



Weekly Bulletin

“ Fools ignore complexity. Pragmatists suffer it. Geniuses remove it.
- Alan Perlis

Upcoming Events

- Tues., Jan. 29 – National Puzzle Day
- Thurs., Jan. 31 – Backwards Day
- Fri., Feb. 1 – National Freedom Day
- Sat., Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day
- Feb., 3 - Feb. 9 – National School Counseling Week
- Sun., Feb. 10 – Chinese New Year
- Tues., Feb. 12 – Lincoln’s Birthday
- Wed., Feb. 13 – Ash Wednesday
- Thurs., Feb. 14 – Valentine’s Day

Follow this [link to the BOCES Calendar of Events](#)

A Message from Mike

Mike: How was practice?

Emma: I’ll tell you when we get in the car. That was ominous enough to keep me interested. Here’s how it went in the car:

Mike: So what happened?

Emma: It was horrible. I hit my heels on the side of the pool on a backstroke turn, and there is something wrong with my shoulder. It hurts when I do this.

Mike: Don’t do that.

Emma: [annoyed eye-roll]

Mike: Your heels are just bruised. Maybe it’s growing pains in your shoulder.

Emma: [more annoyed] I know growing pains and this is not growing pains. [I’m sure she wasn’t channeling Lloyd Benson from his vice presidential debate with Dan Quayle, but it was pretty funny.]

Mike: Who is the person in our family who knows the most about the human body?

Emma: Mom.

Mike: We will have her take a look at your shoulder.

Emma: What happens when Mom tells me that I am fine and all I need is ice, rest, and Advil?

Mike: Then that’s what you do.

Emma: [annoyed] Uhhhh. Fine. But that medicine doesn’t work anyway.

Mike: [thoughtful pause] So how was school today?

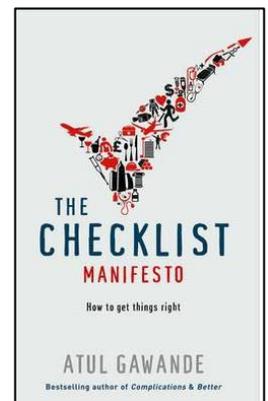
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Data Snapshot

22,000

The number of adults BOCES assisted in getting their GED (high school equivalency diploma) in the 2011-2012 school year



The importance of recognizing that someone knows more than you do in a particular discipline is not a new concept. In his book *the Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right* (Metropolitan Books, 2009), author and surgeon Atul

Gawande makes a case for the importance of checklists in achieving accuracy in complex processes. Dr. Gawande is a surgeon who saw an opportunity to reduce post-surgery complications by incorporating a very simple preoperative checklist into the procedures of the operating room. The author demonstrated how the depth and complexity of knowledge required for many professions have exceeded the capacity for any one individual to master. There is just too much to know. Enter the checklist, which keeps practitioners from missing critical steps. This simple addition was shown to reduce postoperative complications significantly.

When you consider the depth of knowledge required to do so many of the jobs in our organization, it's impossible for us not to rely on one another to get things done. I encourage you to take a moment to think about and to appreciate how you are relying on the knowledge and expertise of others in order to do quality work.

- Mike Doughty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Technology Tip of the Week

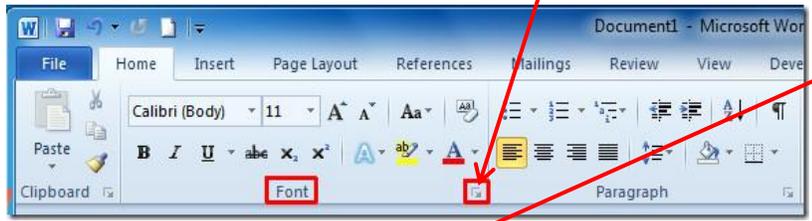
Thanks to Diane Smith for sharing this Tip of the Week:

Tech Tip – Change the default font in Word 2010

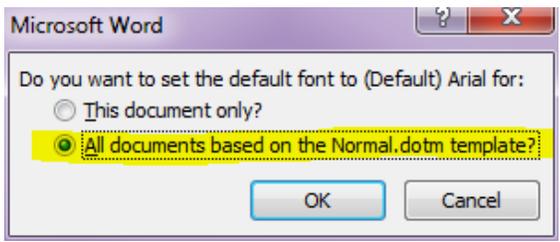
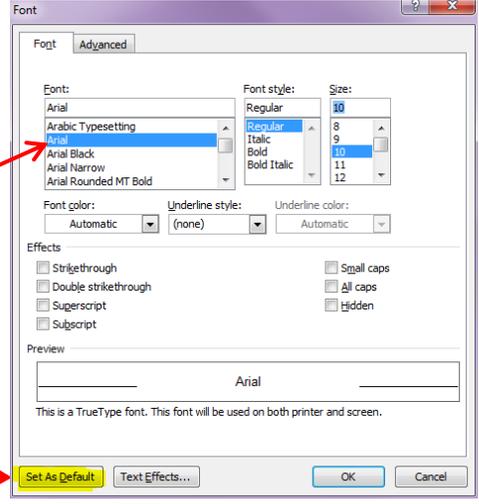
You may have noticed that in Word 2010, the "Default Font" is called "Calibri". If you would like to change the default font from Calibri to your favorite font, follow these steps:



1. Open a Word document or create a new document in Word.
2. On the Home Ribbon click on the **tiny down arrow** in the Font area.



3. When the Font Dialog box opens up, select your favorite **font, font style, and font size.**
4. Click **Set As Default.**
5. If you would like to change the font **for this document and all future documents**, select **All documents based on the Normal.dotm template** and click **OK.** (If you would only like to change the font for the document you are working on, select **This document only** and then click **OK.**)



Programs & Services Update

Instructional Technology

Brighton Twelve Corners Middle School Travels Back in Time to River City!

Brighton sixth grade science students have been traveling back in time to aid River City inhabitants in finding out what is making them sick! In this culminating activity using a Multi User Virtual Environment (MUVE), students are using previous knowledge learned in the 21st century to solve the mysterious illness that is affecting the people of 1878 River City. Students are able to move around River City with their avatar and "talk" to the inhabitants. Students learn which

residents are ill and assess their symptoms, in order to discover how environmental factors or even the weather may be causing the people in the city to become sick. Three teachers are using River City in the science classroom. When all is said and done, 259 students will have traveled back in time to solve the mystery.

Doreen D. Pietrantonio, Instructional Technology Specialist

District Based

The District Based Team welcomes our new interim Assistant Principal, Anne Ressler. Anne joins us with a wealth of experience as a special educator and administrator. She has hit the ground running and is excited about supporting our classes located at Webster Schroeder, Winslow, Burger Middle, our Transition Apartment, and the Brighton Administration Building. Anne replaces Liz Walton, who has accepted the Interim Coordinator of Consultant Teaching and Tutoring position for the remainder of the year. Best of luck to Anne and Liz in their new positions.

Cyndi Lembo, Principal, District Based Program

Connecting with a Colleague

Each week, a staff member will be selected to complete a brief questionnaire to help us get to know him or her. This week we are connecting with **Sheryl Keegan**.

What are your primary responsibilities?

I oversee the Community Education courses offered online and in the evenings through the Adult and Community Education Department. Marketing and coordinating corporate training services for a variety of organizations is also one of my primary responsibilities.

How long have you worked at BOCES?

I have physically been here for 12 years, but I became a full-time BOCES employee in 2004; prior to that I was here, but as an MCC employee assigned to assist Adult Ed. through a grant partnership.

What is your favorite part of your job?

No two days are alike. There are many different elements to my job, so I have the opportunity to wear many hats and interact with a variety of people.

What did you enjoy most about last year's Superintendent's Conference Day?

It was a chance to meet and interact with people in other departments socially yet learn something new that can be applied to the work I do for BOCES.

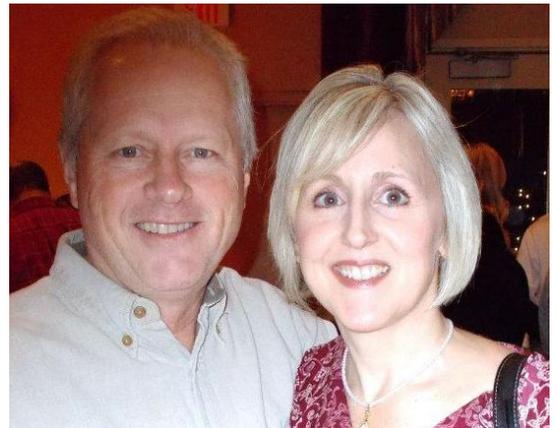
What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

My family likes to stay fit, so we spend a lot of time at the Eastside Y. Squeezed into that free time is also a part-time video business my husband and I own as well as many church activities that I am involved with.

What is the one thing you would like people to know about you?

I like to challenge myself and recently picked up a clarinet after almost 29 years of putting one down! I was pleasantly surprised to see how much came back to me, and I am planning to start lessons—again! My trumpet-playing son, said, “Mom, you really *did* play the clarinet!” He was proud of me, but not as proud as I was of myself for trying. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks!

Look for a different colleague to be profiled each week.



Sheryl and her husband, Tim

Health Services Update

FLU NEWS

The CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a joint report stating that kids who have neurological disorders – including cerebral palsy, intellectual disability and epilepsy – are more susceptible to death from flu related complications. They had found that 64% of all child deaths associated with the 2009 H1N1 virus were children who had underlying neurological disorders.

Many of our students fall into this category. In order to protect them, it is important for all of us to get a flu shot. If you were unable to attend one of our clinics, please make a point to obtain your flu shot somewhere else. Thank you for helping to protect our kids.

Sometimes people are exposed to the flu virus before their antibody level is protective, which may be why some folks feel they “got the flu” from the shot. However, it is **impossible** to get the flu from the flu shot. There is no live virus in it. Remember, it takes up to 14 days following a flu shot to build up the antibodies required in order to prevent you from getting sick.

- Kathy Mackay, RN, SNT, FNP, Executive Coordinator of Health Services

SANE (Sometimes Acronyms Need Explaining)

Thanks to Nichole Outhouse, Director of Teacher Center, for the following explanation:

Eastern Monroe Career Center (EMCC): offers programs in human and public services, medical careers, technology, business, trade, and industrial fields to high school students during their junior and/or senior year of high school