

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

Observing Students or Staff

This week, purposely give yourself time to actively observe your students (or staff) at work, with the goal of noticing factors that help them find social, behavioral or academic success, and factors that make it difficult for them to do so.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Alternatives to Suspension Training at TST BOCES

RSE-TASC is holding an Alternatives to Suspension training at TST BOCES from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 31. While the bulk of this training will focus on strategies and alternatives to suspension to utilize at the administrative level, we will also be discussing the importance of school-wide and classroom-wide preventative practices. Click [here](#) to register.

Online Course

Built on research-based models of effective professional development and online communities of practice, the Friday Institute's MOOC-Ed courses focus on authentic, project-based learning, collaboration and peer-supported learning. Participants who complete MOOC-Eds are eligible to receive a certificate of completion

for 20 hours or more of professional development from NC State University. Click [here](#) for details and to register.

Assessment in Instruction

Earn 6 professional development hours for successfully completing this independent study. Facilitated by Barry Derfel. Register [here](#).

Math Teachers' Workshops

Two Math 5080 meetings this semester are scheduled for Feb. 27 and April 9 at Cornell. The agenda and sign-up information for the Feb. 27 workshop is available [here](#). The agenda for the April 9 workshop will be forthcoming.

Social Studies Series

The first day of this series has been changed to Feb. 24. Click [here](#) for more details.

LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- *Democracy and Education* (John Dewey, 1916)
- [Unlocking Opportunity for African American Girls](#)
- [A Conversation with Hip Hop Pioneers](#)
- [Data Wise Newsletter](#)
- [Information for Teacher Participation in NYSED Assessment Development](#)

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

THERE'S MORE ↓

Quote of the Week

"Classrooms contain a number of elements that can be used at the discretion of the teacher in different manners for different purposes, [such as] time, space, resources, student groupings, instructional or learning strategies, and partnerships... Observe students working individually, in small groups, and in the class as a whole with the intent to study factors that facilitate or impede progress for individuals and for the group as a whole."

-- Tomlinson & McTighe, 2006

FOR TEACHERS

[C3 Teachers Social Studies Updates](#)

Cyber Innovation Center Resources

TST BOCES is collaborating with NICERC, an organization which provides hands-on professional development, curricula, programs and competitions to engage students in STEM disciplines. All educators in the TST region can access the Cyber Innovation Center curricula [here](#) by creating a free account.

TST School Improvement Services is hosting a free, two-day workshop for middle school teachers this March. Two members of our team will also be participating in the workshop, so they can provide ongoing support to participants throughout the spring and into next year. Details can be found [here](#).

Group Visits at Cornell's SPIF

Cornell's Spacecraft Planetary Imaging Facility (SPIF) is interested in having one or more groups visit SPIF for a presentation that may be of interest to you. They may be able to contribute toward the cost of transportation, as well. SPIF can accommodate

groups up to 30 or so, and welcome both elementary and secondary students. Possible presentations include the following: Solar System Tour, Robotics – Mars Rovers, Gamma Ray Bursts, How We Get Pictures From Space, How We Know What We Know, Invisible Universe – observing the universe in visible vs. non-visible wavelengths, Life Cycle of Stars, Imaging Results From Some US Spacecraft Missions, Multispectral Imaging, How Orbits Work, Planet Surfaces, Saturn - From Its Discovery Through The Cassini Mission, Solar System Moons, Solar System Rotating Globes, Sub-Millimeter Spectroscopy, What Is An Astronomer? Why Isn't Pluto A Planet Any Longer?

Possible times and dates:

- 10-11 a.m. or 11 a.m. to noon Feb. 29
- 1-2 p.m. or 2-3 p.m. March 1
- 2-3 p.m. March 2
- 9-10 a.m. or 10-11 a.m. March 3
- 9-10 a.m. or 1-2 p.m. March 16

For more information, contact [Rick Kline](#), data manager for SPIF, at 607-255-3833.

FOR PRINCIPALS

NYSED Testing Calendar Released for 2016-17

The 2016-17 calendar for grades 3-8 ELA and mathematics, grade 4 and 8 science, NYSAA, and NYSESLAT is now posted on the Office of State Assessment [web page](#).

For the first time, the testing calendar provides schools with the ability to administer the operational grade 3-8 ELA and mathematics assessments by computer. Further details on the testing window for computer-based testing will be released at a later date. Finally, based on continued guidance from educators from across the state, the NYSESLAT speaking window has been lengthened to allow districts with additional flexibility in administering the exam. Click [here](#) for more information.



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