



## SDP Educator Weekly Updates

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Good morning colleagues,

Complexity is one of my go-to words to use to describe difficult situations where there's a lot at play that needs to be teased apart. In a large system with people who have a variety of intersecting identities, needs, and hopes, it's not unusual to encounter complexity. Noticing the complexity of an interaction or situation takes practice; requires context; and can be seen when we are physically, mentally, and emotionally present.

Complexity is hard and the temptation is to avoid it or simplify it. Adrienne Maree Brown - author of Emergent Strategy offers another perspective...

"We have to embrace our complexity. We are complex. While many of us articulate a yearning for a more simple life, we continue practicing complexity as our evolutionary path....I have grown an appreciation for simplicity, while also understanding that I enjoy it as a visitation -- that being in a complex life is actually intriguing and delicious to my system. And that I have to understand that it isn't just my own complexity at work, but everyone I am in relationship with, creating an abundance of connections, desires, interactions, and reactions."

As educators, we enter into complex conversations and complex spaces every day. Our inclination may often be to start with, "how do I solve this?" However, I would invite us to consider starting with, "what makes this complex?"

With gratitude for all you do,  
Meredith

### [Recurring Links](#)

[Educator Hub](#)

[Contact Guide for Questions](#)

[SDP Connect](#)

## General Announcements, Reminders, and Action Items



[Term 1 Grading Window Opens Thursday, November 2nd](#)

The posting window for report cards is open on Thursday, November 2nd. Please ensure that

grades for all courses are posted by Thursday, November 16th at 5:00 pm. Remember, even with an up-to-date grade book, grades will only appear on the report card if they are in the post column. For detailed instructions, please view the Posting Steppers (**K-8** and **HS**) or Help Videos (**K-8** and **HS**). Questions? Please contact one of the following: Jeremy Wright, Director, School Organization & Management (HS) at [jwright@philasd.org](mailto:jwright@philasd.org); Erica Durant, Director, School Organization & Management (K-8) at [edurant@philasd.org](mailto:edurant@philasd.org), Dia Swan, Project Manager, at [dswan@philasd.org](mailto:dswan@philasd.org).

### **SDP Author Spotlight Now Open!**

We want to read your book! The School District of Philadelphia WELCOMES Philadelphians of all experience levels to apply to be featured in the invitation-only SDP Author Spotlight. In partnership with the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, chosen authors will have the opportunity to host an hour-long virtual event, connecting them with fellow book enthusiasts from Philadelphia, and participating in engaging and meaningful discussion. Please refer to the resources below to have your submission considered. This application will close on December 10th.

Application link: <https://tinyurl.com/SDPAuthorSpotlight>  
Flyer linked [HERE](#).

Questions? Email Danielle Schultz at [dschultz@philasd.org](mailto:dschultz@philasd.org).

### **Central Office Staff Evaluation: Teacher Focus Group Sign-Up**

As part of the Accelerate Philly strategic plan, the School District of Philadelphia and the Office of Employee Effectiveness and Evaluation has contracted with Teaching and Learning Solutions (TLS) to develop a performance evaluation system for all Central Office Staff. To develop an effective model, we are seeking your input! Teachers are invited to participate in a voluntary and confidential focus group that addresses several topics related to the evaluation model.

**<ACTION ENCOURAGED>** If you'd also like to participate in a focus group, please use [THIS](#) link below. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Employee Effectiveness and Evaluation at [effectiveness@philasd.org](mailto:effectiveness@philasd.org).

### **Juneteenth: Freedom, Justice and Joy** <sup>(Repost!)</sup>

To uplift Juneteenth all year long, The School District of Philadelphia has created an Interactive Activity Guide for teachers to lead students in the acknowledgement of and commemoration of Juneteenth. Beginning this month, October 2023, we will uplift, amplify, and celebrate the agency and resilience of emancipated Africans, starting with the themes of Freedom, Justice, and Joy. Each theme begins with an essential question that is framed to build essential conversations and activities in the classroom. Please use the included Interactive Activities Guide to educate, and engage your students in this work.

Juneteenth Introduction

[Juneteenth Freedom Interactive Activity Guide](#)  
[Juneteenth Freedom Activity Directions](#)

Questions? Email Dr. Kwame Williams at [kwilliams5@philasd.org](mailto:kwilliams5@philasd.org).

---

## **Professional Development Information**

### **Elevate Your Math Teaching with Video-Based Professional Learning**

Are you or someone on your team working to go from good to great and be recognized for your Illustrative Math instruction?

Join us for a rigorous, rewarding, six-session journey of professional development, where we delve deep into intellectual preparation, video-based instructional analysis, and collaborative learning. Attendance at all six sessions is essential, as they progressively prepare you for the culmination –



your moment in front of the camera. This experience will not only help you practice using video to support your growth with IM, but also highlight your instructional excellence and contribute to our collective knowledge of effective instructional methods. Use [THIS](#) link to register (must be signed into Cornerstone for direct link to work.) If you have any questions, please email Brian Dillon at [bdillon@philasd.org](mailto:bdillon@philasd.org).

### Literacy Community of Practice Meeting, 11/16

We are a group of literacy leaders committed to improving literacy outcomes for children by sharing our ideas, challenges, resources, and research. We are teachers, principals, coaches, curriculum writers, tutors, researchers, advocates, and leaders. We meet via Zoom seven times a year. Participation in our group is free and flexible, please join us as you are and when you can; no pre-work is necessary.

Our next meeting is Thursday, November 16, from 4:00-6:00pm--Anne Murray from Joyful Readers will share her problem of practice on how to create professional development and support to help tutors learn the essential knowledge and practices of structured literacy.

If you are interested in joining our community, complete our survey [HERE](#), and we will send you calendar invitations for the year (with Zoom link). Questions? Email Megan Zor, [mzor@philasd.org](mailto:mzor@philasd.org).

### SIS Coach/Teacher Office Hours: Gradebook End of Term Processes

The posting window will be open from 11/2/23 through 11/16/23 at 5p. The Admin Review window will be from 11/17/23 through 11/20/23. We will be holding optional SIS Gradebook end of term processes office hours for Teachers and SIS Coaches.

\*SIS Coach/Teacher End of Term Office Hours\*

11/6/23, 12-1p  
11/10/23, 10-11a  
11/13/23, 10-11a  
11/14/23, 11-12p

To sign up for a session, please search for "SIS: SIS Coach/Teacher Gradebook End of Term Office Hours" in the top right search bar in Cornerstone and select the session(s) that you would like to attend. Reach out to [SISpd@philasd.org](mailto:SISpd@philasd.org) if you have trouble registering or join with the Zoom link below.

The Zoom link for these sessions can be found [HERE](#). Questions? Email [Sispd@philasd.org](mailto:Sispd@philasd.org).

### SIS Office Hours (Repost!)

The SIS PD Team will be offering a variety of SIS-focused office hours for those who would like support. To register in Cornerstone search for the titles listed below. Cornerstone will send the Zoom link out prior to the session.

SIS: Google Passback/Grade Book Office Hours: 10/24 from 12:30pm-1:30pm (zoom link [HERE](#))

- This session is for SIS Coaches and Teachers to learn how to use Google Passback. Google Passback allows teachers to enter grades in their Google Classrooms and export those grades into the corresponding SIS section of the Grade Book.

SIS: Message Center Office Hours: 10/26 from 11am-12pm (zoom link [HERE](#))

- This session is for SIS Coaches and Teachers to learn how to use the Teacher Message Center. The Teacher Message Center allows teachers to send messages to parents/guardians and/or students.

SIS: Key Teacher Reports Office Hours: 10/ 31 from 10am-11am (zoom link [HERE](#))

- This session is for SIS Coaches and Teachers to learn about key teacher reports.

Questions? Email [Sispd@philasd.org](mailto:Sispd@philasd.org).

## [Deadline Extended to Nov. 1 for Applications to Spring TIP Seminars](#) (Repost!)

The application deadline for the Teachers Institute of Philadelphia (TIP) spring 2024 seminars has been extended to Wednesday, November 1! If you are currently a full-time teacher in the School District of Philadelphia, we invite you to enroll. TIP enables teachers to gain new knowledge from top university professors and write curriculum units that bring that knowledge to their students. Teachers who complete the program earn a \$1,500 stipend. Apply [HERE](#). Questions? Email Edward M. Epstein, at [edwardme@upenn.edu](mailto:edwardme@upenn.edu).

---

## Opportunities for Students

### [Join Us in an Hour of Code during Computer Science Week December 4-8!](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Hour of Code is an event during Computer Science (CS) Education Week. The goal of the Hour of Code is to expose students to coding and elements of Computer Science, which is the fastest growing career that touches all industries and one that has a high demand for employees. More information about how you and your students can participate is forthcoming! Until then, check [THIS](#) out. Questions? Email Jessica Ross at [jgross@philasd.com](mailto:jgross@philasd.com).

### [ACE is Here to Help With Temporary Barriers to In-Person Instruction](#) (Repost!)

"What is ACE? A virtual program, staffed by District teachers (including Special Education and English as a Second Language), that provides grade-level instruction to students experiencing temporary barriers to in-person instruction

Who is eligible for ACE? District students in grades K-12 who will be absent for more than three days due to illness, injury, medical condition, or teen parent leave. ACE also supports students in need of homebound instruction.

How are students enrolled? School administrators should refer students for registration [HERE](#). Please bookmark [this link](#) so that you can refer students throughout the year! Once enrolled, the ACE secretary will communicate attendance information with the home school secretary; students that attend ACE are not marked absent for any days attended.

Who can I contact with questions? Please reach out to [AcademyofContinuedEd@philasd.org](mailto:AcademyofContinuedEd@philasd.org).

---

## Opportunities for Teachers

### [Math Teacher Updates](#)

Good morning Math Community!

This week we wanted to share that you can find grade/content specific PD opportunities for Illustrative Mathematics units posted on Cornerstone. These sessions are in-person to allow for meaningful collaboration and discussion, and they start as early as November 1st and continue through April. Make sure to search for "Math" in cornerstone to see all the available options. We look forward to thinking about math with you!

We love hearing from everyone so keep the questions coming ( [math@philasd.org](mailto:math@philasd.org)) or fill out the forms at the bottom of the math website [HERE](#).

Sincerely,  
The Math Team

### [Professional Development Workshops with OCFAE](#) (Repost!)



Offered by the Office of Family and Adult Education in Philadelphia for Educators and those who work in related fields. Free in-person workshop, open to all, exploring our role as "trauma stewards" and developing skills in working alongside populations affected by trauma. Co-facilitators Laura Neuman and Amy Ballard are educators with over twenty years experienced combined.

Friday, November 10, 2023 @ 9:30am -12:30

Growing in Community: Secondary Trauma Exposure and Our Role as 'Trauma Stewards'

Location: Parkway Central Library (1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19103)

Explore ways to effectively manage secondary trauma, fostering resilience and creating supportive learning spaces.

Learn more & register [HERE](#). Questions? Email Laura Neuman at [neumanl@tcnj.edu](mailto:neumanl@tcnj.edu).

---

## Instructional Resources



### [Tech Tidbits: YouTube for Formative Assessments](#)

Did you know you can use YouTube clips as a formative assessment? It is now easy to add a video into Google Classroom, insert your own questions, and receive data on how each student does on those questions. If you want to learn more, then this Tech Tidbits is for you. See the video [HERE](#).

Questions? Email the Office of Educational Technology; [edtech@philasd.org](mailto:edtech@philasd.org).

### [What is Digital Literacy?](#)

Check out the website and see why Digital Literacy is important for our students. Click [HERE](#) to visit the website TODAY. Questions? Email Jessica Ross at [jgross@philasd.com](mailto:jgross@philasd.com).

### [Digital Literacy Curriculum](#) (Repost!)

The Office of Educational Technology is happy to announce that there is curated and revamped Digital Literacy Curriculum. The curriculum is designed to support students in grades K-8. Currently, Digital Literacy is offered as a course in 112 K-8 schools across the district. The Digital Literacy Curriculum provides opportunities for students to learn skills in the following modules: Computing & Society, Computer Science Fundamentals and Coding, Media & Information Literacy, and Digital Tools & Collaboration. By teaching digital literacy in Elementary and Middle school, educators empower students to become informed, responsible, and confident digital citizens capable of thriving in an increasingly digital world.

Click [HERE](#) to access and learn more. Questions? Email Jessica Ross at [jgross@philasd.com](mailto:jgross@philasd.com).

[Visit our website](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [bymmehra@philasd.org](mailto:bymmehra@philasd.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

---