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Tioga County Teacher Center

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Newsletter

Vol. 4, No. 3

January 2010

VTS Coming to Tioga County TC

Michele Hammond at Nathan T. Hall writes, “My [second grade] students love VTS. They are engaged during the lessons and enthusiastic participants. They have had wonderful insights and observations. The art teacher even commented to me that my class was much more detailed (than previous years’ classes) when working on a particular art project with her. I would highly recommend this program.”

Tioga County Teacher Center Director George Lohmann also observed a class—a fourth grade special education class—participating in a VTS lesson at Newark Valley Middle School and all students were fully engaged, providing insights that belied their status as classified students. Hammond, along with Newark Valley’s Sharon Camp and Chris Bobrowich, participated in VTS training provided by the Teacher Center of Broome County in August. This training was followed by an in-class consultation provided by trainer Marlene Roeder on November 18, 2009. A second visitation will take place later this school year.

As a result of these successes, the Tioga County Teacher Center will bring trainer Marlene Roeder to host its own full-day training on Monday, February 22, 2010, at the Nichols Elementary School.

Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) is a program that helps students better communicate what they see and experience as a means of improving their literacy skills. Visit <http://www.vtshome.org> to learn more about VTS and <http://www.vtshome.org/pages/teaching-strategy> (podcasts) to see Marlene Roeder in action. There is also more information on the Teacher Center blog. Sign up today for the training session.

Roberson Museum and Science Center has also been working on its own VTS program. Go to <http://www.roberson.org/pdf/Pre-and-Post-Visit-PDFs/VTS-Pre-Visit.pdf> for a sample lesson plan.

Marlene Roeder
doing a VTS lesson
with students in
Chris Bobrowich’s
class at NVMS



Free Quick Reference Card Online

Go to http://www.customguide.com/quick_references.htm to find two-page quick reference guides for 97, 2000, 2002, 2003, and 2007 versions of MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and more, along with Windows 98, 2000, XP, Vista and 7 and Explorer 6, 7, and 8. There are also guides for Mac versions. As long as requests are not overwhelming, contact the Teacher Center if you would like laminated copies of some of them.

Our Services

Color Copies * Laminating * Bookbinding
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Visit Our Blog!

If you want the most current information about upcoming opportunities and events, please visit our blog at <http://www.teachtioiga.blogspot.com>.

Director
George Lohmann

STTCN to Offer NBC Information Session

National Board Certification is growing in popularity among educational professionals because it strengthens teaching practices, improves student learning, and advances teaching careers, while providing a portable teaching license in most states. The National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification provides a systematic process for teachers to do this type of self-examination and self-evaluation. It is a voluntary process in which a teacher reflects on the key components of his/her work. The majority of teachers who have participated in this process state it is the best professional development because of its lasting impact.

An information session will be offered by the Southern Tier Teacher Center Network (STTCN) and the Teacher Center of Broome County on Friday, January 8, 2010, at 601 Gates Road, Vestal, NY, at 4:00 pm. The presenter will be Trudy Bantle, Teacher Center Director for Fairport Central School District and National Board Certified Teacher and National Board Candidate Support Provider.

To learn more about National Board Certification, visit the NBPTS website at <http://www.nbpts.org>. To register for the information session, go to www.teachercenter.info under "Register Online."

Congratulations!

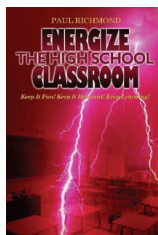
Anne Marie Gardner, a teacher at Nathan T. Hall, writes, "I found out in November that I have achieved National Board Certification in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts." This achievement involved a "significant commitment," but "the process was rewarding." She adds, "I believe the experience has helped me become a better teacher. One of the greatest learning opportunities for me was the process of videotaping and analyzing my own lessons, using detailed criteria set forth by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards."

Gardner also wants to acknowledge the support of her colleagues: "There are also amazing and rich opportunities for professional development right here in the building I work in each day. I have the opportunity to work with an awesome group of teachers. Each day, I see colleagues discussing what they are currently doing and striving to find ways to improve the instruction our students receive. The chance to be a part of such a team is a big factor in professional development for me."

Among those colleague is Angie Gemignani, who received her National Board Certification last year.

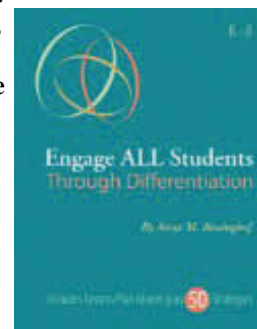
Free Book

Receive a free copy of presenter Paul Richmond's book *Energize the High School Classroom* when you attend his workshop on Monday, January 25, 2010. See details on page 4. Sign up today.



Keeping All Learners Engaged Conference

SUNY Cortland is offering a conference for teachers of grades K-8 on "Keeping All Learners Engaged" through Differentiated Instruction on Tuesday, March 30, 2010. The keynote presenter is Anne M. Beninghof, an internationally recognized consultant and trainer with more than 27 years of experience working with students with special needs. She will talk on "Turning Best Practices into Daily Practices: How to Develop Creative Differentiated Instruction Solutions." The cost is \$20 which includes morning refreshments, buffet lunch and a copy of Anne Beninghof's book *Engage ALL Students through Differentiation*. The full conference brochure is available on the Teacher Center blog.



Socratic Seminar

"Great use of my pre-holiday time!" writes Bonnie Mider of her experience being trained in Socratic Seminar on December 16, 2009, at Newark Valley High School, and that's coming from someone who has had some previous training. "The best part of this training was our Socratic practice sessions, during which we could role play and refine the process." She added that presenter Tom Beatty, High School Vice Principal at OFA, "provided excellent materials that we can use in our classrooms." They also discussed strategies for creating a safe learning environment in the classroom.

According to Paul Raider, "Socratic questioning recognizes that questions, not answers, are the driving force in thinking. Socratic seminars explore ideas, values, and issues drawn from readings or art works chosen for their richness. They also provide a



forum to expand participants' familiarity with works drawn from many cultural sources. Leaders help participants to make sense of a text and of their own thinking by

asking questions about reasoning, evidence, connections, examples, and other aspects of sound thinking. A good seminar is more devoted to making meaning than to mastering information. Seminars strengthen participants' learning by getting them actively engaged in rigorous critical thought. Practical activities are always followed by periods of reflection and discussion about what has been experienced. The goal here is to allow learners to create a community of inquiry for the purpose of making meaning cooperatively."

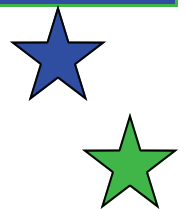
Contact the Teacher Center if you would be interested in setting up a training session.

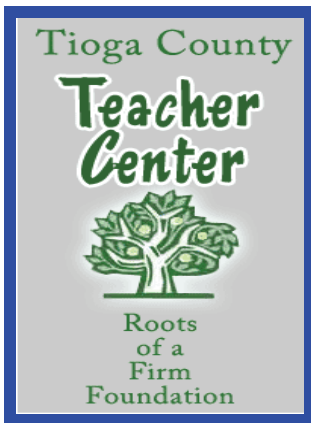
Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 January Policy Board Meeting 4:00 Owego Presbyterian	5	6	7	8 STTCN Meeting U-E Teacher Center 10:00-2:00 National Board Cert. Info. Session 4:00 Vestal	9
11	12	13	14	15	16
18 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	19 Basic SmartBoard WS NVMS 3:00-5:00	20	21 Intermediate PowerPoint WS TMS 3:30-5:30	22	23
25 Energize Your Classroom WS Nichols ES 4:00-6:00	26 Regents Exams	27 Regents Exams	28 Regents Exams	29 Regents Exams	30
1 February	2	3	4	5 STTCN Meeting Catskill Regional Teacher Center 10:00-2:00	6
8	9 Lampwork Bead Making WS CHS 3:00-5:00	10	11 Advanced PowerPoint WS TMS 3:30-5:30	12	13
15 PRESIDENTS' DAY	16	17 Google Tools WS NVHS 3:00-5:00	18	19	20
22 VTS Training Nichols ES 9:00-3:00	23	24	25	26	27
1 March	2	3	4	5	6



Practicing and potential substitute teachers attend an all day workshop offered by the Tioga County Teacher Center and presented by Bonnie Calzolaio on December 7, 2009





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Winter Workshops

Basic Smart Board Tools (K-12)

Tuesday, January 19, 2010, 3:00-5:00, Newark Valley Middle School, room 123

George Lohmann, Presenter

Learn to use the basic tools from Smart Notebook, the software that works with Smart Boards. Learn how to create slides, "capture" images from the Internet or from your own files, write with your finger or stylus and convert it to text, along with many other strategies to help you and your students use the Smart Board in your classroom.

Intermediate PowerPoint

Thursday, January 21, 2010, 3:30-5:30, Tioga Middle School, room 96

Presenter: Eric Gutierrez

Learn to create slide shows involving timing, slide transitions, hyper linking slides, internal control buttons, layering objects, short cuts, graphs, and advanced animation (triggers, continuous motion, and timers).

Energize Your Classroom

Monday, January 25, 2010, 4:00-6:00, Nichols Elementary School, computer lab

Presenter: Paul Richmond

The concepts, ideas, and methods discussed in this workshop are intended to help deliver curriculum, regardless of the discipline. New teachers enjoy the resources; veteran teachers enjoy the positive atmosphere and resurfacing of their own material. Participants will leave energized, full of reference material to immediately implement in the classroom and have the ability to share their own ideas on www.energizetheclassroom.com and receive a free copy of the presenter's book *Energize the High School Classroom*.

Lampwork Glass Bead Making for Art Teachers (7-12)

Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 3:00-5:00, Candor High School, room 220

Presenter: Dianne Lynn

The art of bead making by winding molten glass around a steel mandrel is referred to as "Lampworking." Learn this process as one of many ways to engage your students in the art of jewelry making. This will be the first of two sessions, the second to be scheduled later.

Advanced PowerPoint

Thursday, February 11, 2010, 3:30-5:30, Tioga Middle School, room 96

Presenter: Eric Gutierrez

Learn how to include micros, active X controls and slide notes and how to create your own templates and your own quick access toolbars and more, while also considering business presentations verses class room use.

Google Tools in the Classroom (7-12)

Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 3:00-5:00, Newark Valley High School, room 216,

Stacy Mallery, Presenter

Learn how to use Google Documents and Gmail, along with other Google Tools as effective classroom strategies to enhance cooperative learning. Students, in separate locations, can be anywhere the Internet is available and still work together on class projects.

Sign Up At
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Director
George Lohmann

Workshops
Are
FREE