



Curriculum Update
February/March, 2019
Setting New Standards of Academic Excellence
Volume 2-No. 7

#APSLEARNS

Our Professional Development theme for the year is *Pathways to Student Success*. In addition to our in-service days, book studies, and Twitter Chats, I have set up monthly themes with weekly sub-topics. These are similar to the Reimagine, Redesign, and Reinvent messages from last year. However, for the 2018-2019 school year we are offering PDP's if you write a brief reflection on what you learned and how it can be applied in your classroom or practice. You need to complete 20 write-ups to earn 10 PDP's and you will receive an additional PDP for every 2 entries you complete. [Attached is the document](#) you will use to record your entries to be submitted in June of 2019 for PDPs.

The following are topics on which you can reflect and submit your reflection:

- Over the last decade technology has become one of the many tools in our tool bag. [Matt Lynch's article](#) talks about the 7 ways technology is impacting education. As you look at the list, how many have you done this year? And what is one that you can try later this year?
- Differentiation is a word that is commonly used in education. It is something that all teachers do in order to meet the needs of the diverse learners in their classrooms. Attached is a [short article and video](#) that speaks to the different ways to differentiate to meet the needs of ELL students. What can you do differently in your classrooms to better meet the needs of our ELL students?
- We are always looking for ways to boost achievement with our students. One way to do so is through making certain that they are engaged in their learning. The integration of technology is a great way to do this inside classrooms. Attached is an [article](#) on this topic, as you read it ask yourself how and why technology integration can boost student engagement and achievement? Also on Tuesday at 8PM join Bard Currie for a Twitter Chat on this topic at #apslearns.
- This can be a challenging time of year for us as we see a glimmer of hope that Spring is close with increased temperatures up to 50 degrees one day, only to be met with the temperatures dropping down 20 more degrees the next. If you have felt a little down the past week or so that

is completely normal and part of the natural ebb and flow of the school year. The question is, what are you going to do about it? Will you let the constant pace and routine wear you down? Will you let external mandates that are out of our control, such as MCAS, stress you out? What are a few things you can do to survive the long stretch until break?

- As educators, we are constantly looking to grow and improve our practice. Sometimes, we may even have new ideas that lead us to want to take some risks with our practice. When this happens, we often go through a process that involves staring down some potential barriers and working through or around them. Check out the following blog by George Couros regarding [3 Questions to Help Leverage Barriers in Education](#). What is an area in your practice that you have tried to take a risk and how did you overcome those barriers?

NEWS AND NOTEWORTHY



- Over the last few weeks we have had several presentations of various PreK-5 literacy programs. Our next meeting is the first week of April. At that meeting we will narrow the list to 2-3 programs and then conduct site visits to see these programs in action. The hope is to select 2 programs to pilot during the 2019-2020 school year.
- Here is a website with freeresources for teachers <https://teachbetter.com/>
- Take a look at the new [MA Calibration Tool](#). The Online Calibration Training Platform is a professional development tool that supports Massachusetts educators to build a shared understanding of high-quality instruction and improve the feedback that teachers receive. Using video and interactive data displays, the platform provides educators with a dynamic calibration training experience aligned to the Standards of Effective Teaching Practice and the CAP Rubric.
- I will be sending something out shortly about summer curriculum work. I would like the focus to be on our Math and Science Self Study priority areas and getting ready to implement the Social Studies Curriculum next year.
- At a recent PBIS meeting this [resource](#) was shared. It provides some tier 1 and tier 2 support ideas for teachers for a variety of behaviors.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING LIBRARY



- [12 Alternatives to Letter Grades in Education](#)
- [If these walls could talk: 3 Creative Ideas for Classroom Culture](#)
- [A Collection of Resources for Teaching Social Justice](#)
- [Where to find diverse books](#)
- [Student Voice: It's everything if you are creating a learning space](#)
- [A Principal's Day, According to Brain Science](#)
- [What should graduates know and be able to do?](#)
- [Any questions](#)
- [Rubric Repair: 5 Changes That Get Results](#)

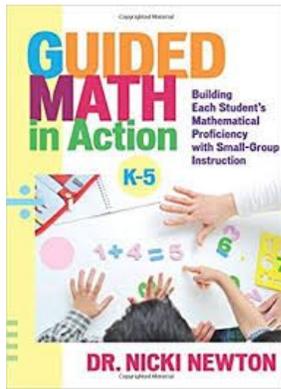
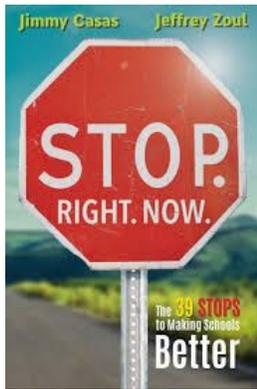
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



- Ashland has teamed up with The Education Cooperative (TEC) to offer three web-based, self-paced courses available for you to access at your convenience. Each course offers 15 PDP's for which a certificate will be generated for those participants who score 80% or better on the course assessments. Upon completion of the course you will receive a certificate to use as proof that you satisfied the course requirements. Completion of these courses will satisfy the recertification requirements of 15 hours of ELL and 15 hours of SPED-related professional development. [Click the link](#) for more information on the classes.
- Our Guided Math book study is underway with 15 teachers participating in the study.
- DESE is organizing a STEM Program. Here is the information they sent out: "Our STEM Ambassadors have been working with educators across the state to develop and pilot hundreds of high-quality classroom tasks aligned to the current standards for math (grades 4–8) and STE (grades 6–12). Come learn more about the tasks, students' responses to them, and how you can use the Ambassadors' work to improve STEM instruction in your district! This event will take place at Worcester Polytechnic Institute from 9am to 3pm on June 11th. John Urschel, former NFL superstar and current MIT PhD candidate, will be delivering the keynote address. I'll send out the registration link when it's available." I will share out more information when I get it.
- Foxboro Public Schools is hosting a two day PD workshop the end of June on several topics. An email went out on this earlier this month. There are a lot of great workshops to attend.
- The Department is pleased to announce two convenings in June, each focused on deepening educators' understanding of the [2018 History and Social Science Curriculum Framework](#). Registration for each will open on **April 1**. The theme for the **2019 Civics Literacy Conference** is "Civic Empowerment for Today and Tomorrow: From the Classroom to Community." Workshops will include a range of topics connected to the 2018 History and Social Science

Curriculum Framework, [An Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement](#), and school and community partnerships. Presenters will include K-12 educators as well as leaders from state, education, and community organizations. The conference will run from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11 at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate. The **2019 History & Social Science Professional Learning Institute** will offer a series of in-depth workshops focused on the use of high quality, standards-aligned curricular materials in the implementation of the 2018 History and Social Science Curriculum Framework. Attendees will have the choice of attending on Thursday, June 13 or Friday, June 14 at Harvard Law School.

CURRENTLY READING



FOOD FOR THOUGHT





I attended a workshop a few days ago and the presenter spent some time on this quote. It made me think about our busy lives and made me think about how I could be doing things more effectively. I know for me I spend some time spinning my wheels and getting bogged down in small details, which is not effective. For me this served as a good reminder to work more efficiently and not get caught up in the minutiae of what we do.