



Weekly Bulletin

“ No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.”
- Hal Borland

Upcoming Events

- Thurs., March 13 – Regular Board Meeting
- Fri., March 14 – Superintendent’s Conference Day
- Mon., March 17– St. Patrick’s Day
- Fri., March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day
- Wed., March 26 – [Purple Day](#)
- Thurs., March 27 – Regular Board Meeting

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

A Message from Mike

How do you connect with other people? Is it necessary to disconnect from our devices before we can truly connect with other human beings? There are times at home when all four of us will be sitting around the table, each on a different device, and none of us are looking at each other. And since at home we communicate using American Sign Language there’s absolutely no communication going on. I attended a workshop in Albany this weekend where the presenter shared this [cell phone commercial from Thailand](#).

What strategies have you found effective for disconnecting from your devices in order to connect with other people? The pull of the new text message with the new email can sometimes feel irresistible, but at the end of the day, it’s a choice.

In the spirit of connecting, I encourage you to immerse yourself in our work on Superintendent’s Conference Day on Friday. A great deal of effort and many hours have gone into the planning of this special day. This year is particularly exciting, not only for the fantastic content, but for the fact that the vast majority of us will be together in one place for the first time in a long time. Enjoy the time together, and try to take in what a large and diverse organization we are...and how we are #1 for a reason.

- Mike Doughty, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

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Data Snapshot

The Work-Preparation Paradox



96%

of **Chief Academic Officers** rate their institution as very/somewhat effective at **preparing students** for the world of work.



14%

of **Americans** strongly agree that **college graduates** in this country are well-prepared for **success in the workplace**.



11%

of **business leaders** strongly agree **graduating students** have the skills and competencies that their businesses need.

Source: Lumina Foundation/Gallup Poll 2013
The 2013 Inside Higher Ed Survey of College & University Chief Academic Officers report

Technology Tip of the Week

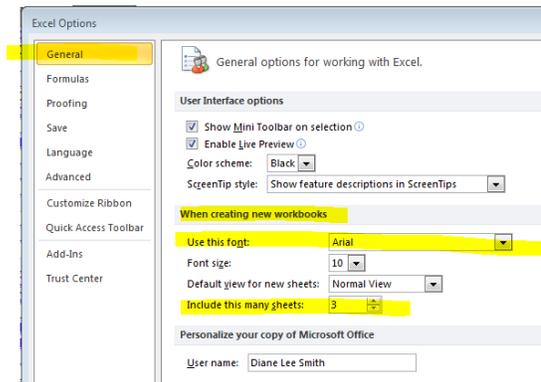
Thanks to Diane Smith for the following tech tip:

Changing Excel's Default Font

If you don't like the font that Excel uses when it creates a new worksheet you can easily change it.

1. Go to the **File** ribbon.
2. Click on **Options**.
3. Click on the **General** group.
4. Select the **font face and size** you want.
5. Click **OK**.

You can also select how many worksheets each new workbook should contain.



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 **Carol Greer**.

- **What are your primary responsibilities?** As an educational audiologist, I work with students up to 21 years of age who have hearing loss and/or other auditory deficits/weaknesses that impact their learning. I assess hearing and auditory processing, evaluate and fit amplification, counsel students and their parents, introduce and manage Hearing Assistance Technology in the classroom, work with students and teachers in school to best use amplification and optimize hearing, and participate as part of the educational team in developing and implementing a student's education plan. Our department is responsible for BOCES program students, as well as students in public and private schools. Not only do we provide services to our Monroe County component districts, but WFL and Genesee Valley BOCES all cross contract with us.
- **How long have you worked at BOCES?** I have been with BOCES for 23 years. Prior to that, I worked for 8 years as an audiologist at the Hearing Center and the Rochester Otolaryngology Group.
- **What is your favorite part of your job?** I love working directly with students and teachers in the classroom. Optimizing a student's ability to function within the school setting is extremely rewarding.
- **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** I like to veg after work, especially when the weather is cold and blustery or wet. I love movies and, hate to say it, am a TV junkie. Love everything on AMC, Showtime and HBO, Downton Abbey, Good Wife, The Blacklist (just to name a few). There is always something to watch on my DVR list. I also enjoy puzzles of any kind...jigsaw, crossword, etc. When the weather is nice, I like to hike with my husband and garden. On the weekends, we are usually with friends enjoying a nice dinner and lively conversation.
- **What is the one thing you would like people to know about you?** I love my job. I also work with an amazing group of people in the Audiology Department. We have been together for many years and are fortunate to be able to call each other close friends. We are a small, but important department.



News and Notes

TASC™ - NEW HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST

On January 2, 2014, New York State implemented a new high school equivalency test called the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™) to replace the General Educational Development (GED®) as the primary pathway to a New York State High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma. The TASC™ is based on Common Core State Standards and is used to verify that examinees have knowledge in core content areas equivalent to that of graduating high school seniors. CTB-McGraw-Hill is responsible for the new test content and the scoring of all TASC™ exams.

The TASC™ tests a candidate's knowledge in five areas:

- Language Arts – Reading
- Language Arts – Writing
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Grandfathering GED® test scores: A candidate may use up to four (4) passing GED® sub-tests (score of 410 or above) taken between 2002-2013 to count towards earning a New York State High School Equivalency Diploma. The use of these scores will be allowed for two years (2014 and 2015). Candidates taking TASC™ for the first time must take all five TASC™ sub-tests. Each TASC™ sub-test that the candidate passes will be posted on the candidate's transcript. If the candidate does not pass the TASC™ sub-test but passed the same GED® sub-test, the GED® score will be accepted as a passing score. If a candidate has already passed all five (5) GED® sub-tests but did not attain the minimum total score of 2250, the candidate must pass at least one of the TASC™ sub-tests to obtain a New York State High School Equivalency Diploma.

Candidates aged 19 or older without a high school diploma can take the HSE exam. For the rules about eligibility for people under the age of 19, you should refer to the following State Ed website:

http://www.acces.nysed.gov/hse/app_process.html.

Sample test questions are also available at <http://www.tasctest.com/sample-questions.html>. Can you answer any of these questions?

Monroe #1 BOCES is an approved New York State TASC™ test site, testing approximately 40 people each month. The TASC™ test is free to New York State residents.

- Annette H. Christensen, Ed.D., Executive Coordinator, Multi-Occupational/FOCUS, GED, Adult Education

Programs & Services Update

Instructional Programs and Services

Please take a moment to watch the [video](#) of how a remote robot in a Brighton classroom is allowing a student to participate in the classroom without leaving her home. We began this project with Brighton several weeks ago. It has been quite successful. Our goal at BOCES is to make robots like this one available to our cooperating districts through distance learning. Technical support and training would also be provided through the distance learning CoSer.

- Steve Orcutt, Director of Instructional Programs and Services

EMCC

On Tuesday, March 4th a hearty group of EMCC students left at 5:30am in below zero weather to participate in the SkillsUSA Regional Competition at Alfred State College. EMCC had 35 students participate in various competitions in their skill areas. Each student displayed their commitment to their career path by competing fiercely but with great professionalism and honor. Thirteen students placed in the top three in their competition to bring home a trophy. There were eight first place winners! Please see photo and the list of winners below.



EMCC				
SkillsUSA Regional Competition Winners				
March 4, 2014				
Name	Contest	Course	Home School	
1st Place Regional Competition				
1	Boyce, Katherine	Commercial Baking	Culinary Arts	HFL-Honeoye Falls/Lima High School
2	Drayton, Alanea	Cosmetology Junior	Cosmetology	RHS-Rush Henrietta High School
3	Fabiano, Elizabeth	Food Prep Assistant	Culinary Arts	PEN-Penfield High School
4	Frawley, Ryan	Auto Service Tech	Auto Services	PEN-Penfield High School
5	Grasso-infantino, Marlaina	Employment Application	Cosmetology	PIT-Pittsford Mendon High School
6	Melnikov, William	Collision Repair Tech	Collision Repair Technology	WEB-Schroeder High School
7	Polizzi, Lea	Photography	Visual Communication and Photography	BRI-Brighton High School
8	Posner, Alyssa	CPR/First Aid	Emergency Services	RHS-Rush Henrietta High School
2nd Place Regional Competition				
1	Burns-Morales, Blanca	Photography	Visual Communication and Photography	GAN-Gananda High School
2	Gasbarre, Kyle	Auto Body Helper	Collision Repair Technology	FPT-Fairport High School
3	Sawley, CJ	Extemporaneous Speaking	Emergency Services	GCH-Gates Chili High School
3rd Place Regional Competition				
1	Alaimo, Brianna	Cosmetology Senior	Cosmetology	WEB-Thomas High School
2	Roumpapas, Emily	Restaurant Services	Culinary Arts	WEB-Thomas High School

SANE (Sometimes Acronyms Need Explaining)

Even Start Family Literacy Partnership: **ESFLP**