

SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

May 2023

Hello, Secondary ELA Colleagues!

We've made it to the home stretch in the school year! I also hope you're able to get outside to enjoy this beautiful springtime weather. I recently re-read *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume in anticipation of the movie version landing in theaters. What a trip down memory lane – and a reminder of the importance of stories that mirror students' experiences. Have you seen the movie yet?

Naomi

I'M CURRENTLY ENJOYING:

- *Soft Science* by Franny Choi
- *Judy Blume Forever* on Prime



ELA STANDARDS UPDATE

As you may already know, the Utah State Board of Education approved [the P-12 ELA Standards](#). It may be a little while before the pretty version is available on the website, so we are directing you to use the draft that I've linked above. This is the final approved version even though it says "draft."

We are working on developing Core Guides and will be sending out soon information about professional learning for the summer. We are planning to offer a one-day session in 7 areas of the state + 1 virtual option.

I am also planning on regular one-hour virtual webinars on specific instructional needs for standards implementation throughout the 23-24 school year. More info to come.

Additionally, the Creative Writing/Literary Magazine and Professional & Technical Communication Supplemental Standards were approved by the full Board. I will be sending these out in a separate email soon.





REPEAT OFFERING
LET'S TALK!
**CREATING CONDITIONS FOR CIVIL
DIALOGUE IN OUR SCHOOLS**

Join colleagues across all academic disciplines in an engaging and outcomes-based professional learning experience. Learn and practice strategies to foster productive civil dialogue in our classrooms and school communities. This learning model will allow you to share and teach these strategies to your colleagues.

SELECT ONE HALF-DAY SESSION

Thursday, June 15
Granite School District
8:00am - 11:30am
OR
12:30 - 4:00pm

REGISTER



LET'S TALK!

CREATING CONDITIONS FOR CIVIL DIALOGUE IN OUR SCHOOLS

OUR FACILITATOR



MARY ELLEN DANEELS

Mary Ellen Daneels is a National Board Certified teacher who taught at West Chicago Community High School for 27 years. She serves as the Director of the Illinois Civics Hub and Illinois Democracy School Network, leading efforts to support civic learning across disciplines.

She has been recognized as the Law-related Educator of the Year from the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Chicago, Teacher of the Year by the 19th District of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Civic Education Teacher from the Center for Civic Education and the Illinois Education Association Teacher of the Year.

RECRUITMENT HAPPENING NOW FOR FACES OF SALT LAKE COUNTY

LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT CULTURES
INTERVIEW REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS, AND NON-IMMIGRANTS
LEARN HOW TO LAYOUT AND PUBLISH A STORYBOOK

Open to Youths **Grade in 7th to 12th Grade**
– Must be **Salt Lake County residents**.

\$200 Gift Card for full participation.

Salt Lake County will also provide **transportation funding** for each meeting.

Conduct interviews on 28 refugees and immigrants from all different continents.

Create reports on what you learned during the interviews and create a storybook.

Participation will also include Welcoming Week in September 2023!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2023



Extension
UtahStateUniversity



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
JGENDA@SLCO.ORG OR JOSEPHINE.SLADE@USU.EDU

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Educator Spotlight

Loree Romriell Summit Academy

- ✓ 16 years in education -- currently teaching 7th grade ELA, Tier 2 Reading, Creative Writing, & Journalism
- ✓ Favorite Book: *Precious Bane* by Mary Webb

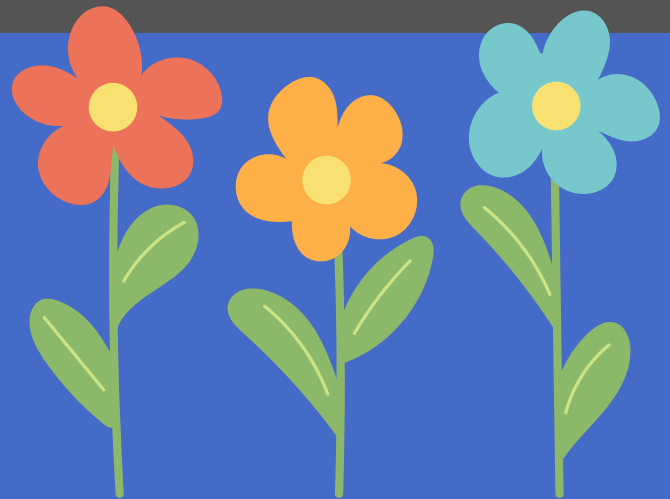


A RECENT INSPIRING TEACHING MOMENT

The purpose of the Tier 2 Reading class was to help 7th and 8th grade students reach their grades reading level before the go on to high school. One of my best stories comes from last year. I had a student who did not want to be in the class, did everything he could to disrupt and cause distractions so he didn't have to read. By the end of the year he had bought in to the work we did and got a 3 on his ELA Rise Test. At the autograph party the last day of school he surprised me by coming up to me and while crying thanked me for helping him to reach his goals and become a confident reader. It just doesn't get better than that.

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

Outside of school, I love to create needlework and research antique samplers. I enjoy traveling with my husband, and visiting with my five grown-up children and six (soon to be seven) grandchildren.



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2023-2024 STATE SECONDARY ELA DIRECTOR MEETINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

All held virtually from 1-3pm

- Tuesday, September 13
- Tuesday, November 14
- Tuesday, January 23
- Tuesday, March 19

message [brenda.mcmurtrey@schools.
utah.gov](mailto:brenda.mcmurtrey@schools.utah.gov) for an invite



Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

- [Smithsonian & The Library of Congress](#)
- [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)
- [PBS](#)
- [UEN](#)
- [Google Arts and Culture - Celebrate Asian Pacific American Cultures](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Naomi Watkins, Ph.D.
Secondary ELA Specialist
Utah State Board of Education
naomi.watkins@schools.utah.gov



Utah Rural Schools Association

2023 CONFERENCE JULY 12-14 IN PRICE

Registration is open.

The conference provides hands on and break-out sessions that will focus on insights and interventions with strategies to close any learning loss associated with the effects of COVID-19. There will be sessions focused on strengthening mental and behavioral health supports, social and emotional supports, grading practices, literacy best practices, strengthened the guaranteed curriculum at each school, and developing a culture of investment.

PENS & PIXEL: GENERATIVE AI IN EDUCATION

This one-day free online conference sponsored by UC Irvine on July 13 will bring together leading scholars and practitioners to share and discuss perspectives on generative AI in education and educational research.

**Please note: LEAs have the duty to select instructional materials that best correlate to the core standards for Utah public schools and graduation requirements. (UCA 53G-4-402(1(a))). Posting of these resources by USBE staff curriculum content specialists does not imply the resources have received official endorsement of the State Board. Educators are responsible to ensure use of these materials complies with LEA policies and directives.

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ARTSRAGEOUS ONLINE

ARTrageous Online! supports core curriculum learning for 7-12th grade students by introducing students to passionate and accomplished "thought leaders" in our community. They are artists, scientists, authors, activists, mathematicians, engineers, teachers, and creatives who have ideas and experience worth sharing. Vibrant video presentations, activities, and lesson plans support arts integration in English, Science, and Social Studies.



RESOURCES & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- From The Reading League in Michigan, watch [this one-hour webinar](#) about **one school's journey to implement MTSS in their secondary school** to support students' literacy development.
- **Beyond the Nonfiction Unit: Exploring the Potential of Nonfiction Literature for Young People in K-12 Education on June 6 at 4:30pm ET.** The co-chairs of the NCTE position statement writing group, Mary Ann Capiello and Xenia Hadjiioannou, will join author and illustrator Jason Chin in leading a session that explores grounding information on nonfiction in K-12 education, including nonfiction's prominent tie to urgent educational challenges, NCTE's work with nonfiction over time, as well as the history of children's nonfiction literature. Input from the field on changes in practice tied to the statement will also be explored.
- **NCTE's Build Your Stack: Best of the 22-23 School Year event** on June 13, 7-8:15pm ET. Presenters will be added soon. Registration is free and open to all, but you will be required to make or sign into an NCTE account.

myShakespeare™
Love to learn it.

myShakespeare provides media-rich, full-text editions of Shakespeare's plays for free. Some key features:

- Interviews with the characters illuminate themes and ignite discussion
- Performances of key scenes bring Shakespeare's language to life
- Animated videos explore the plays and their contexts
- Complete audio recordings emphasize clarity and comprehension.



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THE NEWS LITERACY PROJECT RESOURCES

The [News Literacy Project](#), a nonpartisan national education nonprofit, provides programs and resources to help people of all ages become smart, active information consumers and equal and engaged participants in a democracy. The misinformation crisis requires a bold response, and NLP is meeting the moment by transforming its mission into a national movement to advance news literacy. Founded in 2008, NLP is the leading provider of news literacy education through its signature free e-learning platform [Checkology](#)® virtual classroom and other resources. NLP works with thousands of educators in all 50 states and more than 100 other countries.

[Checkology](#), NLP's industry leading, browser-based platform, includes nearly 20 lessons plus dozens of additional exercises and challenges that help students learn how to navigate today's challenging information landscape. NLP's [Checkology](#) lessons are aligned to Common Core literacy standards, social studies standards, NGSS, ISTE student standards and the C3 Framework. They gain the skills to identify credible information, seek out reliable sources, recognize misinformation and help stop its spread. The middle and high school cross-curricular lessons also provide an understanding of the role of the free press and the first Amendment in our democracy. [Checkology](#) features a directory of vetted journalists in the Newsroom to Classroom program who can speak with students, virtually or in-person. And its Check Center allows students to detect and debunk misinformation as they encounter it.



The Book Love Foundation seeks teachers who demonstrate a passion for promoting a hunger for books. These teachers recognize the diversity of every class of readers, and they challenge each student to build an independent reading life of increasing depth and joy. Teachers who apply for a Book Love Foundation grant must demonstrate that they are already committed to the support of readers through current classroom practices such as maintaining access to a range of books, conferring regularly and purposefully to understand and support students' changing needs, and sharing their own contagious passion for reading inside and outside of their classroom. Read about the requirements for a grant, and then apply for either a classroom library or book clubs.

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GREAT SALT LAKE COLLABORATIVE

The Great Salt Lake is one of the dominant topics of discussion at the 2023 Legislature because the lake has shrunk to the lowest levels ever recorded — which affects our air quality, snowpack and ecosystem.

Here are potential ways you can incorporate what is happening to the lake — and what policy makers are doing about it — in your classrooms.

This website —greatsaltlakenews.org— collects all of the latest news about Great Salt Lake. There are no paywalls or advertisements. It is run by the Great Salt Lake Collaborative, which combines the resources and reach of Utah's top newsrooms that have put aside traditional competition to work together to cover Great Salt Lake.

The site includes 250 and counting articles about the lake, covering topics including agriculture, air quality, bird migration and water conservation. You can find:

- A time lapse of the lake shrinking
- A video library of lake experts talking about what is happening at the lake and potential solutions
- A handy Q/A section
- A project called "Lake Effect" that collects audio stories about the lake.

The Collaborative also has a YouTube channel with recordings of panel discussions with experts and advocates about the lake.

For more information, contact Project Manager Heather May at info@greatsaltlakenews.org



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ABOUT

StoryMaker is a free learning platform powered by PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs. It's your one-stop shop for projects, tutorials, and lesson plans connected to media making, digital journalism, and public broadcasting. Features include:

- a personalized dashboard to save your favorite resources,
- an educator directory to connect to like-minded educators and mentors, and
- a robust library chock full of activities, videos, and worksheets.

Our standards-based curriculum develops communication skills, critical thinking, and teamwork, and provides a strong foundation of storytelling skills to help students discover their place in the world.

BEGIN YOUR STORYTELLING JOURNEY

Youth media empowers students to use their voice, engage with people outside of school walls, discover new ideas and tell important stories. StoryMaker provides not only the resources, but pathways to do through a variety of tracks:

- Teach Media Literacy Skills
- Increase Civic Engagement
- Explore Science Journalism + STEM
- Experiment with Storytelling Formats
- Activate + Amplify Student Voice
- Motivate with Culturally Responsive Projects
- Start a Broadcast Curriculum

For more info visit: <https://story-maker.org/getting-started>

2022-23 PROMPTS, LESSONS, PROJECTS & CHALLENGES

SRL releases new projects, prompts, lessons and rapid responses as current events unfold. Check StoryMaker regularly as additional prompts will be published, including connections to Ken Burns' U.S. + The Holocaust and Making Black America. For more info visit: <https://story-maker.org/library>

