

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

Observation

This week, let's purposely give ourselves time to actively observe our students/faculty at work. Let's focus on noticing factors that help them be successful and factors that make it difficult for them to achieve success.

2017 GIAC MLK Community Breakfast, Save the Date!

The Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC) will be hosting the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast this January 14th, 2017 from 9:00 to 11:30 AM at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School. This year's theme will be "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that" (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.). More information can be found [here](#).

Five Minutes with a Teacher's Aide

"There are many fulfilling careers, but none so much as electing to work with children in a classroom setting, helping kids to learn, grow and achieve their best – particularly those that need a little bit of extra attention. Teacher's Aides help and assist teachers in the classroom and give extra help to students to support them with their learning and development. Teacher's Aides (also called Education Assistants) work in a range of classroom contexts, including public and independent schools and community education settings.

So what's it like to work in this important sector? Open Colleges spoke to Barbara Lippiatt of the Western Australian Association of Teacher Assistants to find out."

A Teacher Discovers the Importance of Bus Drivers

"I am a middle-school teacher for the Greater Clark County School Corporation in southern Indiana. Six years ago, I was asked by the principal to act as the liaison between the school and its bus drivers. Specifically, I was asked to work with the discipline problems that the drivers were experiencing. I was allotted one period a day to interact with drivers, students and parents and to make the necessary connections within our school system to ensure due process. Although I had ridden a school bus as a child and had served with a National Guard unit that provided security for a school system during desegregation, I had no other qualifications for the job. And, if anything, I had a classroom teacher's superficial understanding of what bus drivers were going through. I suppose the phrase, "It's not my problem," summed up my "empathy" for the people I'd been asked to assist."

Quote of the Week

"Teachers in effectively differentiated classrooms are hunters and gatherers of information about what best propels learning for each student. Such teachers believe that each new piece of information contributes to accruing insight about how to work more effectively with a given learner."
-- Tomlinson & McTighe, 2006

**THERE'S
MORE↓**

**THERE'S
MORE↓**

**THERE'S
MORE↓**

FOR TEACHERS

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.

In order 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 at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/arts/>. The feedback received will inform revisions to the draft NYSLSA prior to presenting them to the Board of Regents for discussion and eventual adoption.”

Learning Forward - Call for proposals for Annual Conference in Orlando

“Submit your proposal to present a session in Orlando, Florida, December 2-6, 2017 at Learning Forward’s 2017 Annual Conference. When it comes to learning about educator professional learning, this is THE conference. This is your time to share your work on effective professional learning with thousands of other practitioners and thought leaders. Possible topics include: How to solve professional development challenges at all levels; new research; introductory- and advanced-level learning; and the latest topics and data on professional learning best practices and technology.

Don’t miss this chance to collaborate with education leaders from around the world and gain valuable connections, tools, learning opportunities, and strategies. The proposal deadline is February 1, 2017. Learn more [here](#).

What I’ve Learned: A P.E. Teacher Clears Up a Few Misconceptions About “Gym” Class

“Jen Roddel, a physical education specialist at Central Elementary School in Ferndale Wash., emphasizes that she teaches children, not “gym,” and she’s learned that it sometimes takes a bit more of an explanation for people to truly understand the difference her position makes in children’s lives.”

FOR PRINCIPALS

Critical Friends Group for Principals

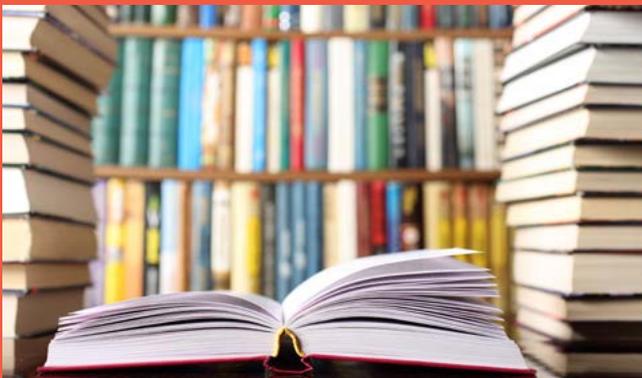
There is a small group of Middle Level Principals who will be coming together as a Critical Friends Group. We currently have three sessions scheduled, with one still to be determined.

If you are interested in participating, please sign up for all three sessions in MLP: [January 10th](#); [February 28th](#); [May 9th](#).

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- *An Ethnomathematical Perspective on Culturally Responsive Mathematics Education*, Mukhopadhy, Powell, and Frankenstein 2009
- *Culturally Responsive Mathematics Education*, Greer, Mukhopadhyay, Powell, Nelson-Barber 2009.
- [Civic Engagement in the Digital Age](#) – Why does this matter?
- [New DataWise Website](#).

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



UPCOMING 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. Mental Health First Aid Teaches:

- Risk Factors and warning signs of mental health concerns
- Information on depression, anxiety, trauma, psychosis, and substance use.
- A 5-step action plan to help someone developing a mental health concern or in crisis.
- Available evidence-based professional, peer, and self-help resources. Sign up now in [MLP!](#)

Where Did the Puddle Go?

Join us for an exploration of the science and engineering practice of developing and using models to explain science phenomena. January 19th, from 8:30 – 3:00, here at TST BOCES. For more information, see the [attached flier](#).

CPR Initial Course

The BLS Course offered at TST BOCES is the Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers Course from the American Heart Association designed to provide a wide variety of school professionals the ability to recognize several life-threatening emergencies, provide CPR, use an AED, and relieve choking in a safe, timely and effective manner. The course is intended for all school personnel including; school nurses, teachers, coaches, maintenance staff, custodians, bus drivers, administrators, support staff and aides whether certified or non-certified as well as licensed or non-licensed healthcare professionals. BLS certification is good for two years from completion of the course.

The Initial Course is a four hour basic course which teaches the fundamentals of basic life support using classroom, video and instructor-led instruction. This course is required if you have not currently certified in CPR/AED or have never been trained. There is no prerequisite for this course. January 12th, from 4:00 – 7:00 at TST BOCES. Sign up now in [MLP!](#)



Offered by other organizations

REJECT

A movie about the consequences of social rejection. How can we make our schools more inclusive? February 7th, from 8:30 – 4:00 at the Tompkins County Public Library. 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 6 CEU Credits after completing the 6 hour course and paying a \$25 fee to Family & Children's Services. To request CEU credits, click [here](#).



TST
SIS Weekly Bulletin

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

School Improvement Services

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

tstboces.org