

# 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

#### Rethinking, Revising, Refining

If you are a teacher, try prompting your students one or two times this week to rethink their learning, and/or to revise/refine their work. Do they resist this work, or do they embrace it? For those of us who are not teachers, let's reach out to a teacher and ask her/him/they what happens when they ask their students to rethink, revise and/or refine.

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Understanding by Design

Understanding by design (also known as backward planning) is a research-based approach to [instructional planning and delivery](#) that helps ensure that what we teach really matters, and that our assessment methods will be timely and appropriately aligned. The following resources can support teachers in using this planning approach, and can also help administrators and curriculum specialists support their teachers in their efforts to deepen their UbD understanding and skills:

- [Jay McTighe & Associates free downloads](#)
- [Free videos](#)
- [Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University UdD overview and resources](#)

#### Intended Student Outcomes Survey Available

Our TST BOCES School Improvement Services Team is focused on helping to ensure that all of our students in the region are robustly included and affirmed, and that all achieve [deeply meaningful outcomes](#). Please let us know what you think about our intended student outcomes by completing this [one-question survey](#).

#### Google Classroom Update

Google Classroom has been updated to allow GROUPS. Watch this short [video](#) created by Jake Roe to learn how to do this. (You may need to turn the volume up a bit.)

### LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- *Reciprocal Dialogue Between Educational Decision Makers and Students of Color: Opportunities and Obstacles*, Bertrand, M. 2014
- Integrating Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design, Tomlinson & McTighe 2006
- [How Do You Plan Redux](#) (Grant Wiggins)

Contact Barry to borrow a book or article

**THERE'S MORE ↓**

#### Quote of the Week

"If it's worth understanding, it's worth rethinking. If it's worth doing, it's worth reflecting upon. How will I encourage the learners to rethink previous learning? How will I encourage ongoing revision and refinement?"

-- Tomlinson & McTighe

## FOR TEACHERS

### Holocaust Education

Local Resources are available from the Ithaca Area United Jewish Community (IAUJC) Holocaust Speakers' Bureau. New this year, a few local survivor and refugee stories are available [online via a new video project](#) created with Park Scholars from the Ithaca College Park School of Communication. Children or friends who conducted interviews in these videos are available to visit your classroom and answer questions or elaborate on the stories.

If you are thinking of having a speaker in your classroom this spring, please [contact](#) this group with your request, with approximate dates, locations and numbers of students. If you are no longer teaching the Holocaust but know others who are, please share this information with any new teachers, and let me know their name and email address for future contact.

Finally, if you have any other questions about their Speakers' Bureau or on a related topic, please contact the group via [email](#).

## FOR PRINCIPALS

### DataWise Coach Certification Program

"We are excited to announce that we are now accepting applications for the 2017–2018 [Data Wise Coach Certification Program](#). Our new coach candidates will begin their experience with an online training session in the week of June 1, followed by an intensive on-campus teaching and learning experience at Harvard from June 19–23, 2017. The program continues online for the 2017–18 academic year. If you are an experienced Data Wise user looking to bring your practice to the next level and join a network of certified Data Wise coaches around the world, we hope that you will consider applying. For more information and the application, please [click here](#), and note that the deadline is March 3, 2017."

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

*Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES*

### Educator Tour of the Cornell Hip Hop Archive

Starting at 4:30 p.m. Feb 9

The mission of the [Cornell Hip Hop Collection](#) (CHHC) is to collect and make accessible the historical artifacts of Hip Hop culture and to ensure their preservation for future generations. Ben Ortiz, curator of the Cornell Hip Hop Archives, will give educators a personal tour of the archives Feb. 9 beginning at 4:30. This one hour session will include ways to incorporate #hiphoped in your classroom. The workshop will take place at Cornell's Kroch Library; Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections in Olin Library.

### Connect. Create. Innovate

Registration Now Open!

[Registration](#) is underway for Connect. Create. Innovate. This conference day is designed for teachers of encore subjects and will provide a full day of workshops and events tailored to meet the diverse needs of encore teachers.

The conference is free and will be held on the SUNY Cortland campus; lunch will be provided. Plenty of space and parking! Check out the Connect. Create. Innovate. [website](#) to see the sessions we have scheduled so far (adding more every day). Please pass the [flyer](#) along to any other encore teachers or educators that you think may be interested in attending (music, art, physical education, family and consumer sciences, health, Spanish, speech language pathologists, paraprofessionals, etc.)

### GAFE Online Learning Academy

Google Apps for Education online professional development | Earn 5 PD Hours

This individualized [professional development opportunity](#) directly supports our Regional Priorities. Some of the learning targets come directly from Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching Rubric. Specifically, they represent critical attributes in the proficient column of item 1d. Demonstrating Knowledge of Resources. Educators will earn five professional development hours for successfully completing all five challenges (Google Drive, Docs, Slides, Forms, and Classroom). The educator will: Immerse themselves in the GAFE (Google Apps For Education) environment as they learn how to use the tools covered in the GAFE Academy; apply their knowledge as they create artifacts using GAFE; reflect on evidence to show how the application of these tools can impact students.

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

*Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants*

### Compassionate Critical Thinking

How to Use Mindfulness, Compassion, Creativity & Socratic Questioning to Teach Critical Thinking and Course Material

There are many books and courses on how to practice mindfulness and teach it to students to reduce stress. This class will go beyond that to show how mindfulness and other practices can be used to teach course material across the curriculum in an in-depth manner that reduces stress and increases engagement. It reduces stress for both student and teacher and makes teaching and learning more meaningful for everyone involved.

The class will be structured around experiential exercises, inquiry and discussion. We will study how to use emotional awareness, imagination, empathy and questioning strategies to enhance critical thinking. The aim is to learn how to structure a classroom as a compassionate learning community that fosters a depth and breadth of thinking and learning. Mindfulness has also been shown to improve student performance on assessments. All the lessons and practices we will study were developed over my 27 years of teaching with such techniques and were used in actual classes. Many take only a few minutes. All help students improve focus and engagement.

Click [here](#) for more information and [email Barry](#) directly if you would like to be part of this learning opportunity. The facilitator (Ira Rabois) will work with those who are interested to identify dates and times that work for the group.

### 2017 Master Composter Training

6:30-8:30 pm | 10 Thursdays Feb. 9-April 27 | Apply by Jan. 30

Ten in-depth classes and volunteer work train Master Composters, an enthusiastic group committed to promoting responsible composting in Tompkins County. The training classes include both compost topics (e.g. bins, science and uses) and education topics (e.g. effective teaching, lesson planning).

Members of the class also work on projects outside of class and volunteer alongside previously trained Master Composters. One project is to plan, organize and staff the annual Compost Fair, which will take place this year April 23. After training, Master Composters give back to

## Looking for more PD opportunities?

Click [here](#) to access the PD catalog online.

the community through a wide variety of educational activities; many design their own.

There is a \$60 deposit for the training, refunded in full after completion of volunteer hours. More info and applications are available [here](#) or by contacting Adam Michaelides by [email](#) or phone 607-272-2292. Classes will be held at Tompkins County Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave., Ithaca.

### Go Local with History

The Tompkins County Bicentennial and the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in New York State provide two exciting opportunities to integrate local history into your curriculum in 2017! At this workshop, participants will interact with resources to:

- Engage students in the Mapping Tompkins project.
- Celebrate the 100th anniversary of suffrage for women in New York State.
- Involve students as contributors to the Names on the Land Project.
- View a historical exhibit, Made in Tompkins County.
- Research a local history topic and learn more about the educational programs at The History Center.

Join us in engaging students in commemorating these local historic events by choosing a level of involvement that suits your curriculum and time limits. These activities and resources will foster a sense of place; provide the students with an opportunity for civic engagement; and enrich the curriculum with local history. Each workshop participant will receive a local history book and other related materials. Sign up [here](#) and click [here](#) for more information.

### Brain Breaks for the Classroom

3:45-5:45 p.m. | Feb. 2 | Lansing Groton Teachers Center

Create Relaxed Alertness and Learn with Ease as you learn to use simple movement strategies just 3-10 minutes daily to build a brain reserve to help you work to your fullest potential. These movements can be done either sitting or standing in a variety of ways. Click [here](#) for more information.

**TST**  
**SIS Weekly Bulletin**

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School Improvement Services

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[tstboces.org](http://tstboces.org)