Message

Tomorrow is the FLAME Conference/Maine ESOL Meeting! I hope to see many of you there (albeit virtually). See page 4 for the schedule.

Portland Public Schools is collecting information about World Languages graduation requirements in high schools across Maine. If you are willing to help, please take a moment and complete this brief survey, which will serve to inform their reflection on their own policy. Thanks in advance for your time!

April Perkins
**Educator Highlight**

This week, intern Isabel Honigman interviewed Allston Parkinson, an ELL teacher at Lewiston Middle School.

**Can you tell me a little bit about your background? What motivated you to become a teacher?**

My background is pretty conventional. After graduating from Bates as a history major, I moved to New York City and worked in finance on Wall Street. I moved to California to get my business degree and spent 10 years as a financial lender. I had an opportunity with my family to move to Singapore and after my wife’s contract was up, we decided to stay. I got shut out of finance and ended up working as a part-time English teacher. When I came back to the states, I decided to stay in education, and it led me to become a public-school teacher. I received my ETEP teaching certification from University of Southern Maine and I started as an ed tech my first year back. I worked with who is now Superintendent Langlais, and he told me to create activity for my students, so I created a Wall Street trading game and worked on what I knew I could do. After a year of showing up every day, working hard, and not taking sick days, I was offered an ELL position. I teach because, I think especially in Lewiston and being in Maine, I wanted to give back a little bit. I've had a pretty good life and I wanted to give back to a community that I care about.

**How do you navigate having different levels of learners in your classroom?**

That’s a tricky one. In some of my classes, I have kids at 1st- and 5th-grade reading levels. Quite a range. When you’re looking for texts, there are two ways I do it. One is letting the students choose independent reading books they want to read, which is hard for less strong readers. It’s hard to get them to be bolder in their choices. I find that if I create an environment that allows the stronger readers to do the types of readings they want, the other students fall in line. When you are looking at trying to be more academic and instructional, you are looking for something that allows all students to be able to participate in the discussion. I offer different types of materials on the same subject that cover different aspects of that subject. That way the strong readers cannot dominate the whole conversation. For example, if we were learning about baking a cake, one material at a higher reading level might be about the ingredients and then another material for the less strong readers could be about the different steps of baking the cake, so no one is overpowered in the conversation.

**How do you think your teaching style differs from other teachers and what is most important to you in the classroom?**

I think for me, I am coming to teaching later in life. I kind of feel like I’ve had two careers. I have this experience of living abroad for both work and study and I’ve moved around a lot. I’ve been around a lot of diverse places. I rely on a pretty good sort of knowledge of current events and experiences in different settings that allow me to relate to different students and make connections to the students on the fly. It helps keep their attention on the material and the task at hand. I can adapt a lesson for how the lesson is starting to unfold. I do not do very detailed lesson plans. I am always extremely flexible in my teaching and I am constantly adapting.

**If there were one piece of education policy that could be immediately implemented in the district, what would you choose?**

One is hiring practices. This is something that I am getting involved with at LMS. What are the needs of my students and what do we need those new teachers to be getting involved in? In the pockets of Maine that are very diverse, we need a more diverse teaching rank. We have an extremely white teaching staff at Lewiston Public Schools, and I think our students would benefit from a more diverse teaching staff. I think reading is ultimately the single most foundational thing that students need to do at a high level. Too many of my students do not know how to read. We need huge resources put into 1st grade to ramp up students’ ability to learn how to read properly. I do not know exactly what they are doing in elementary school and how they introduce reading, but if a student in 1st grade is not reading by the start of 2nd grade, they need to be focused on. If we can get all kids reading by the end of 2nd grade, we will end up with students who will be better students. If they can read, they can handle other subjects. Everyone in every 1st grade class should be on the same lesson for the same week. While it’s repetitive, at least the school district can take out the variable of the teacher and say it’s the program.
Professional Learning

All virtual Maine DOE offerings will be recorded and posted to the Maine DOE YouTube channel unless noted with an asterisk.

**ExcEL Leadership Academy**: Free Micro-Credentials (and option for graduate credit) in ESOL Topics

**WIDA Self-Paced eWorkshops** are available 9.1.21-8.31.22

3.15.22 at 6pm: Centre de la Francophonie des Ameriques

**Tribute to Jack Kerouac** (in French and English)


3.18.22 at 5pm: Kathleen Stein-Smith Book Talk **The Gift of Languages: Paradigm Shift in US Foreign Language Education**

3.18.22-3.19.22: Multi-State Association for Bilingual Education **Dual Language Conference and Pre-Conference School Visits**

3.22.22-3.25.22: **TESOL Convention**

3.27.22-11.20.22: Pejepscot History Center **The Immigrant Experience: A Spring and Fall Book Discussion Group**

4.5.22-4.7.22: Pennsylvania Department of Education **English Language Development Virtual Professional Learning Summit: Reimagining Equitable Access for Multilingual Learners** Free and open to all! Check out the headliners!

4.22.22-4.24.22: **National Chinese Language Conference**

Summer 2022: **CARLA Summer Institutes** schedule now available

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**Articles of Interest**

Amjambo Africa: Brunswick opens Welcome Center

EdSource: Will a universal screening test for dyslexia mislabel California’s English learners?

Lafayette Daily Advertiser: Learning French changed her life; now she shares that gift at immersion charter school

Maine DOE Newsroom: Bangor High School Civil Rights Team Creates Calendars to help Celebrate Diverse History and Culture

SmartBrief: Keeping the Spotlight on English Learners

Maine Public: Facing summer funding cliff, Portland seeks alternate housing options for asylum seekers

NHPR: ‘Embracing two cultures’ A new Maine radio show centers African immigrant voices in local news

Amjambo Africa: Teacher holds ‘Fufu Friday’ at Portland’s King Middle School

101.9 The Rock: Caribou High School Wins First Place in National French Week Media Contest
ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
Administration Window Closes on 3/18/22

All completed test booklets and secure test materials must be shipped back to DRC no later than March 21st, 2022. This will ensure that while we have extended the window for this year, Maine SAUs will still receive student data prior to the close of the school year.

Maine Seal of Biliteracy

Do you have students graduating this year who are bilingual or multilingual? Encourage them to apply for the Maine Seal of Biliteracy! See the website for details about eligibility criteria, assessment options, the online application, and FAQ. Applications are due 5/15/22*. Contact April Perkins at april.perkins@maine.gov with any questions.

Maine Seal of Biliteracy Overview Webinar

*Students whose AP or IB exam scores are not available by May 15th can apply through 7/15/22.

Maine ESOL Meeting and FLAME Conference: Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00</td>
<td>Login and Social Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:30</td>
<td>ESOL Welcome by April Perkins and Plenary by Margaret Brownlee, Director of DEI</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-10:30</td>
<td>Keynote by Young-chan Han, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, “Be a Voice: What About English Learners?” (on realizing our shared responsibility)</td>
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<td>10:30-11:30</td>
<td>Awards, Voting, President’s Speech, DOE Specialist Speech</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-12:30</td>
<td>Lunch/Group Meetings (AATF, AATG, ESOL, Spanish, Latin, Chinese, Just Chatting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-1:30</td>
<td>Keynote by Idioma Language Consulting on SEL in the Second Language Classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30-2:30</td>
<td>Pre-Recorded Webinar: SEL for the Maine Educator by DOE SEL Specialist Kellie Bailey</td>
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Job Opportunities

Maine Central Institute Spanish Teacher (Anticipated)
RSU 03 ELL Teacher
Fryeburg Academy ESOL Teacher
George Stevens Academy French Teacher
Winthrop Grades 7-12 Spanish Teacher (2022-23)
RSU 21 Long-Term Sub Elementary Spanish
Lincoln Academy Spanish Teacher
USM Part-Time Faculty in Linguistics (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, and Spanish)
RSU 21 Long-Term Sub Elementary Spanish Teacher
AOS 91 French Teacher
Augusta ESOL Ed Tech II Part-Time
Biddeford ELL Middle School Classroom Teacher
Sebago Part-Time ESL Teacher (2022-23)
WIDA Professional Learning Specialist
MSAD 54 Part-Time ELL Tutors (Elementary/Middle School)
Center for Applied Linguistics Director of PreK-12 Language and Literacy
St. John’s Catholic School Long Term Substitute – Music & Latin Teacher (PK-8)
RSU 44 Spanish Teacher
Cape Elizabeth ELL Ed Tech III
RSU 64 High School Spanish Teacher

Announcements

USM Summer Camp
July 11-15, USM is offering a summer camp called Playing with Language for children ages 9-12. See the flyer for details.

ACTFL Scholarships
French, Spanish, and Greek teachers are invited to apply for a scholarship to study abroad this summer. Application deadline is 3.16.22.

Screening of “Ascension” at SPACE
The Chinese-American Friendship Association invites you to attend a screening of this award-winning film. Tickets available here.

Free Screening of “Le Carrefour” at USM
On 3.19.22 at 5pm, Alliance Française is offering a free public screening of this documentary film, which centers on the intersection of francophone communities in Maine. RSVP to afdume@gmail.com.

Summer Courses in Spain
The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain invites Maine Spanish teachers to apply to travel to Spain and attend a three-week course this summer. Applications are due April 1st. Details, including costs and the application, can be found here.

National Committee for Effective Literacy
See the new white paper: Toward Comprehensive Effective Literacy Policy and Instruction for English Learner/Emergent Bilingual Students

Monthly ESOL Office Hours
Next: 3.16.22 at 3:00pm
Focus Topic: Family Engagement & Approaching the End of the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Administration Window
Register by 3.13.22