

August 2022

SECONDARY ELA NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO 22-23 SCHOOL YEAR!

Hello, Secondary ELA Colleagues!

I hope you found time this summer to rest and replenish with friends and family. I've been hiking in the mountains, floating on my paddle board, soaking in live music, and wrapping up a forest therapy guide certification.

It's important to give time and space to what rejuvenates us and to support that time for the educators and students we serve -- not just in the summer but throughout the year. Consider how reading, writing, speaking, and listening can act as modes of care for ourselves and others. How can we model for students these practices?

Best of luck as students arrive and you begin this next school year!

Naomi

USBE LIBRARY MODEL POLICY

USBE approved a [library materials model policy](#) which provides guidance to districts and charter schools for reviewing possibly sensitive materials in schools, was created in response to H.B. 374, Sensitive Materials in Schools, and board rule R277-628 School Libraries. Each district and charter school governing board should review and approve the policy by the October 1, 2022 deadline.

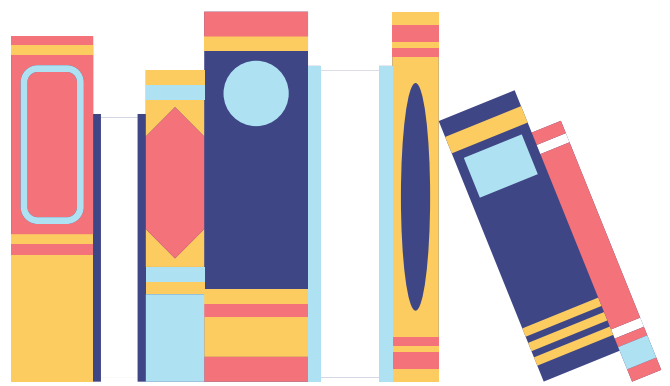
If you need assistance, contact USBE Library Media Specialist: davina.sauthoff@schools.utah.gov

WHAT I'M READING, WATCHING, & LISTENING TO:

- Chasing Utopia: A Hybrid by Nikki Giovanni
- Only Murders in the Building on Hulu
- Songs by Olivia Newton-John

NEW PARENT GUIDES

USBE [Parent Guides](#) for all Utah Core Standards are now available. The purpose of these resources is to help families better understand what their children should learn, when a child may need more help or when a child would benefit from extra challenges. By using these resources families may find more ways to advance their child's learning at home while encouraging growth in their communication, critical thinking and problem solving skills.



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ELA STANDARDS REVISION

Public feedback for the ELA Standards has ended, and now the writing committee is revising the draft standards based on this feedback. Please note that the earliest these new standards will be adopted in classroom instruction is the 2023–2024 school year.

RESOURCES

- Project Zero's thinking routines are sets of questions or a brief sequence of steps used to scaffold and support student thinking.
- Adolescent Literacy Walk-Through: A Guide for Instructional Leaders
- The Importance of the Classroom Library by Susan B. Neuman

SCRIBLE FOR IPAD BETA TESTERS NEEDED

If you'd like to participate in the rapid beta test of Scribble for iPad from August 17–31, click here to sign up.

JOIN THE SECONDARY ELA LIST SERV

Want to stay in the loop of future news and newsletters?

Join the Secondary ELA ListServ

SECONDARY LITERACY DIRECTOR MEETINGS

- ✓ September 13, 1–3pm | virtual
- ✓ November 15, 1–3pm | virtual
- ✓ January 24, 1–3pm | virtual
- ✓ March 21, 1–3pm | virtual

message brenda.mcmurtrey@schools.utah.gov for an invite

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Even though the Summer Standards Implementation Institute was cancelled, the stellar professional learning resources that were developed are available for you to use in your LEA.

- Strategies for Success in Argumentative Text & Writing
- Engagement & Endurance with Complex Text
- Informational Text & Writing
- Working Effectively with Adolescents with Reading Challenges



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SECONDARY ELA EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

GLESSIE CHAVEZ
CYPRUS HIGH SCHOOL
GRANITE SCHOOL DISTRICT



WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A TEACHER?

I have wanted to teach since my first day of kindergarten, truly. I remember going home that day and playing “school” with my imaginary students. That desire was simply encouraged by the wonderful teachers that I had throughout my time in school. I fell in love with writing and reading at a very young age and quickly fell in love with Spanish as well. I guess I feel like I always just “fit” in academia and it was a respite from a chaotic home.

To nominate a secondary ELA educator to highlight in the monthly newsletter, contact brenda.mcmurtrey@schools.utah.gov

- ✓ Has taught 9.5 years —4.5 in St. Louis, Missouri and 5 here in Utah.
- ✓ Teaches English, Spanish, and coaches volleyball
- ✓ Hobbies: spending time with family, watching the St. Louis Cardinals, reading, meeting new people, and playing sports.
- ✓ Favorite Books: *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah & *The Serpent King* by Jeff Zentner

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING PART OF TEACHING?

That moment when you see the eyes light up and you know they “got” whatever concept you’re teaching or when a student accomplishes something they thought was impossible. “I’ve never read a book; that’s impossible!” and then they finish a book and love it or if they think they can NEVER write an essay, but then they do and feel so proud of their progress. The other most rewarding part is when I run into a student, or they send me a college graduation announcement and you see that they’re successful post-graduation.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT TEACHING ELA TO KIDS?

My goal is to help students to read and communicate in ways that help them understand how information is used to persuade their thoughts and decisions and give them the power to make decisions for their own thoughts and path in life.