



Professional Times



Five Minute Film Festival... Culturally Responsive Teaching

The changing racial and cultural landscape of America is certainly a much-discussed topic -- some researchers studying U.S. Census data and demographics even say that America could be a "minority majority" country as early as 2050. While the barriers between countries continue to come down, and globalization continues, how can teachers address the needs of students from a variety of cultural backgrounds and upbringings?

This collection of videos introduces culturally responsive teaching (CRT), and includes some techniques that you can use to help students from diverse backgrounds succeed together.

Video Playlist: Culturally Responsive Teaching

- Watch the player below to see the whole playlist, or view it on YouTube. Valerie Purdie-Vaughns on Unintentional Bias (3:04) In this short video from Big Think, researcher Valerie Purdie-Vaughns explains how bias and assumptions can unconsciously affect the way you act. Although it's geared toward diversity awareness in the workplace, this is a good primer on cultural discrimination.
Expanding Teacher Self-Knowledge (1:27) Since bias is often unconscious, one of the first things a culturally responsive teacher can do is be aware of assumptions about themselves and their students. This quick tip from the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance initiative explains the value of self-reflection.
Office Chat: Culturally Responsive Teaching (9:24) In this interview, Dr. Kavatas Newell, a faculty member at the University of Mary Washington, introduces some initial ways that teachers can incorporate culturally responsive teaching methods into their classrooms. The audio quality here is a bit low, but the tips are worth it.
The Danger of a Single Story (19:16) Author Chimamanda Adichie's amazing TED talk introduces "The Danger of a Single Story." Teaching students of other cultures may require that you look past familiar stories and narratives to find school materials that resonate with your students' experiences and lives.
Building Trust With Families (14:12) Many students from other cultures are English-language Learners (ELL). Although this video is long at 14 minutes, the panel of teachers and principals organized by Colorin Colorado offers great tips for connecting with the families of ELLs.
Recognizing Individual Characteristics (1:10) This quick video, also from the Teaching Tolerance initiative, reminds viewers to respect students' individuality, even as you learn more about cultural differences and introduce more responsive practices into the classroom.
Education: Culture Matters (14:25) This video from the Kamehameha Schools showcases the importance of culturally responsive educational programs. Students from the native Hawaiian population thrive when they learn in programs that incorporate their cultural heritage and traditions.

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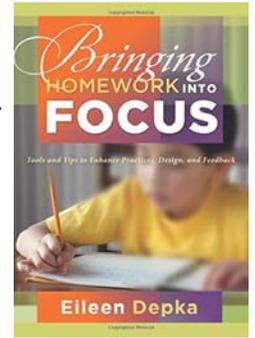
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Resources for Teachers:

The main ideas of this book *Bringing Homework into Focus* by Ellen Depka are:

~ Homework is taken for granted. It is assigned more out of habit than as a thoughtful assignment.
~ Research shows homework can impact student performance, but only if it is designed well. Why I chose this book: As educators, we are always scrambling for more time to boost student learning. One way to do this that is commonly overlooked, is to improve the quality and use of homework. Teachers are programmed to automatically give homework, but research shows that a lot of assigned homework does not improve student learning. I like that this book helps us take a new look at a resource we already have – homework – and provides suggestions for how we can improve it to have more of an impact on student learning.



Social Studies – Non-Fiction Reading Materials to enhance your lesson plans!

Social Studies articles:

www.smithsonianmag.com

Primary Source Documents

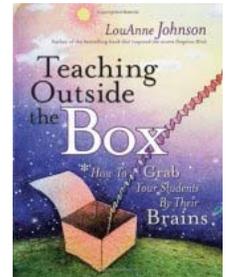
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

Historical speeches

<http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/previous.htm>

Need articles and resources to use in your health classroom?

Check out <http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/> or <http://www.teenshealth.org/teen/> There are sections for parents, kids and teens too!



Teen Tribune—a daily source of short, high interest articles that can be accessed by topic—<http://www.teentribune.com>

Teaching Outside the Box Subtitled, "How to grab your students by their brains," this paperback edition of LouAnne Johnson's well-reviewed book promises a lot of practical guidance for today's classroom teacher. Including a step-by-step plan to make the first week of school a success, the book's advice ranges across classroom management and motivational topics to strategies for teaching the reluctant reader. This is a book not only to read, but also to share with colleagues. - See more at:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_bestbooks/archives/teachers.shtml#sthash.8gMOQE62.dpuf

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OPERATION WARM



The Greece Teachers Association Social Justice Committee teamed up with the Ridge Road Firefighters on Operation Warm, a program to help provide new winter coats to children in need. Greece Central employees made monetary donations as well as hat & mitten donations to assist with the program. Community members donated generously during the Ridge Road firefighters "fill the boot" collection held on September 10. Thanks to staff and community generosity over \$9,000 was raised. Coats hats and mittens were handed out to 257 Greece Central students thanks to Operation Warm!

Restorative Justice: Promoting Positive Behavior through Dialogue

Dialogue circles are gatherings in which all participants sit in a circle facing each other to facilitate open, direct communication. Dialogue circles provide a safe, supportive space where all school community members can talk about sensitive topics, work through differences, and build consensus. At Glenview Elementary School, circles are part of a program called Restorative Justice, which is aimed at building collaboration, respect, and positive behavior among students.



The circles were implemented in classrooms slowly, and after two years, there was a marked improvement in classroom behavior.

<http://www.edutopia.org/practice/stw-glenview-practice-dialogue-circles-video>

Save the Date: Professional Learning Opportunities

On **May 16th & 17th, 2016** **Mike Mattos** of Solution Tree, will be working with teachers and administrators in Greece on advanced Response to Intervention. More information will be posted in MyLearningPlan. In addition, there will be a special afterschool session on May 16th from 4-6 PM at the Rochester Marriott Hotel that will be open to all teachers and administrators in Greece and outside districts. Registration will begin in January.



For those of you who love to plan ahead: on October 18, **2016** **Eric Jensen** will be coming to Rochester for a full day conference on Teaching with Poverty in Mind. Look for registration information in MyLearningPlan in January.



How to reserve a meeting room online

If you are looking to reserve a room for a meeting space or professional learning, you can now do this online.

1) Click on the room number in the table below to check availability. If the room is available, email the owner with the room, date, time, name of event, and

number of people and await confirmation before inviting others. OR

2) Create a meeting in Outlook and use the Room button to request the room. You then need to wait for that request to be accepted or rejected. Here is a short video that shows you how: [How do I do this?]

Building	Room (Click on room to see reservation calendar)	Capacity Equipment	Owner (Email owner to reserve or use Outlook room request process)
District Office 3rd Floor East Odyssey Building	E-46 Board Room	70 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenter podium with laptop • DVD/VCR • Document camera • ceiling projectors (2) 	lynne.armstrong@greececcsd.org
District Office 3rd Floor East Odyssey Building	E-50	50 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instructor laptop on cart • DVD • SmartBoard • ceiling projector • telephone 	lynne.armstrong@greececcsd.org
PLC Latta Road 1790 Latta Road (Building A)	Conference Room A (Innovation Lab)	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone (x2701) • 1 instructor desktop • 11 mini laptops • 15 tablets, 4 tablets w/ keyboards • SMART LightRaise Interactive Projector 	peggy.donlon@greececcsd.org
PLC Latta Road 1790 Latta Road (Building A)	Conference Room B	45 Only accessible via stairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone (x2702) • 1 instructor laptop • Smart Board • ceiling mounted projector, flat screen TV, DVD, VCR • 29 mini-laptops 	peggy.donlon@greececcsd.org
PLC 1790 Latta Road (Building A)	Conference Room C	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone (x2707) • 4 conference tables, 10 chairs, • 1 desktop computer • ceiling mounted projector • dry erase white board 	peggy.donlon@greececcsd.org

Greece Professional Learning Center
&
Greece Teachers Association

Professional Learning Center
1790 Latta Road-Bldg. A
Rochester, New York 14612
585.966.2130
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@greeccsd.org 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@greeccsd.org

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.



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

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

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

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

How to Redeem Your Points (GTA Members)

Once you have at least 25 points in MyLearningPlan (MLP) you can redeem your points. Directions for this are located in the MyFileLibrary. 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.

Save the Date: 2015-16

Click [HERE](#) to view the interactive professional learning calendar. Once you log into MLP you can view:

- Teacher Center On-Line Academy
- Collegial Circles/Study Groups/PLCs
- Committees
- Conference Request Forms
- Tuition Reimbursement Forms
- Mentor Logs
- Evaluation Forms

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

Don't forget to register in MLP for any committee or course you participate in.

Note: GTA members earn points for professional learning listed in MLP that are outside of the work day. Conferences and required staff meetings do not earn points.

Policy Board

Time: 4:00- 5:50 PM
PLC, Room B
12/7, 2/25, 5/26

GTA Rep. Assembly Meetings

4-6 PM
11/4, 11/18, 12/9, 1/6, 1/20,
2/3, 3/2, 3/16, 4/6, 4/20, 5/4,
5/18, 6/1, 6/15



One Vision, One Team, One Greece