

Instruction & Technology Weekly Bulletin

Volume III, No. 33

February 13, 2012



“When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves.”

- William Arthur Ward

Upcoming Events

- Tues., Feb. 14 – Valentine’s Day
- Mon., Feb. 20 – President’s Day (All Staff Recess)
- Tues.-Fri., Feb. 21-24 – February Break (10, 11 Month Employees)
- Wed, Feb. 29 – Leap Day
- Sun., Mar. 11 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Fri., Mar. 16 – Superintendent’s Conference Day
- Sat., Mar. 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
- Tues., Mar. 20 – First Day of Spring

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A Message from Mike

Should elementary school students be required to memorize their math facts? Conventional wisdom around this topic has ranged from yes to no and back to yes. It even sparked the “Math Wars” in the 1990s. With New York State’s adoption of the Common Core Learning Standards, there is a greater emphasis on the balance between fluency with computation skills and a deep understanding of underlying mathematical concepts. The Common Core calls this “dual intensity.”

I have seen the importance of this dual intensity firsthand. When I taught high school math, I watched students struggle to learn algebra as they got stuck in arithmetic that could have been memorized in elementary school. If you need a calculator for 6×4 , then $6a \times 4a$ becomes nearly impossible. A good chunk of the three days I spent in Albany last week was devoted to evaluating principals in the context of the Common Core. When I arrived home on Friday afternoon, I was brought right back to where the rubber meets the road as I quizzed Emma on her multiplication facts. She had a best time with the flashcards – 1:18 and only two mistakes. I am living dual intensity.

In a TED Talk from 2010, High School Math Teacher [Dan Meyer](#) does a fantastic job describing how math curriculum and instruction need to change in order to meet the balance between fluency and understanding. His approach to helping students embrace solving novel problems will really make you reflect on your own mathematics education. Enjoy.

Staff Reminders

❖ Superintendent's Conference Day – March 16, 2012, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

- ✓ On Friday, February 10, 2012, you received an email from Mary Balme regarding Superintendent's Conference Day. Mary provided general information and links for workshop registration. **Instruction and Technology staff should report to 15 Linden Park, CR 1A/B at 8:00 AM for Session I. Staff must register for the Technology session in Session 1.**

Technology	03/16/2012 08:00 AM	10 (100)	Michael Doughty	ENROLL ▶
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Staff will also have to select one workshop from Session 2 based on the list in WinCap Web. If you do not want to participate in Session 2, you will be required to work the full day.

Instruction and Technology Staff Superintendent's Conference Day Agenda:

- 8:00 AM – Dan White Opening Speech
- 8:15 AM – Patricia Anderson, People Skills and Styles
- 10:00 AM – Break/Snack
- 10:30 AM – Travel to Workshop
- 11:00 AM – Attend Selected Workshop
- 1:00 PM – Early Dismissal

- ❖ **Conference Requests and Mileage Reimbursement** – Recently, there have been questions as to what *is* and *is not* eligible to claim. As an example, meals are not reimbursed unless you stay overnight. If you are staying overnight and receiving per diem meal reimbursement, based on state guidelines, meals provided through the conference or the hotel (e.g., continental breakfast at hotel, lunch at conference) will be deducted from the daily per diem amount. If you know prior to the conference, meals will be included, please note that information on your conference proposal forms. For further clarification on reimbursement guidelines check with Lisa, Judy or Carolyn.

Staff News

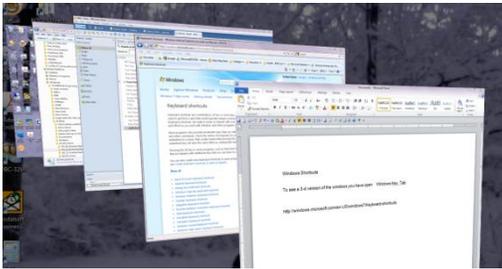
- ❖ I would like to introduce Todd Smith to our department. Todd will start on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 as an Instructional Specialist-Math. Todd has been an educator for more than 10 years and has taught a wide variety of students and courses. He is a New York State Education Specialist. As part of being a specialist he has helped develop the Integrated Algebra Regents Exam. He has written questions for the New York State Common Core Standards and has been a part of the process of developing new exams. If you see Todd, please welcome him to Instruction and Technology.
- ❖ **February Break Week Activities for All Instruction and Technology Department Staff** – For those working, let's make February break memorable.
 - ✓ Monday, Feb. 20, 2012 – Recess for all staff
 - ✓ Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012 – Potluck Dessert – 1:30 PM, 11 Linden Park, CR's A13 and A10
 - ✓ Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012 – Surprise, Surprise, Surprise – 11 Linden Park, CR's A13, H2. **You will not want to miss this!**
 - ✓ Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012 – Potluck Lunch – Noon, 11 Linden Park, CR's A13 and A10
 - ✓ Friday, Feb. 23, 2012 – Bagels for Breakfast, 11 Linden Park, Break RoomSign-up sheets will not be needed for Potluck Dessert Day or Potluck Lunch Day...to participate, simply bring something in to share.
- ❖ **15 Linden Renovation Update**
 - ✓ As the renovations wrap up, I'd like to share comments that have been pouring in to 15 Linden staff. Participants attending our workshops are totally impressed with the upgrades and feel the area is easy to access, professional looking and lends to enhanced learning. If you haven't stopped in to see the changes, do so. If all goes as planned, the work should be completed by the end of break week.
- ❖ **Feedback Meetings:** Please review the schedule below for upcoming open forum meetings with Mike.

Date	Time	Location
February 13	10:30 AM	A10
March 19	2:00 PM	A10
April 19	1:00 PM	H1
May 9	11:00 AM	A10
June 13	2:30 PM	A10

- Carolyn

Technology Tip of the Week

Thanks to Diane Smith for sharing this Tip of the Week:



Windows 7 Keyboard Shortcuts

Windows 7 keyboard shortcuts are valuable tools. Below you will find popular shortcuts.

- To cycle through programs on the taskbar using Aero Flip 3-D, hold down the Windows Key and hit Tab.
- Continue to hold the Windows Key and hit Tab several times to scroll through all open windows. Release both keys when the window you are looking for is on top.

If you are presenting and your audience needs a closer view or you would like to see a picture or information up close, the following shortcuts may come in handy.

- To zoom in, hold down the Windows Key and press + (plus sign). When magnified, you can scroll around the screen by holding Ctrl and Alt and using the arrow keys to go in different directions.
- To zoom out, hold down the Windows Key and press - (minus sign) or Esc.

Click on this [link](#) for additional shortcuts.

Jeremiah's Jottings

As we continue to adjust our services to match the mandates of State Ed and the needs of teachers and districts, we have found an interesting shift occurring. There is an expectation that everyone has more general knowledge and that they have areas of focus or expertise. For example, it is no longer enough to just know about a specific student information system. One must also be aware of the requirements of demographic reporting, the type and nature of assessments, the use of data by administrators, teachers and parents, the different systems that are available, the information they offer and how these systems talk together, the formats of exports...shall I go on? This shift is likely due to a couple of factors. First, a researcher I recently listened to regarding the changing education system stated, "The entire storehouse of human knowledge gained over the last six thousand years is now doubled every five years, or less. And this doubling is starting to accelerate." Second, the work we do is interconnected in a way it has not been previously. There is more information out there AND it is ever more interconnected and complex.

In order to address these expectations, our instructional specialists (PD, Model Schools, Library, BUBL/Challenger, RSE-TASC, etc.) are pushing themselves to become proficient in three primary areas: instructional strategies and theories, technological tools and the use of data for instruction. Within these areas of proficiency, everyone will have areas of focus or expertise.

In moving forward, it made sense to combine the various teams involved with technology, instruction and data as we created the new department, Instruction and Technology. My challenge to this department is to think of ways to share knowledge and expertise so others can benefit from it and add to their general knowledge base. Share your knowledge by offering a "lunch and learn" or sending a short article to Carolyn for the newsletter.

-Jeremiah

JENerally Speaking... Library, Media, and Arts News

One hundred school librarians gathered at Monroe #1 BOCES on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, to learn how Common Core State Standards impact library instruction and classroom collaboration. Many thanks go to our presentors who have prepared our school librarians to be instruction leaders:



- Welcoming Remarks
 - **Jeffrey Cannell, Deputy Commissioner, Cultural Education and Acting State Librarian**
- Keynote Speaker
 - **Belinda O'Brien, Associate Professor and Director of the Library Media Specialist Program, St. John Fisher College**
- Accessible Instructional Materials Presentation
 - **Alissa Mayer, Special Education Training Specialist, Monroe #1 BOCES**

-Jen

Steve's Space



On Wednesday, February 8, 2012, Joey Guisto and Shaun Dulen ran a special WBER class for Fairport students. The Amerks requested that WBER broadcast their game from Toronto. Since this required using station equipment, our only option was to transport Fairport students from Fairport High School to WBER. With the stipend received from the Amerks for this broadcast, we were able to transport these students to WBER. Our thanks go out to Paula Powell in the BOCES Transportation Department, for arranging this transportation.

Visiting WBER offered these students an opportunity to tour a real radio station, operate equipment used to broadcast from Toronto, record their own radio club liner, and ask questions about how a radio station works. This was a unique opportunity for these students, and without cost to the district. Nice job Joey and Shaun for making this happen. What a great experience for these students.

-Steve

Up to the TASC

We are living in a time of great change. Things are coming at us at lightning speed and it often seems like just when we think we've figured something out, something new crops up we need to grapple with. The New York State Education

Department has so many initiatives going, it is often challenging to keep track. It is difficult to find anyone in education who hasn't heard about APPR, Common Core, Differentiated Accountability, ESEA waivers, School Quality Reviews, Student Learning Objectives. The list is almost endless and overwhelming at the least. It is important during these changing times, that as educational leaders we help to foster the change process. Research has shown that five key principles have been identified to help facilitate change.

- **Principle #1** – Find the bright spots. This means celebrating even small successes.
- **Principle #2** – People don't resist change, they resist being changed. People need to feel valued.
- **Principle #3** – Relationships first! It is easier to facilitate change when you foster relationships with those involved in the change process first.
- **Principle #4** – Shrink the change. Recognize and highlight those pieces of change that already seem to have been conquered.
- **Principle #5** – Make it safe; acknowledge the "dip". We all know that when we are learning something new, it is natural to experience a dip or some bumps in the road prior to experiencing true success.

-The RSE-TASC