Message

So far this school year, in my conversations with teachers across the state, a common refrain has echoed. Perhaps more than ever, it has been incredibly difficult this year to set healthy boundaries and maintain a reasonable work-life balance. By our nature, educators tend to be people who are generous with their time, energy, and empathy for others. This is an asset! However, when the needs of others become intensified, it can be detrimental to us to feel like we shoulder the full responsibility for meeting those needs. I would like to invite you to call or email me to share strategies you have successfully applied to take care of your physical and mental well-being. If I get a handful of responses, I’ll be happy to share them (anonymously, if desired) in future newsletters. I’m also in the midst of planning a collaborative session on student and teacher well-being with Kellie Bailey, the Department’s SEL Specialist, so stay tuned for news on that in the next month or so!

Also, please know that I’m here to support you. That includes being a sounding board and thought partner, as well as a supportive listener. Don’t hesitate to pick up the phone anytime!

April Perkins
Educator Highlight
This week, intern Isabel Honigman interviewed Bei Ju, Chinese teacher at Gorham High School. Thank you, Bei, for sharing your story with us!

Can you tell me a little bit about your background? What motivated you to become a teacher?
I was born and raised in Mainland China. Since I was little, I was interested in learning new languages and new cultures. I learned Russian and Japanese in school and later learned English. After I graduated from college in Shanghai, I went to grad school in Japan for engineering and I worked there doing electronic engineering. After I moved to the US, I worked in a weekend Chinese school, and found my passion in teaching. I then went to the Ohio State University for Chinese as a second language teaching. After I graduated, I became a Chinese teacher in a private middle school in Boston. However, working at a secondary school was always my dream so I began teaching at Gorham High School.

What is the most significant breakthrough moment you have experienced with a student?
The big picture is I treasure each of my students. I believe as a teacher we are not only teaching the students content knowledge but also how to review the world and how to react to events around us. There was a shooting in Atlanta on March 26, 2021. Six of the people killed were Asian women. When that happened, the school's civil rights team and I organized a silent vigil. The students and faculty came to make posters during after-school hours and they wrote phrases like “Stop Asian Hate.” Before the first classes of the day the next day, we held the signs up outside of school and we had a great turnout. I really appreciated the support from our school’s administrators, students and faculty in our community. In the classroom, the students see me every day so they can see my heart. I always tell them to remain calm in the classroom. In language classes, there are always students with different learning styles and levels, so I differentiate my learning for them.

What is a teaching tip you want to share with other educators?
I am a language teacher and these two years have been hard because of all the remote teaching. The students use the computers a lot so I think we could implement game-based learning. I think it would increase students’ motivation to learn.

What is your favorite part about being a language teacher in Maine?
I actually have some challenges teaching in Maine. People I taught in Boston have different dynamics. According to NSEP (National Security Education Program), Chinese is categorized as one of the less commonly taught languages along with Arabic, Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Russian and Turkish. Students always think Chinese is a really hard language to learn. Schools here offering these critical language programs are facing enrollment challenges. If the government can provide some help or funds to support these languages, it would give Maine students more opportunities to explore in their education.

Northern New England TESOL
Are you a teacher working with multilingual students, foreign language teacher or work with multilingual youth programming? Do you identify as an educational ally or community member interested in conversations about social justice for language learners? If this describes you or someone you know, then don’t miss the opportunity to come together with a like-minded community to share stories, strategies and ideas at our annual Northern New England TESOL Virtual Conference.

Our keynote speaker, Ryuko Kubota from the University of British Columbia, will address Social Justice and Anti-racist Pedagogy. Presenters and programs will include topics for PK- College teachers, Intensive English programs, and teacher education programs for Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and neighboring states.

This year, our conference is only $25! Register here. If you are interested in advertising or sponsoring our conference program, contact andrea.mercado@maine.edu.
**Professional Learning**

All virtual Maine DOE offerings will be recorded and posted to the Maine DOE [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com) unless noted with an asterisk.

**Maine DOE Professional Development Calendar**

WIDA Self-Paced eWorkshops are available 9.1.21-8.31.22

10.18.21-10.22.21: [World Language Teacher Summit](#)

10.19.21 and 10.26.21 from 2-3:30pm: WIDA [Nurturing Speaking Growth](#) (Registration has been extended to 10.11.21.)

10.21.21 at 3pm: Maine DOE [Cultural Appropriation in World Languages Classrooms](#)

10.27.21-10.28.21: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [Virtual Symposium: Understanding and Preventing Youth Hate Crimes and Identity-Based Bullying](#)

10.29.21-10.30.21 9am-4pm: [Maine Chinese Conference](#) at Husson University

11.4.21 at 3pm: Maine DOE [Seal of Biliteracy](#)

11.6.21 8:30-4pm: [Northern New England TESOL Virtual Conference](#)

11.10.21 7-8:30pm: Immigrant Connections [Educational Experiences of Afghans: Learning from Afghan Refugee Students & Families](#)

11.19.21-11.21.21: [ACTFL Virtual Convention and Expo](#)

2.10.22-2.12.22 [Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Conference](#) in NY

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**Articles of Interest**

[Maine DOE Newsroom: Maine DOE Opens 2021/2022 Student Cabinet Application – Calling on Diverse Voices to Apply](#)

[Sun Journal: Franco Center to host screening of Lewiston-based documentary](#)

[EdWeek: English-Learners May Need More Support This Fall, But That Doesn’t Mean They’re Behind](#)

[Language Magazine: The Universal Implications of Science of Reading](#)

[Language Magazine: School Districts Receive $20M in New Grants for World Languages](#)

[Taiwan News: Taiwan Centers for Mandarin Learning open across US](#)

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**French Partnership Opportunity**

Are you looking for some new opportunities to open up your class to French culture and traditions? Would you like to find new ways to spice up your teaching? Are you interested in a new project with a brand-new French partner? If your answer is YES, then you have found within the partnership between the Académie de Nantes and the Maine DOE a new way to broaden your students’ perspectives. From short-term projects to more elaborate ones, from talking about daily routines to historical or cultural landmarks, to letters, videos, and slideshows...the possibilities are endless! If you are interested and want to know more, please contact Laëtitia Bouteiller at laetitia.bouteiller@ac-nantes.fr (French coordinator of the pairing campaign) and copy April Perkins. Merci et à bientôt!
Assessment Updates

IMPORTANT REMINDERS ABOUT ACCESS FOR ELLS AND ALTERNATE ACCESS FOR ELLS

MATERIALS ORDERING

 o Maine DOE will coordinate the initial materials ordering using active student enrollment data. Please confirm that all English learners have an EL Start Date in Synergy.

 o Requests for paper-based materials must be submitted to Jodi no later than 11/9/21. This includes large print, Braille, and paper-based forms [as indicated via the IEP]. Jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov

 o Materials will be received by Maine SAUs 12/15/21.

Resources

Please check out the following WIDA resources now available on the Family Engagement page, which are available in multiple languages:

 o Explaining ELL Status
 o Family Connections through Home Languages
 o What is Language Testing?

ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Assessment of English Learners Receiving Special Education

For those English learners who are receiving special education, it is important to confer early in the school year with the case manager/IEP team about which assessment accommodations are in place per the student’s IEP or 504 plan. The accessibility features and accommodations provide important access points for students with disabilities and are part of the student’s legal rights to FAPE under IDEA.

ACCESS for ELLs Accommodations Checklist

The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is Maine’s alternate assessment of English language proficiency, designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Eligibility to participate in alternate assessments is an IEP Team decision, must be documented in the student’s IEP [section 6B], and is based on state guidance for participation.

With questions, please contact Jodi: jodi.bossio-smith@maine.gov
Job Opportunities

- Westbrook ELL Elementary Ed Tech III (One Year)
- RSU 44 ELL Tutor
- Falmouth HS Latin Teacher (One Year)
- MSAD 54 Part-Time ELL Tutor
- RSU 22 Middle School Spanish Teacher
- Portland Dedicated Substitute Teachers & Remote Learning Liaisons
- Biddeford ELL Ed Tech II
- Lewiston Elementary ELL Teacher
- Lewiston Anticipated ELL Teacher Coach
- SAD 15 Long-Term Substitute Spanish Teacher
- Waterville ELL Teacher
- Maine Arts Academy French Teacher
- AOS 98 (Boothbay Region HS) Spanish Teacher
- St. Brigid School Grades 4-8 Spanish Teacher
- RSU 57 Spanish Teacher
- Blue Hill Harbor School French Educator
- MSAD 54 World Language Teacher
- Lee Academy Foreign Language Teacher

Announcements

- **Passamaquoddy-Maliseet Language Portal**
  Check out this amazing resource to learn more about the indigenous languages spoken across Maine. “The Passamaquoddy-Maliseet Language Portal links the 19,000-entry online Passamaquoddy-Maliseet Dictionary with an extensive archive of videos of conversations and activities of Passamaquoddy-Maliseet speakers.”

- **AATF-Maine Fall Conference (Conférence virtuelle d’automne)**
  The Fall conference of the Maine Chapter of AATF will be held virtually on **Saturday, October 23rd** from 8:30-3:30. Here is the [program](#). Register [here](#).

- **Free Screening of “Le Carrefour”**
  “Past and present immigrant experiences intersect in Lewiston, Maine, when Franco-American retiree Cécile and Congolese asylum-seeker Trésor discover a sense of belonging thanks to their shared French language.” On October 16th at 7pm, the Gendron Franco Center is hosting a free screening of this award-winning Lewiston-based documentary, along with a Q&A with the filmmakers, primary characters, and community leaders. A reception follows the screening. Tickets are free and can be reserved [here](#) or by calling (207) 783-1585.

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**Monthly Office Hours**

An informal opportunity to connect with DOE staff and teaching colleagues

**ESOL**

3rd Wednesday of Each Month

Next: 10.20.21 at 3:30pm
Focus Topic: English Learner Data & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Eligibility

Register by 10.17.21

**World Languages**

2nd Wednesday of Each Month

Next: 11.10.21 at 3:00pm
Focus Topic: Teaching with Depth about Holidays

Register by 11.7.21