

TST Weekly Bulletin

Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES

TST BOCES
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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

High Expectations

Working backwards, let's identify an academic, behavioral or social-emotional learning outcome that pushes our own expectations of what our students/colleagues/staff can accomplish. Then, let's build a lesson or plan that includes the supports necessary to make this success possible.

- Computer Based Testing (CBT) support via [TST BOCES](#).
- We need your input, and it's only one question: What do you think about the [student](#) outcomes that focus our work? Please let us know by completing this [one question survey](#).

NEWS & NOTES

Survey on Student and Teacher Technology Literacy Now Open

- NYSED has released a brief survey to gather information from the field around the issue of student and teacher technology literacy. Please help NYSED 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.
- The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/nysedtechliteracy>.
- 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.



LINKS, ARTICLES & BOOKS

- [Orchestrating Mathematical Discourse to Enhance Student Learning](#)
- National Women's Law Center
- *Getting Schools Ready for the World*, Will Richardson, 2016
- [Black on White – Black Writers on What it Means to Be White](#), David R. Roediger, 1998

Contact Barry to borrow a book or article

THERE'S MORE ↓

Quote of the Week

"The best differentiation inevitably begins with what we might assume are 'too high expectations' for many students and continues with building supports to enable more and more of those students to succeed at very high levels."
(Tomlinson & McTighe).
-- Scheurich & Skrla, 2003

FOR TEACHERS

Putting it all together - Instructional Planning and Delivery

Understanding by Design

Also known as backwards planning, Understanding by Design is a research-based approach to instructional planning and delivery that helps ensure that what we teach what really matters, and that our assessment methods are 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](#)

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Universal design for learning (UDL) is a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights into how humans learn.

- [UDL at a Glance – Video](#)
- [UDL Guidelines – Visuals and written explanations](#)
- [Resources to create “dynamic, UDL supported learning environments”](#)

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 at the email address below with your request, including 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 the Speakers' Bureau or a related topic, please contact the group at the email holocaust-awareness@iaujc.org.

FOR PRINCIPALS

The Wall That Heals

Secondary Principals - From June 1- 4, 2017, a national touring exhibition called *The Wall That Heals* will visit Port Byron Central Schools. Neil F. O'Brien, Superintendent of Schools for Port Byron, asked that I share his personal invitation to you, your teachers and your students to visit and experience the exhibit while it is on display in their community. Find more information [here](#), and share with the appropriate teachers in your building, and respond directly to Neil if you are interested.

Progressive Education Network (PEN) Call for Workshop Submissions

“Are you an educator who is committed to DIVERSITY? Have you been wanting to share your ideas about EQUITY? Do you believe it’s important to amplify STUDENT VOICE? The Progressive Education Network will hold its annual conference in Boston, Massachusetts October 5-7, 2017. We are looking for educators like you, who promote diversity, equity and justice in their schools, to present at this year’s conference. This year’s theme is: Amplify students’ voice, agency, conscience and intellect to create a more equitable, just and sustainable world. To submit an idea for a workshop, please [complete the application](#). The deadline for the application is Monday, March 6, 2017.” More information can be found [here](#).

Critical Friends Group for Principals, Administrators, and Educational Leaders

We have the chance to bring a National School Reform Foundation Critical Friends Group Coaches training to our region this summer and fall. There are two options for these trainings, in terms of time frame. The full training requires 5 days. We can run a 5-day session this summer, or we can run the first 3-days this summer, followed by 2 days in the fall. We will need a minimum of 15 people fully committed in order to make this happen. At this point, five principals have indicated interest. If you are interested in participating but have not yet let Barry know, please send him an email asap.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Offered through our folks here at TST BOCES

Tech Voyagers

Tech Voyagers is a facilitated, collaborative and ongoing professional development. Individuals and teams of teachers focus on technology-supported instructional strategies that benefit student learning. The goal of this professional development is to create, implement and evaluate long-term, technology-enhanced learning opportunities for students. Specific learning targets may vary by participant. Check out the [website](#) and the [introduction video](#). Participants may sign up for one, some or all sessions: 2/16, 12:30-3:30; 3/15, 8:00-11:00; 4/13 12:30-3:30.



Self-Guided Book Study – Making Number Talks Matter (Part 1)

This independent professional development opportunity invites participant to read about, reflect upon and consider implementing this nationally renowned teaching strategy highlighted in Making Number Talks Matter: Developing Mathematical Practices and Deepening Understanding, Grades 4-10 (Humphreys & Parker, 2015). Number Talks are five- to fifteen-minute classroom conversations around purposefully crafted computation problems that are solved mentally. They support instruction of both the Common Core Math Standards and Mathematical Practices. They result in the increase of students' sense-making and encourage divergent thinking in classrooms. For more information, or to sign up, visit [MLP](#).

Offered by other organizations and/or our consultants:

Building a Writing Sequence

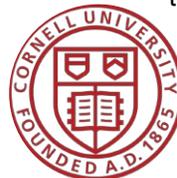
The second Seven Valleys Writing Project teacher-to-teacher conversation about writing will be held on Feb. 15 in the Cincinnatus library at 3:30 p.m. All are invited to attend this session, regardless of whether they came to the first one. The focus is "building a writing sequence." The goal is to have students change their writing habits in increments, one writing assignment at a time. They need it broken down over time. We will look at an assignment sequence and touch base with an article written by Peter Elbow, who, besides having an unforgettable name, is a very practical and down-to-earth writing researcher. More information can be found [here](#).

Looking for more PD opportunities?

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

Educator Tour of the Cornell Hip Hop Archive

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.



PLATO – Beginner and Advanced User Trainings

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 12-3 p.m., there will be a session for intermediate and advanced users. [Morning Training for Beginning Users](#) or [Afternoon Training for Intermediate and Advanced Users](#).

