



Greece Professional Learning Center
&
Greece Teachers Association

Volume 14, Issue 2

February, 2015

Professional Times



- PLC Policy Board**
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Would you ask a mechanic to fix your car without any tools ... or a doctor to perform surgery without any instruments? Of course you wouldn't. That's ridiculous.

So why do some lawmakers insist -- year after year -- on raising the standards and expectations for educators while one by one removing the tools we need to succeed?

This time it's Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers.

[Take action now at the NYSUT Member Action Center to tell lawmakers to support funding for Teacher Centers!](#)

Despite their value and importance, the Executive Budget fails to fund Teacher Centers.

Teacher Centers help educators to be effective in the classroom and to help schools close the achievement gap. They provide courses and programs that enable new teachers to satisfy professional requirements. And they are the only state-funded vehicle guaranteed to support teacher professional learning in all school districts, which include 205 high-need schools/districts, BOCES, non-public and charter schools.

And yet they are not funded in the Executive Budget.

[Take action now at the NYSUT Member Action Center to tell lawmakers to support funding for Teacher Centers!](#)

At a time when we are asking educators to comply with higher learning standards to ensure all students are on track for college and career readiness, we must provide educators and parents with the resources and tools they need to meet this demand. That means restoring \$40 million in funding for Teacher Centers in this year's budget!

Click on the banner below to support your Teacher Center.

https://mac.nysut.org/faxlegislators/widget/issue/283#issuesheadline_mobile

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TAKE ACTION! > Support Funding for Teacher Centers!

Resources for Teachers:

<http://thecornerstoneforteachers.com> is for all teachers! **The Cornerstone** was created by an educational consultant, Angela Watson. She has created resources that make teaching more effective, efficient, and enjoyable. Visit her site for free resources, professional e-books, webinars, podcasts and much more!



Have you heard the term “**flipped classroom**”? Like the best classes have always done, this approach supports instructors playing their most important role of guiding their students to deeper thinking and higher levels of application. A flipped class keeps student learning at the center of teaching.

Be sure to visit <http://ctl.utexas.edu/teaching/flipping-a-class>



THE CORNERSTONE:
Classroom Management That Makes Teaching
More Effective, Efficient, and Enjoyable



For **study tools, games and flashcards** visit www.quizlet.com. The set up is free. Add your content or choose from premade resources. Students can access this tool on phones, tablets and computers. Includes a tracking tool so you will know who visits!

Reading Rockets has compiled “Top 10 Resources in Literacy in the Content Areas

Discover ways to support core literacy skills like vocabulary development, reading comprehension, and higher order thinking throughout content area instruction. <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/top-10-resources-literacy-content-areas>

[content-areas](http://www.readingrockets.org/article/top-10-resources-literacy-content-areas)

Help Kids Handle the Stress of Standardized Tests

Standardized tests two months away and for most kids that means...nerves! During the spring, kids across America are preparing for “standardized tests” mandated by the state. For many kids, that means extra stress as they take practice tests and review work from modules. Unfortunately feelings such as nervousness and fear have a negative impact on children’s ability to think clearly and to perform well on tests. Helping your kids learn how to control their nerves can help them calm their feelings and improve their test scores.

First, teach your kids to develop a positive mindset about the test. Unfortunately kids often walk into a test thinking, “I hope I don’t fail”, “They are going to trick us”, “This is so hard”. These thoughts don’t create A’s on tests. Instead they create fear and anxiety which can make it very difficult for kids to recall what they’ve learned.

Remember that our thoughts create our belief systems and our beliefs create our results. If kids have negative beliefs about their abilities to perform well on tests, they will create that result in their lives. You can help your children uncover their beliefs by asking them how they feel about the upcoming tests. You can also listen to how they talk about the tests in casual conversations with their siblings or friends. If they express fear or worry, talk with them about the importance of walking into a test with supportive thoughts. Work with them on creating positive self-talk about their ability to do well. Have them visualize taking the test with confidence and ease. These techniques “program” their mind for success so that their thoughts are working for them and not against them.

Third, teach your children calming techniques. When thoughts of failing creep into a child’s mind, they create feelings of anxiety and fear. These feelings actually change which part of the brain is active during the test! When your children are calm, the active part of the brain is the frontal lobes. This is where logic and reasoning functions are performed. However, when fear creeps in, the brain activity shifts away from the frontal lobes and into the middle and lower parts of the brain where emotional and survival functions are performed. The brain literally cannot think clearly when emotions and fear creep in because it is too busy preparing the body for fight or flight. That is why your palms get sweaty, your heart rate increases and your breathing gets faster when you start feeling worried or afraid. Your body will respond to the threat of failing just like it will to the threat of a tiger. Therefore, when they are taking tests, it is critical that our kids learn how to keep the front part of their brain in the game. One of the most effective calming techniques is belly breathing because it helps to slow the heart rate and calm down the body.

Finally, remember that kids often look to us to see how they should respond to things. If you’re anxious about the test then they will feel anxious about the test too. Talk with them about the importance of always doing their best work and let them know that you believe in them and their ability to do well.



Resources



Free monthly newsletter for your websites and parent newsletters in English and Spanish. You have copyright approval to use these articles. This link will automatically update monthly. <http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/staff.cfm?subpage=1964>

iPads/laptops @ the PLC! To help educators provide resources for students in Greece, we maintain a variety of equipment and resources, including: ipads, laptops, LCD projectors, sound systems, die cuts, poster/banner making, stickers, lamination, digital cameras, photo printing, color copying, printing and binding. Click on the link below to reserve equipment or to borrow a book from our professional library. We have over 1,000 current resources! <http://destiny.greece.k12.ny.us/>

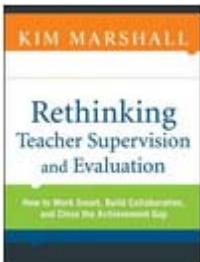


At <https://www.common sense media.org/educators> Students, teachers and parent will find resources to promote digital literacy and review the best apps, websites, etc. for learning. Newly added: Digital Bytes: The NEW digital citizenship program for teens . This site has many free, media-rich, collaborative activities for classrooms, afterschool programs and blended-learning environments.

MindShift Launched by KQED and NPR, MindShift explores the future of learning in all its dimensions, covering cultural and technology trends, innovations in education, groundbreaking research, education policy, and more. This site includes Games & Learning, Big Ideas, Teaching Strategies and a section titled Children and Media. Take a look! Mindshift is located at <http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/> .



The Greece Professional Learning Center is providing you with a subscription to The Main Idea -- a service for busy educational leaders.



Your policy board member and principal will receive 8-10 book SUMMARIES for a year in an email from the author Jenn David-Lang (on the 15th of each month) of compelling new education books along with PROFESSIONAL LEARNING IDEAS you can use with staff. This will be forwarded to you.

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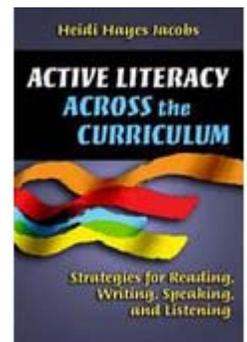
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Greece Professional Learning Center
&
Greece Teachers Association

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Hours: 8-4:30 p.m.

Greece Teachers Association
3670 Mount Read Blvd.
Rochester, New York 14616
585.621.7970
Hours: 8-4 p.m.
www.greeceteachers.com



Teamwork: Many hands, many
minds, one goal.



Greece PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CENTER

Hours: PLC office hours are **8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** We are open during December, February and spring recesses. We are also open during the summer (7-3:30). We are closed on weekends and major holidays.

PLC Contacts: Email marguerite.dingba@greece.k12.ny.us Director, Professional Learning Center, for professional learning and teacher center questions. For appointments for academic resources (**self service:** laminating, poster making or equipment loans), Shadow Day and MyLearningPlan information please contact Peggy Donlon at ext. 2709 or email peggy.donlon@greece.k12.ny.us

How to log into MyLearningPlan and Oasys.

Greece has a more secure log in this year since we have added Oasys to our system. Please book mark this new [Log in Link](#) Your user name is your first-name.lastname and the password is the same as your network computer log in. Whenever you change your password for your computer log in, that will be the new password to use for MyLearningPlan.

MyLearningPlan

Click **HERE** to log-in



Click [HERE](#) to view the interactive PD calendar for March

Click [HERE](#) to view the interactive PD calendar for April

Click [HERE](#) to view the interactive PD calendar for May

How to Redeem Your Points (GTA Members Only) Once you have at least 25 points in MyLearningPlan (MLP) you can redeem your points. Directions for this are located in the My File Library and by clicking on the link below. To view and redeem points, click on the upper left hand-side called My Points Tracker. If you need assistance, please ask your Policy Board member. Their names and buildings are listed on the front page of this newsletter.

<http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/files/20486/how%20to%20redeem%20your%20points%20in%20mlp.pdf>

Save the Date: 2014-15

Click [HERE](#) to view the interactive PD calendar by district standards.

Other opportunities:

(log into MLP to view dates and times)

- On-Line Classes
- Collegial Circles/Study Groups/PLCs
- ALL Committees
- ALL Conference Requests

This is just a highlight of the hundreds of professional development opportunities available to you.

Don't forget you must register in MLP for any committee you serve on or course you participate in.

Note: GTA members only earn points for courses listed in MLP that are outside of the work day. Conferences do not earn points.

Policy Board
Time: 4:-5:30 p.m.
2/26, 4/6, 6/8

GTA Rep. Assembly Meetings
4-6 p.m. All Teachers Welcome
2/25, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22, 5/6,
5/20, 6/3,6/17



One Vision, One Team, One Greece