



# Weekly Bulletin



To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.”

- Winston Churchill

## Upcoming Events

- Tues., Aug. 20 – National Radio Day
- Thurs., Aug. 22 – Regular Board Meeting
- Mon., Sept. 2 – Labor Day
- Wed., Sept. 4 – Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
- Thurs., Sept. 5 – Regular Board Meeting
- Wed., Sept. 11 – National Day of Service and Remembrance
- Sat., Sept. 14 – Yom Kippur

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

## A Message from Mike

Greetings from Salem, Virginia. Theresa, the girls and I have been down here for the past week visiting Theresa’s parents, Betsy and José. Their neighbors have a 13-year-old son, Trent, who has been hanging out with Emma and Paige by the pool. The other day I was talking with Trent, who will start school as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader in the Salem City Schools this fall. With the results of New York’s 3-8 testing fresh in my mind, I asked Trent about the kind of testing that students in Virginia have to do. He told me all about the SOL testing they do each year in ELA and math, and how in certain years they also have a writing test. SOL stands for Standards of Learning, an acronym that is almost as unfortunate as SLO. I asked him about how the tests are administered, and he told me that classes take turns going the computer labs in the building to take the tests. I must have looked surprised. New York is at least two years away from computer-based testing, and skeptics wonder if it will even happen then. Then Trent told me how they have been testing that way for “three or four years.” Apparently computer-based testing has become so routine, that he couldn’t even remember when it started.

Later in the week, one of Betsy’s nurse colleagues, Melissa, and her husband Kevin came over for dinner. Kevin is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for the Roanoke County Public Schools. After my conversation with Trent, I wanted to get a teacher’s perspective. Kevin echoed the “no big deal” attitude about computer-based testing. I asked Kevin if he would ever want to go back to paper and pencil tests. “No way.” He liked how the results were delivered so much faster. I asked if the kids had problems using the computers or keyboarding. He gave me one of those “really?” looks. He may have even

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## Data Snapshot

A nationally representative survey of teen internet users shows that, at some point, 70% of them have sought outside advice about how to manage some aspect of their privacy online. When they do seek outside help, teens most often turn to friends, parents or other close family members:

- 42% have talked to friends or peers
- 41% have talked to a parent
- 37% have asked a sibling or cousin

Girls are more likely than boys to have asked for help. In addition, those ages 12 and 13 are more likely than older teens to have asked for help and are more likely to have talked with their parents.

(source: [Pew](#))

said, “Really?” Kevin did remember hearing about some computer in some school somewhere in Virginia that might have crashed during one student’s test, but he couldn’t remember any of those issues in the building where he teaches. And he didn’t seem to think that it would be that big a deal. Unlike Trent, Kevin could remember testing before it was computer-based, and he did not want to go back. Just the teachers’ time and effort saved in the administration of the tests had made the change worthwhile.

For education in the United States and New York State this is a time of immense change in K-12 education. It will be interesting to see which changes stick and which ones do not. Sometimes the true measure of a meaningful change is not being able to remember the way things were before, or if able to remember, not wanting to go back. That seems to be the case with computer-based testing in Virginia, at least based on my small sample size. I wonder how this change will happen in New York State and particularly in our component school districts. And, more importantly, how long will it take for our students and teachers to forget “the way we used to do it?”

This coming week, we are continuing our drive south to see the Florida relatives and do Florida things.

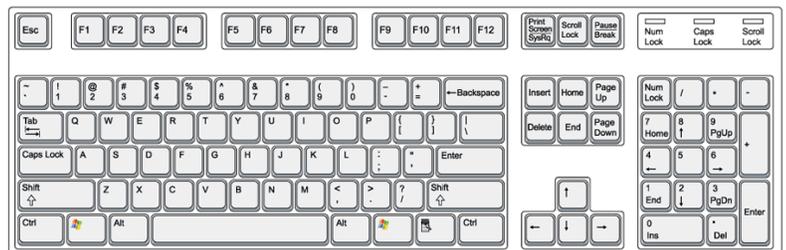
- Mike Doughty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

## Technology Tip of the Week

### Find your last edit (Microsoft Word)

Have you ever found yourself editing a large document, jumping from location to location, only to realize that you should have done just one more thing at the last editing spot? How do you find that exact position again? It is very simple...

Just use **Shift + F5** to return to the spot of your last edit.



## Did You Know?

### BOCES 1 Transportation

- BOCES 1 Transportation fleet buses traveled 1,700,000 miles during the 2012-2013 school year.
- Our drivers safely transported 386 students daily from home to school and back.
- 557 students were transported during mid-day for work shuttles, Community Based Instruction (CBI), assessments, and audiology services.
- The fleet of 76 school buses is serviced by four mechanics, who also service 63 other vehicles throughout the campus, totaling 139 vehicles.
- Our four mechanics have a combined total of over 100 years of school bus service experience.
- 68 of our bus drivers, holding Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL), have a combined 607 years of school bus driving service.
- 57 bus attendants, who help transport our students, have a combined total of 296 years of school bus service.

- Valerie Nowak, Director of Transportation

# 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 **Joan Evans**.

- **What are your primary responsibilities?** I am an AT in the District Based classroom at Brighton. It's a very active classroom of vibrant 18-21 year old students. Our students work jobs in the community, cook meals in the classroom, work out at the YMCA, go out to eat in the community and do grocery shopping on a weekly basis. I have the privilege of supporting our students both in the classroom and out in the community. It is our goal to help the students become as independent as possible.
- **How long have you worked at BOCES?** I started with BOCES 9 years ago.
- **What is your favorite part of your job?** A favorite part of my job is watching students gain independence. It's so exciting that we have welled up with tears at Wegmans! What a thrill to watch a student go from struggling to locate an item, to asking an employee for help! It's so moving to see their smile of confidence for a job well done!
- **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** I love spending time with my grandchildren and my family. I also enjoy camping, journaling and reading.
- **What is one thing you would like people to know about you?** I like to laugh and have fun and am also a person of deep faith. I keep busy with study groups and trying to make a positive impact in people's lives in my community as my husband pastors a small church in our town.



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## Programs & Services Update

Monroe #1 BOCES, through our **Cooperative Summer School**, offered a new Career Exploration course for 7th and 8th graders. The four week course which was held at Roth Middle School allowed students to learn more about future career opportunities and provided hands-on experience in the following career areas:

- **Construction Trades:** Students became acquainted with the skills needed by those in construction trades as they learned how to use tools safely, applied math skills for measurement, and worked in teams to build Adirondack chairs.
- **Emergency Services:** Students gained understanding of some of the responsibilities of emergency responders, such as patient immobilization and auto extraction to protect the spine. Students learned how to use items in a first aid kit as they each assembled their own kit and created a rescue bracelet.
- **Information Technology:** Students used the knowledge gained from the week to create and troubleshoot a stand-alone computer network that supported a game server with multi-player interactive team play. Students learned how to use a digital multi-meter, disassemble and reassemble a laptop computer, and construct and test a Network cable.
- **Culinary Arts:** To better understand the job responsibilities of those who work within the culinary fields, students learned safe kitchen skills and food handling as they prepared a variety of delicious foods. Students put their math skills to use as they followed recipes.

We plan to match the participating 7th and 8th graders with EMCC student mentors and schedule a time for them to visit a program of their choice during the upcoming school year.

*- Joyce Cymer, Director, Career & Technical Education, Co-operative Summer School, Driver Education, ESOL & Translation Services, Grants*

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The **District Based** Administrators would like to thank everyone who made our ESY program such a success. Our staff was exemplary, putting students first and making sure every student was valued and encouraged to continue their learning experiences throughout the six week session. We'd also like to thank the Bird Morgan staff for welcoming us to their building and for all the support we received this summer. One of the first days someone told me that we were "guests and should be treated as such". I am pleased to say we never felt like guests. We were so warmly welcomed

that we felt right at home from the beginning! There are too many BOCES staff members to thank personally. Preparing for the DB Summer program is a lot of work, but through the support of everyone at BOCES we were able to do it seamlessly. Thank you all; your support has touched our students' lives and for that we are grateful. Have a great rest of your summer.

- Cyndi Lembo, Principal, District Based Program



## SANE (Sometimes Acronyms Need Explaining)

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: **(CHADD)**