

Weekly Bulletin



No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may.
We ourselves must walk the path.

- Buddha

Upcoming Events

- Tues., Aug 4 – U.S. Coast Guard Day
- Tues., Aug. 11 – Last Day of Cooperative Summer School
- Fri., Aug. 14 – Last Day of ESY
- Thurs., Aug. 20 – Regular Board Meeting
- Thurs., Sept. 3 – Regular Board Meeting

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

A Message from Mike

Take a moment and think back to your own high school experience. Hopefully you have fond memories of extracurricular activities, friends, and four years of study. This all culminated with a graduation ceremony at the end of June where he walked across the stage and maybe a summer party with family and friends. No doubt you faced challenges that seemed insurmountable at the age of 18. This is what most people would consider a traditional path to high school graduation. But not everyone takes the traditional path.



The picture above is from our High School Equivalency Graduation Ceremony that was held at Irondequoit High School on July 29. This is one of my favorite events of the entire year. Thirty-six adults earned their equivalency diplomas in 2015 through Monroe #1 BOCES. Unfortunately only the nine you see pictured were able to attend the ceremony. As I was listening to the graduate who delivered the student address, Denise Fernandez, I was reminded of the significance of high school graduation. This rite of passage is important whether you take a traditional path as most of us did or an alternative path like the students we honored on Wednesday. Ms. Fernandez spoke about her journey to high school completion which was anything but traditional. As a 27-year-old mother of four children under the ages seven and under working two jobs and going to school full time, she was able to meet this important milestone. And it has opened doors for her. She is currently a student at MCC studying to be a nurse. When I think of the important work that we do as an organization and what we are able to contribute to our larger community, this program is a great example. If you

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ever catch yourself wondering whether or not the work we do makes a difference. Think about Denise Fernandez and the difference it made to her. Here is how Denise concluded her speech:

Don't second guess yourself and don't allow everyday situations to interfere with your goals. Remember....The payoff will be much greater than anything you will endure throughout this journey. So go for it and go for it like a warrior, like a champion, and like a fighter!

- Mike Doughty, Deputy Superintendent

Technology Tip of the Week

Thanks to Matt Giardina for the following tech tip:

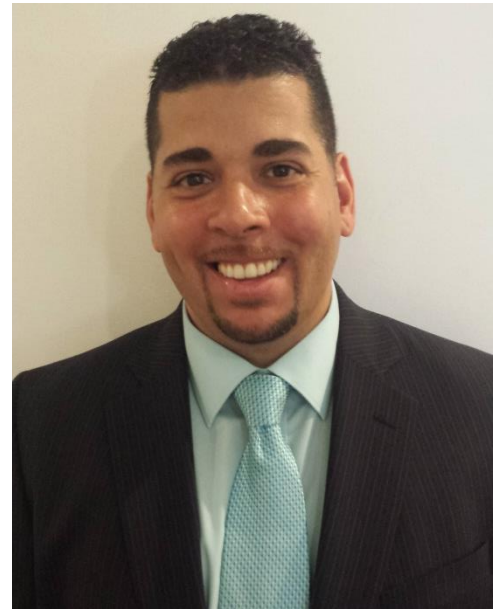
Switch between Normal View and Full Screen in most Web Browsers

Pressing F11 on your keyboard will switch between normal view and full screen in most web browsers. It's an easy way to switch back and forth when you need to maximize screen real estate.

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 **Wilfredo Garcia**.

- **What are your primary responsibilities?** I am a bilingual special education specialist with the RSE-TASC. My primary responsibility is to support school districts serving English language learners with disabilities. I provide technical assistance and professional development in the areas of effective assessment and instructional strategies. Most of my work within districts deals with separating language difference from disability and balancing special education programs with services that support second language acquisition.
- **How long have you worked for BOCES?** I began my work with the RSE-TASC about a year and a half ago.
- **What is your favorite part of your job?** I love the “aha!” moments at workshops when participants finally get a new concept or have had a shift in their perception. It's very satisfying to hear that they have implemented the strategies we covered.
- **What do you enjoy doing in your free time?** I also love the continual professional growth that is inherent to working in a statewide network. There is always something new to learn.
- **What is one thing you would like people to know about you?** My wife and I love exploring new cities and towns. Every place has a unique vibe and hidden treasures just waiting to be discovered. One of our recent excursions brought us to Pittsburg, where we had a chance to visit the Nationality Rooms in the University of Pittsburg's Cathedral of Learning (Trust me, it's a lot cooler than it sounds: www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/)

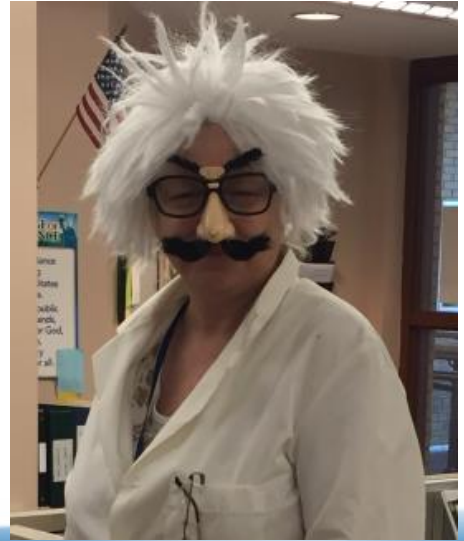


Programs & Services Update

Summer 2015 with the Bird/Morgan Bobcats

With 137 K-8 students enrolled at Bird/Morgan for the summer, it is bound to be filled with fun, excitement, and learning all rolled into one! In addition to swimming on these hot summer days, students have been engaged in 3 exciting themes. The summer started off with a Safari theme where students explored animals, habitats and safaris around the world. We quickly moved into becoming Mad Scientists where students presented a scientific demonstration for others to see. Everything from Pop-Rock explosions to proving a hypothesis as to why the sky is blue was on display. The last two weeks we finish with *Where In the World?* where students will have the opportunity to explore different cultures around the globe. This summer will prove to be one for all to remember!

- Tera Strauss, Assistant Principal, Bird/Morgan School



SANE (Sometimes Acronyms Need Explaining)

NRS – National Reporting System

Notice of Non-discrimination

The Monroe #1 BOCES does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion, religious practice, national origin, ethnic group, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation (the term "sexual orientation" means heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or asexuality), political affiliation, age, marital status, military status, veteran status, disability, domestic violence victim status, arrest or conviction record, genetic information or any other basis prohibited by New York state and/or federal non-discrimination laws in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. In addition, students are also afforded protection based on weight.

For more information, contact one of our Civil Rights Compliance Officers: Nancy Carr, 585-249-7010, Nancy_carr@boces.monroe.edu; James Colt, 585-383-2298, James_colt@boces.monroe.edu; Dennis Glaser, 585-383-2232, Dennis_glaser@boces.monroe.edu