Use Mindfulness, Compassion, Creativity and Socratic Questioning to Teach Critical Thinking and Course Material. Send an [email](#) to Barry if you are interested in participating. Click [here](#) for details.

CAST presents UDL NOW!

1-2 p.m. | Jan. 27 | Webinar

Are you interested in bringing the excitement back to the classroom, engaging your students and empowering them to personalize their journey? In the revised and expanded edition of her best seller -- UDL Now! -- Katie Novak, a leading UDL expert and author, provides new insights and strategies for helping all learners meet high standards using the Universal Design for Learning framework.

Join us for a free webinar with Novak to learn about the importance of involving students in the design and delivery of their instruction, supported by practical tools and strategies to help you apply these concepts immediately. Information and registration available [here](#).

REJECT - A movie about the consequences of social rejection

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. | Feb. 7 | Tompkins County Public Library

How can we make our schools more inclusive? This full-day workshop begins with a viewing of the movie “Reject,” which will be followed by a guided discussion. This documentary explores the human impact of rejection, ostracism and exclusion. Research is presented throughout the movie to justify the need for schools to work intentionally to create inclusive cultures.

Using the content of the movie, the second half of the day examines key components that encourage the development of safe and inclusive schools; thereby bringing the theory into practice. Celia Clement, a school social worker for the ICSD has spent the past 14 years developing bully prevention school programs that are tailored to the needs of each school community. These programs, targeting both

secondary and primary schools, empower students to be the change agents. Family & Children’s Service of Ithaca is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0293. LCSW and LMSWs will be provided with six CEU credits after completing the six-hour course and paying a \$25 fee to Family & Children’s Services. To request CEU credits, click [here](#). Sign up now, in [mlp](#).

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Where did the Puddle Go?

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Jan. 19 | TST BOCES

Join us for an exploration of the science and engineering practice of developing and using models to explain science phenomena. For more information, click [here](#).

Tech Voyagers

12:30-3:30 p.m. | Jan. 19 | TST BOCES

If you have a vision or idea for meaningful technology integration, but need assistance in making it happen, then consider joining the Tech Voyagers!

This facilitated, collaborative, and ongoing professional development allows participants to focus on instructional strategies that can be supported by technology. 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.

Participants start with a question, problem or idea. Together, we create a plan to address student learning needs and select technology that will support learning. During planning and implementation, teachers will learn and collaborate with one another and technology integration specialists. Participants will then reflect upon their experiences, make necessary adjustments, and share their work.

Co-teachers, members of the same department, or groups of teachers are encouraged to collaborate on a project together! In addition to the Jan. 19 in-person date, approximately three hours of online work are required. Sign up [here](#).

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SIS Weekly Bulletin

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Barry Derfel, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

[tstboces.org](#)