

September 2016

Volume 1, Issue 1

THE POST:

Professional Online Supports for Teaching

In this issue:

- Fifty classroom apps
- Online Dyslexia training
- The release of PARCC student reports

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to a new school year full of teaching and learning opportunities!

We look forward to bringing you instructional and professional learning resources in our monthly division newsletter, now called The POST. Each month, The POST (Professional Online Supports for Teaching) will provide links to lessons and other classroom activities related to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, as well as news of Department workshops and events.

Wishing you a wonderful start to the new school year. Thank you for all you do to serve New Jersey's children.

Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning

Division News

Curricular Frameworks

During the month of August, Robin Knutelsky, Director of the Office of Teaching and Learning Support, offered regional workshops on the Curricular Frameworks for [ELA](#) and [mathematics](#). The Curricular Frameworks, launched in May, replaced the Model Curriculum for ELA and mathematics. Participants engaged in conversations around developing and revising local curriculum using the Curricular Framework. Having such conversations is key to bringing local curricula into alignment with the [New Jersey Student Learning Standards \(NJSLs\)](#) by September 2017. Additional regional sessions focusing on the Curricular Frameworks are posted on the Department's [Calendar of Events](#) in October.

Crosswalks for ELA and Mathematics

The [Crosswalk for ELA](#) and the [Crosswalk for Mathematics](#) outline revisions made to the Common Core Standards during the standards review process. Changes to the standards appear in red font. The crosswalks may be a valuable tool as districts look to align local curricula to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

The Council for Teaching and Learning

The Council for Teaching and Learning held their inaugural meeting June 27, 2016. The council meets quarterly to provide feedback on Department projects and initiatives so that the Division of Teaching and Learning is connected to the work of New Jersey educators.

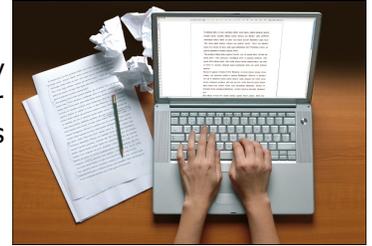
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English Language Arts

What Works in Writing Instruction

Each month, the [Teaching Ahead Roundtable](#), an interactive project developed by Education Week Teacher and the Center for Teaching Quality, presents selected teacher panelists to respond to and discuss key issues. This month's panelists discuss what works in their writing instructional practices.



Digital Tools and Strategies for Reading and Writing

In this article, the author reviews a teacher-created list of [digital tools and strategies](#) to support students "as they learn how to read deeply, take well-cited notes, and navigate the writing process." An overview of the tools provides examples of teacher and/or student use in activities such as prewriting, drafting, editing, publishing and evaluation, as well as reading and researching.



Social Studies

Eureka! Invention and Innovation in New Jersey Learning Module

The Drumthwacket Foundation offers 4th grade teachers this [learning module](#) of five lessons on invention and innovation in New Jersey. The module, which is aligned to standards, addresses reading primary sources, responding to comprehension and text-based questions, researching inventors and their inventions, and presenting their findings. Find the Teacher Toolbox for each lesson, as well as games, puzzles and other resources.

U.S. Senate Youth Program Nominations

Principals of public and nonpublic high schools in New Jersey are invited to nominate one junior or senior to submit an application packet for the 55th Annual United States Senate Youth Program. Each year, two 11th or 12th grade students are selected to participate in a week-long educational program held in Washington, D.C. (March 4-11, 2017) and to receive a one-time \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship. Application packets were sent to districts via the NJDOE broadcast system by early September. The deadline for applications is **October 7, 2016**. Access the [New Jersey Social Studies Standards webpage](#) and see the [brochure](#) for more details.

Science

eCYBERMISSION

eCYBERMISSION is a web-based STEM [competition](#) free to students in grades 6-9. The program challenges students to develop solutions to real-world problems in their local communities. A complete team must be registered by **December 7, 2016**.



Shell Science Lab Challenge

Sponsored by Shell and administered by National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), [this program](#) encourages teachers of grades 6-12 to share "innovative ways to deliver quality lab experiences with limited school and laboratory resources" for a chance to win up to \$93,000 in prizes. Registration deadline is **January 23, 2017**.

Mathematics

On This Day

The Mathematics Association of America (MAA) lists [historical events](#) related to mathematics for each day of the year. Find interesting facts and events to share with students each day.

Making Math Emotionally Engaging

In this [blog](#), the author discusses making mathematics more engaging for students. She asks if there is "...a way to separate negative emotions from the subject, so that more students experience math with a sense of satisfaction and pleasure?". A mathematics teacher from Summit Public Schools, New Jersey, describes his experience in bringing a sense of "awe" to classes. Specific strategies to engage learners are also included.



Visual and Performing Arts

NJ Italian Heritage Commission Art Contest

The New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission (NJIHC) invites high school students to enter NJIHC's "[Many Faces of Italian Culture in New Jersey](#)" statewide art contest. Entries will be exhibited in the NJ State House Annex in November. The winning artwork will be exhibited at the 2016 NJIHC Congress on November 12 at Rutgers University's Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick.

World Languages

Tech Tip: How to Assess Conversational Proficiency Using Showbie

This [blog](#) introduces Showbie, a free app for iOS devices and an application for use in world language classes. The app allows teachers to "assess conversational proficiency in an organized, one-stop-shop way." Read how this world language teacher utilizes the app.



"Showbie... allows teachers to 'assess conversational proficiency in an organized, one-stop-shop way.'"

Comprehensive Health and Physical Education

Back-to-School Sneaker Letter

This Physical Education Back-to-School Sneaker letter can be a "refrigerator reminder" for families with elementary school students to support the wearing of active clothes and athletic shoes on physical education days. Click on [printed letter](#) and scroll down to find both Spanish and English versions. Educators can vote on this as a best practice at [PE Central](#) website.



Technology

Student-led Tech Team

This [article](#) describes one school's process and experience in using the genius bar model to create student-led tech teams. The idea was to cultivate leadership and provide an opportunity for students to share talents and understanding of devices and apps.



50 Favorite Classroom Apps

In this [article](#), the author finds that "Educators and students are quickly becoming more comfortable with classroom technology, allowing them to shift from thinking about the technical side of integrating a new tool to focusing on how it improves learning." She provides an overview of 50 teacher-recommended apps, many of which are free.



English Language Learners

NJDOE Spanish Language Parent Portal

This broadcast memo introduces the NJDOE's newly redesigned [portal](#) for Spanish Language parents to improve communication between schools and families. The site provides access to specific information and resources.

Professional Learning for District Staff on ELLs

For district staff who work with English Language Learners (ELLs), the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, Bureau of Bilingual/ESL Education, is offering workshops for the 2016-17 school year. See this broadcast [memo](#) for dates and locations.

"...newly redesigned portal for Spanish Language parents to improve communication between the schools and families."



Assessment

NJDOE Assessments

Visit the [NJDOE](#) webpage to view sample PARCC student score reports for 2016, and view a list of additional websites designed to help parents better understand their child's test results.

PARCC Student Score Reports Now Available

This broadcast [memo](#) includes a timeline on when PARCC score reports were made available to schools and parents. The memo also includes information on resources to assist districts with communicating individual score report information.



Professional Learning Opportunities

Dyslexia Webinar

The Department's Office of Special Education Programs and the International Dyslexia Association have partnered to create a [two-hour webinar](#) available on demand. View the program on *Comprehension and Fluency*, which also satisfies professional development requirements.

New Jersey Professional Development Requirements

The New Jersey Professional Development Requirements in Statute and Regulations [chart](#) has been updated and is now available.

Implementing ELL Programs

This September 15 [webinar](#), offered in the morning and afternoon, will review the guidance contained in "Implementing English Language Learner Program Services in New Jersey." Participants will be equipped to apply the review criteria of the three-year plan and the Bilingual Waiver to their ELL programs.

ESSA Public Listening and Learning Sessions

See the schedule of four regional [ESSA Public Listening and Learning Sessions](#) for members of the school community. The [sessions](#) are designed to help the public learn how New Jersey will implement the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*.

NJDOE Calendar of Events

Be sure to check the Department's [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming, free professional learning sessions.

Other Opportunities

2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

The Commissioner invites school districts to nominate three students graduating between January and June 2017 for the [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#). Eligibility requirements are provided for the components which include outstanding scholarship for general nominations and high achievement in the area of career and technical education (CTE) for CTE students. The deadline for submissions is **September 26, 2016**.



Before you go...

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See you in October!