Dear Colleagues:

Spring ushers in warmer weather, longer days and a sense of starting anew. In schools, spring can also bring about a sense that the academic year is beginning to come to a close. This is a good opportunity for educators to reflect on ways critical thinking skills have been integrated into instructional activities and how to continue to instill critical reading and creative writing across the curriculum. These skills are vital in preparing students not only to meet the rigor of the standards and assessments, but also to meet future success in college and career.

Reflection is an essential part of the cycle of teaching and learning, just as critical thinking skills are essential for student learning. Thank you for your efforts to ensure that students have the opportunity to learn and grow in these last few months of the school year.

Dr. Laura C. Morana
Acting Chief Academic Officer
Division of Teaching and Learning

Featured Resources

**NJCORE in Transition**

NJCORE is no longer available as of March 27, 2017. The Department is evaluating how to broaden the scope of its supports to educators by exploring alternative online resources that reach a larger national education audience. For updates, visit the [Educator Resource Exchange](#).

**Financial Literacy Month**

Explore the Department’s 21st Century Life and Career Skills website for instructional resources and professional development related to [Standard 9.1, Personal Financial Literacy](#).

**National School Library Month**

The Department joins with the [New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL)](#) in celebrating National School Library Month. Local events will be showcasing the importance of school libraries and the 2017 theme, *Because School Libraries Empower Students.*

**National Poetry Month**

To celebrate poetry this month, visit [Poets.org](#) for the 2017 theme poster. Explore the [Dear Poet webpage](#), a multimedia education project, inviting students in grades five through twelve to write letters about pieces written by award-winning poets.
The POST:

English Language Arts

Publishing Students’ Creative Work

Teen Ink hosts a national teen magazine and book series “devoted entirely to teenage writing, art, photos, and forums.” The site offers students ages 13 to 19 the opportunity to publish their creative work, as well as express opinions on daily issues impacting their lives. Read FAQs and Submission Guidelines to learn more.

ReadWorks Library of Online Teaching Resources

ReadWorks provides K-12 educators “with what to teach and how to teach it—online, for free, to be shared broadly,” based on current research in cognitive science. Create an account and search the site’s library of curated nonfiction and literary articles and lessons.

Mathematics

Mathematics Communities

Math Teachers’ Circles, a project of the American Institute of Mathematics, are communities of K-12 mathematics teachers and mathematicians who meet regularly to discuss math problems and engage in professional learning. Visit the website to find a New Jersey math circle or to learn how to start one.

Applied Mathematics Awareness Campaign

Math Matters, Apply It! is a campaign to promote awareness about applied mathematics by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). The purpose is to teach the math behind “everyday life and the technologies we encounter.” Find available materials, including six posters available in Spanish. Email the Math Matters editors with comments and suggestions.

Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month

The American Mathematical Society offers several ways to heighten awareness about the role of mathematics in everyday life this month and throughout the year. See the site for suggested books, articles and posters promoting mathematics across the content areas.

Science

Model Science Curriculum Framework

A New Jersey Department of Education Model Science Curriculum Framework workshop will take place on April 28. Participants will develop an understanding of the logic model behind the development of the Framework, examine classroom videos and evaluate the content and resources embedded in each unit.

Attend EdCamp Next Generation Science Standards

The Biology Teachers Association of New Jersey (BTANJ) invites all K-12 life science educators to participate in EdCamp NGSS on April 22, at Highland Park Middle School. The event will follow the EdCamp format.
Social Studies

Using Primary Sources Grades K-6
The Department, in partnership with the National Archives, presents Using Primary Sources in Grades K-6 webinar. Participants will learn instructional strategies to help students develop critical thinking and historical analysis skills.

Historical Scene Investigations Project (HSI)
The Historical Scene Investigations Project (HSI) website was designed for social studies and other teachers wishing to give their students experiences that replicate the work of real historians. The site provides free access to primary sources connected to several open cases. Lessons include an overview on how to investigate and search for clues, as well as how to solve a case.

World Languages

Video Lessons for Teachers
LangTalks is committed to answering the demands of K-16 world language educators for meaningful professional development by creating and disseminating concise, open-access videos. Initiated by a small group of language educators and supported by valuable partners, LangTalks is dedicated to spreading the best practices of experienced educators to promote language acquisition.

National Lead with Languages Initiative
The Lead with Languages initiative focuses attention on the importance of world language skills and proficiency. According to the website, “languages ranked eighth among the most in-demand skills across all occupations, (and) research shows job postings directed at bilinguals more than doubled between 2010 and 2015.” Find a glossary of language program terms and myths and misconceptions about learning a new language.

Visual and Performing Arts

Smithsonian’s Learning Lab and Lessons
The Smithsonian Institution’s Learning Lab offers access to online collections of artworks and photographs. Read about the See/Think/Wonder approach, developed by faculty at Harvard University, to guide students in exploring works of art. One online collection, entitled “Jazz and Blues,” is a middle school language arts lesson employing the technique to inspire student thinking and discussion about the painting.

Comprehensive Health and Physical Education

Every Kid Healthy™ Week
Every Kid Healthy™ Week, April 24-28, is an annual event to spotlight how schools support “improv[ing] the health and wellness of their students and the link between nutrition, physical activity and learning.” Explore ideas for classroom, school and at-home activities to support health and well-being for students and families.
**Educational Technology**

**“Are You Future Ready?” Working Sessions**

The Department is offering “Are you Future Ready?” working sessions in May and June for district teams interested in the [Future Ready Schools - New Jersey (FRS-NJ) initiative](#). The agenda allows for team discussion of current digital learning status and planning for next steps. Teams will also hear other districts share successes, best practices and lessons learned.

**Career and Technical Education**

**Construction Industry Career Day**

[Construction Industry Career Day](#) is designed especially for those exploring related career paths. Participants will hear about construction career options, educational requirements, stackable and transferable credentials, wage progressions and, in some cases, college credits.

**Structured Learning Experiences (SLE)**

The Office of Career Readiness will host six regional half-day professional development workshops on [Structured Learning Experiences (SLEs)](#). These sessions will provide an overview of SLEs and highlight resources to assist schools with continuous improvement. SLEs offer students the opportunity to explore careers, develop academic and career goals and apply skills.

**Bilingual/ESL Education**

**Immigrant Students’ Experiences**

View the official “[I Learn America” documentary trailer](#) featuring five teenagers from the International High School at Lafayette in New York City. This public school serves newly-arrived immigrant students. View the I Learn America Human Library with individual stories for a printed version of students’ individual experiences as non-native English speakers and learners.

**Assessment**

**Summer 2017 PARCC Administration**

This recent broadcast addresses the [PARCC Summer 2017 Test Administration](#) for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II providing districts with a schedule and other information concerning this administration.
Library Media

Teaching Resources for Media Literacy

According to a recent NPR Ed article, researchers at Stanford University recently found that “while students absorb media constantly, they often lack the critical thinking skills needed to tell fake news from the real stuff.” The New York Times article mentioned is a lesson plan with multiple resources, including Media Literacy Now.

Future Ready Librarians Webinar

As districts prepare for the Future Ready Schools-NJ initiative, school librarians are looking for ways to assist their schools in becoming Future Ready. Watch the Future Ready Librarians webinar to learn more about how library media specialists are supporting the Future Ready initiative in schools.

Opportunities for Educators

Art Educator of the Year Award

Principals and arts department supervisors are invited to nominate an arts educator, working in any art form, for the Arts Educator of the Year Award. Use the online application and submit forms by April 30. The award will be announced at the NJ Teen Arts Festival.

A Crowdsourced Global Education Calendar

The creators of the Education Calendar (#TheEduCal) describe it as “a crowd sourced, searchable map and calendar of education events around the world...to help share great learning opportunities for all educators so we can grow together.” Events are listed by region.

Before you go...

See you in May!

May 2017

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