

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

Clarity

This week, let's talk with a few colleagues about the quote below. By talking about this quote, we will increase our own clarity about the concept of Integrating Understanding by Design (UbD) & Differentiated Instruction (DI).

NEWS & NOTES

You are invited to an ESSA Regional State Plan Development meeting to be held at TST BOCES on Tuesday, March 14 from 5 - 7 p.m. If you would like to attend, please register to participate by no later than March 3, 2017 by filling out [this form](#). More details can be found in the [attached letter](#).

Over 600 people (students, families, community and educators) have already told us what they think about the student outcomes that focus our work. If you haven't done so already, consider sharing your thoughts by completing this [one question survey](#).

Epic is a free Chrome app located in the web store. After signing up for free, you are given access to thousands of books, audiobooks and movies, based on topic, age and area of interest. It can be linked to Google Classroom. Jake Roe created a [short video](#) showing just a bit of what is possible with Epic.

Survey on Student and Teacher Technology Literacy

NYSED has released a brief survey to gather information from the field around the issue of student and teacher technology literacy. Please help NYSED to understand how they can support your needs on this topic by responding to this brief survey and sharing the link with colleagues, teachers and others interested in technology literacy. Click [here](#) to take the survey. The survey will close on **Friday, March 24, 2017**. Questions may be directed to the Office of Educational Design and Technology at (518) 474-5461 or EDTECH@nysed.gov.

STEM Summer Opportunity - Appalachian Regional Commission

This STEM summer opportunity is for high school students and teachers, and middle school students from New York State's

THERE'S MORE ↓ (cont. on page 2)

Quote of the Week

"A river needs banks to flow. Backward design provides the structure to support flexibility in teaching and assessing in order to honor the integrity of content while respecting the individuality of learners"

-- Tomlinson & McTighe

(cont. from page 1)

Appalachian Region (Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins counties).

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), in collaboration with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, is sponsoring a two-week residential hands-on learning institute focusing on math, science, and technology. The two-week Summer Institute for high school students and teachers will be held from July 8-21, 2017. The 2017 Middle School Summer Science Academy will be held from July 16-21, 2017. Applications must be submitted to New York State Education Department, Office of Curriculum and Instruction and are due no later than March 8, 2017. New York State will select two nominees for each teacher and student summer session. Alternates may also be nominated to attend on a space-available basis. For more information about this exciting STEM opportunity and details about the program

and application process please visit the Office of Curriculum and Instruction website [here](#).

Presidential Awards For Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (2016 - 2017)

The 2016-2017 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science (PAEMST) program is now accepting nominations for eligible exemplary Mathematics and Science teachers at the 7th – 12th grade level (including Computer Science). The nomination period is now open and will close April 1, 2017.

The deadline to submit an application is May 1, 2017. For more information about the PAEMST program visit the New York State's Education Department's website [here](#) or at www.paemst.org.

FOR TEACHERS

Computer Science For All

Computer Science for All (CS4All) has [free resources](#) that we can apply to our own schools and classrooms.

The Right Question Institute

The Right Question Institute *“provides a wide range of innovative educational resources that make it possible for all people, no matter their level of education or income, to learn to think and act more effectively on their own behalf.”* Their [Educator Resources](#) are available under a Creative Commons Share-alike license.

TST BOCES Regional Social Studies Network Resources

The resources available on our [webpage](#) align with New York State's Social Studies Learning Standards, as well as our Network's collective beliefs about inclusive, affirming, relevant and meaningful learning that leads to informed action.

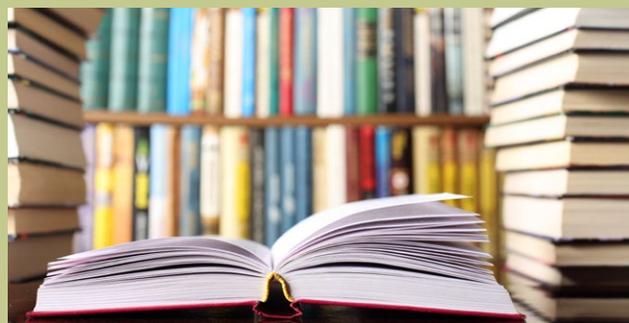
Anti-Bias Education from the perspective of National Association for the Education of Young Children

“The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a professional

membership organization that works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children, birth through age 8, by connecting early childhood practice, policy and research. We advance a diverse, dynamic early childhood profession and support all who care for, educate and work on behalf of young children.” Their work can easily apply to, and inform, the work of educators Pre K – 12. See their [resources to support Anti-Bias Education](#).

Project Look Sharp

“Project Look Sharp is a [media literacy](#) initiative of Ithaca College that develops and provides [lesson plans](#), media materials, training and support for the effective integration of media literacy with critical thinking into classroom curricula at all [education levels](#), including integration with the new [common core](#) standards.”



FOR PRINCIPALS

The Arc – For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

“[The Arc](#) is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We encompass all ages and more than 100 different diagnoses including autism, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, and various other developmental disabilities.”

New Thomas Guskey website

“Thomas R. Guskey, Ph.D., is Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Kentucky and known throughout the world for his work on student assessment, grading and reporting, professional learning and educational change.”

Check out the articles and other resources available on his [new website](#).

Rethinking Schools

For some of you, the resources available through [Rethinking Schools](#) will affirm and support your vision and practice. For some of you, these may push you a bit towards your growing edge. Either way, you will find the resources available through Rethinking Schools relevant to your work as principal.

Edutopia

Have you checked out the resources available through [Edutopia](#)? You can find resources to support your specific work as a building principal, as well as resources to share with all members of your school community to support their work.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Frontline Professional Growth Meeting

10 a.m.-2 p.m. | March 14 | Tioga Training Room

On March 14, TST BOCES is hosting a free user group for Frontline’s Professional Growth solutions (*formerly MLP*). The meeting will take place in the Tioga Training Room from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Working Lunch - provided. We have put this together with Frontline in order to make it easier for the districts in our region to get support, rather than having to travel downstate.

Learning Targets include:

- Explain Frontline’s Professional Learning Management and Evaluation Solutions, how they work together and best practices in managing these systems effectively. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of suffrage for women in New York State.
- Ask technical questions about our district’s efforts to manage either of these systems effectively.
- Resolve technical barriers that have made it difficult to manage either/both of these systems effectively.
- Explain the direction in which Frontline is moving and how all of their current solutions connect to each other.

The meeting will include an overview and discussion about Frontline’s Professional Learning Management and Evaluations Solutions, as well as time for participants to ask technical questions and

resolve technical barriers.

The **intended audience** includes key district personnel who manage the technical aspects of these systems, curriculum & instruction leaders, and lead evaluators.

Sign up now in [mlp](#).

PLATO User Trainings

8:30-11:30 a.m. | March 2

On Thursday March 2, 2017 there will be two training sessions offered for users of the PLATO online learning system. Stephen Kimner from Edmentum / PLATO will be on the TST BOCES campus to provide instruction and user support. In the morning from 8:30 a.m. –11:30 a.m. there will be a session for new users. In the afternoon from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. there will be a session for intermediate and advanced users.

Sign up for Morning Training for Beginning Users [here](#).

Sign up for Afternoon Training for Intermediate and Advanced Users [here](#).



workshop

Looking for more PD opportunities?

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

Unpacking the NCCAS for Arts Educators

4-5:30 p.m. | March 29 | TST BOCES

This one-hour workshop will introduce Arts Educators to the NCCAS and lead them through an investigation of the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards. New York State has reviewed these standards aided by an expansive team of educators, administrators and researchers and the standards are expected to be adopted in spring 2017. The workshop will also provide a cross walk with New York State standards for ELA and Math, Social Studies and the Next Generation Science Standards and how these relate to the Arts Standards. More information and registration can be found in [mlp](#).

Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants

The Best New Young Adult Books for Grades 6-12 - Kathleen Odean

8 a.m.-3 p.m. | March 14 | SUNY Cortland

In this practical, full-day workshop, Kathleen Odean introduces outstanding books published during the last year, with excellent new fiction and nonfiction titles and useful ideas for promoting and integrating the books into classrooms. Kathleen Odean is widely known for her lively presentations on new young adult books. This is her 10th year of presenting workshops for teachers and librarians that routinely receive outstanding evaluations. Kathleen was a public and school librarian for 17 years and served as chairperson of the Newbery Award Committee. Sign up now in [mlp](#).

Seven Valleys Writing Project's Writing Matters Conference IV

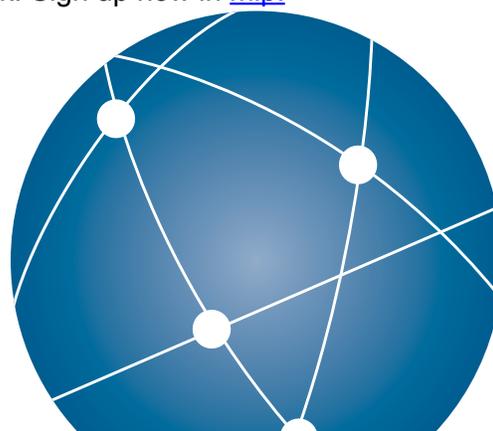
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. | March 11 | SUNY Cortland

Writing Matters IV at SUNY Cortland is the fourth annual teacher-to-teacher conference. All sessions are led by active teachers who use writing successfully in their classrooms. Each presentation is "hands-on," where the audience engages in

brief bursts of writing. Presenters are from across the curriculum.

The theme is "The Work of Writing." What kind of work is writing? How can writing be "good work" for students? Must writing "work" to produce career readiness? What is the best way to approach the work of teaching writing? Why does it work when teachers are also writers? Other interpretations of the theme are welcome.

Keynote speech by Dr. Steve Parks, Professor of Writing and Rhetoric at Syracuse University. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., half hour for lunch, a total of seven hours of PD. Certificates provided. Walk-ins possible but it sure works better if you pre-register. Breakfast and lunch provided. Parking is free and easily available as the campus is on break that week. Sign up now in [mlp](#).



LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Democracy and Education](#), by John Dewey, 1916
- [Policy Implementation – Getting People to Carry Out a Policy](#), (Fowler, F. in [Policy Studies for Educational Leaders](#), 2000)
- [Human Rights Educators February Newsletter](#)
- [Saving Democracy – What Schools Can Do](#)

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