



Weekly Bulletin

“ The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie, deliberate, contrived and dishonest, but the myth, persistent, persuasive and unrealistic.”

- John F. Kennedy

Upcoming Events

- Sun., July 13 – Embrace Your Geekness Day
- Mon., July 14 – Bastille Day
- Thurs., July 31 – Board Meeting/Retreat
- Sun., Aug. 3 – [Work Like a Dog Day](#)
- Tues., Aug. 12 – [International Youth Day](#)
- Wed., Aug. 13 – International Left Handers’ Day

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

A Message from Mike

Last week I traveled to attend the annual conference of the New York Data Analysis Technical Assistance Group (DATAG). Sounds thrilling, doesn’t it? The opening keynote speaker was David Berliner, author of *50 Myths & Lies that Threaten America’s Public Schools: The Real Crisis in Education*. Nothing like a provocative title to get the crowd interested. Here’s a link to a *Washington Post* [article about the book](#). A common theme among many of the myths that Dr. Berliner described was the effect of poverty on students and their achievement. [Last November](#) I wrote about the correlation between poverty and student achievement in our local districts. It is clear that socioeconomic status matters when it comes to school performance, and Dr. Berliner was able to provide example after example of how the effects of poverty manifest themselves in many different areas. Skewed international comparisons stood out. You often hear that other countries, particularly Finland, out-perform the United States on international assessments of student performance. What the talking heads fail to mention is that if you re-run the numbers controlling for poverty, the U.S. comes out on top. Take Finland for example. In Finland less than 5% of students live in poverty. In the U.S. that number is more than 20%. If you look at only the schools in the U.S. where less than 10% of the students are eligible for free or reduced price lunch (a common measure of poverty), we come out on top or near the top on every international measure. It also might be worth noting that the population of Finland is 5.4 million people while the population of New York State is 19.7 million people.

The message here is not to discount the use of comparative data to measure growth and success. Rather, my hope is to encourage all consumers of this type of data to have a critical eye when it comes to the conclusions that are drawn.

- Mike Doughty, Deputy Superintendent

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Technology Tip of the Week

Thanks to Diane Smith for the following tech tip:

Get Creative with the Snipping Tool

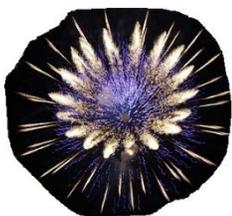
The best way in Windows 7 to capture all or just part of the screen is called the "Snipping Tool". (To view basics in the original Tech Tip, [click here](#).)



You are not limited to just rectangular shapes – you can draw around the part of the image you want to copy.



1. Open the **Snipping Tool** program. (see the tip above for putting it on your Start Menu)
2. Click the **Down arrow** next to **New**
3. Click on **Free-form Snip**
4. The screen becomes slightly fuzzy and the Mouse pointer looks like Scissors. Draw around the shape you want to cut out with your mouse. Be sure to connect back to the starting point.
5. Now you can Paste this "snip" wherever you want.



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 **Janet Stewart**.

- **What are your primary responsibilities?** I am the primary administrative support for Joyce Cymber, the Director of Career & Technical Education. My duties include providing support to: Eastern Monroe Career Center; Monroe County School Business Partnership/RACEC; Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers; ESOL; Translation Services; Cooperative Summer School; grant applications.
- **How long have you worked for BOCES?** In April of this year, I completed 20 years with M1B. I have worked in Career & Technical Education for the last 10 years.
- **What is your favorite part of your job?** The favorite part of my job is interacting with various people within BOCES and outside of BOCES. I also love to develop and implement new or improved work procedures, forms and methods as needed.
- **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** I have 2 sons, a daughter, and 5 grandchildren, who light up my life! Cooking, fishing, camping, playing cards, going to garage sales, and traveling to new places are all high on my list of things to enjoy.
- **What is one thing you would like people to know about you?** I enjoy providing companionship to seniors and helping them with light tasks such as cooking. As a society, we need to embrace and love our seniors, helping them to be independent as long as possible.



Professional Development

Professional Development Plan Committee

In the spring, a Professional Development Needs Assessment, based upon the New York State United Teachers Rubric and Standards for Professional Development, was sent out to staff for input.

The Professional Development Planning committee consisting of Annette Bailey, Cherie Becker, Sulynn Bennett Hennessy, Jodi Coniglio, Joyce Cymber, Michael Doughty, Annette Hauenstein, Leah Levine, Sandra Long, Janice McCutchan, Laurie Pritchard, Stephanie Scism, Tricia Wilson, and Barb Witkowski analyzed the results of the needs assessment.

The committee found these common threads within the data in relationship to the Professional Development needs of our staff:

- Common Core Learning Standards
- Active Learning Strategies
- Curriculum aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards
- Technology
- Defiant and Noncompliant Students

With this information the committee developed one overarching goal for the 2014-2017 Monroe #1 BOCES Professional Development Plan. Our goal is to:

Enhance the knowledge and skills of professional staff, thereby increasing student engagement, independence, and achievement within their individual learning plan.

Within the plan we defined an extensive list of activities with the people responsible for each activity and a means for measuring each activity. As a committee, we will monitor our goal across the next 3 years with a variety of surveys, evaluations, student data, and with the development of curriculum. Then the committee will re-administer the Professional Development Needs Assessment for further planning. For a copy of the plan, click [here](#).

- Annette Hauenstein, Coordinator of Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development

News and Notes

Coming soon! Our website is getting a makeover!

This summer, the Monroe #1 BOCES website will be undergoing many improvements. In a few weeks, our website will feature a more modern, dynamic design as well as changes to the navigation. The updated design will improve viewing of our website on mobile devices and iPads. Plus, special "department pages" will better highlight the news and events within several programs.

The buttons and menus at the top of the homepage and Staff Zone will also change to help make our website navigation more user-friendly. We will be providing additional information, including the approximate launch date of the new website design, over the next few weeks. If you have any concerns, please feel free to email me at:

Valerie_Barclay@boces.monroe.edu.

- Valerie Barclay, School-Community Relations Department

SANE (Sometimes Acronyms Need Explaining)

HSEPP – High School Equivalency Preparation Program