Thank you to everyone who attended the Maine ESOL Meeting/FLAME Conference! It was wonderful to have teachers of all languages together in one (virtual) room. At this event, I shared some important updates about changes at the DOE, and I would like to highlight those changes briefly here as well. See this video from the DOE to get an overview.

The DOE is making a very intentional shift away from content area silos, where each content area strives to achieve its own objectives in isolation, and toward a model of education founded in whole-child, project-based, interdisciplinary learning. All of the staff members who previously served as content area specialists, including me, have now become interdisciplinary instruction specialists. I will continue to advocate for both world languages and ESOL in this new role, and I will work hard to ensure that world languages classrooms are emphasized as an ideal context for interdisciplinary education, as this is deliberately woven throughout our world languages standards. More information will be coming on the soon-to-be-launched Interdisciplinary Instruction pages of the DOE website, so stay tuned! Meanwhile, if you have any questions about this new approach, please feel free to call/email me.

The Interdisciplinary Instruction Team is developing a newsletter for educators that will replace content-specific newsletters in the coming weeks. Once this new newsletter has been launched, World Languages educators will begin to receive the new interdisciplinary newsletter rather than Language Educators News. At that time, if you wish to unsubscribe, you may do so here. If you would like to continue to receive Language Educators News, which will shift to focus on ESOL and bilingual programs, you may subscribe here.

April Perkins

Check out page 4 for an exciting announcement about the Multilingual Education Task Force!!

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Can you tell me a little bit about your background? What motivated you to teach?
My name is Jean Pierre Nizeyimana. I am originally from Africa, Rwanda. This is my third year in the United States. Back in Rwanda, my dad worked for a French company before he passed away, but my mom did not speak French because she did not have a chance to go to college. I used to hear my dad speaking French and I said, “Oh, that’s cool,” and I asked my dad, “Will you teach me French?” He started giving me some lessons in French and then my dad said, “The lessons I am giving you are not enough. I have to send you to a French-speaking school.” My country was a French-speaking country, but some schools didn’t have good teachers. He sent me to a school which was being run by French people, and I had to learn real French. During the remainder of school, my teachers would ask me, “You speak really great French, where did you learn that?” I told them it was from my dad. They said, “You should become a teacher one day because your French is really good, and you can help the people who have a bad accent.” At first, I wanted to be a TV presenter, presenting news in French. When I applied to college, I was not accepted to media school, so I applied to an education school. I went to the University of Rwanda with a major in French. After graduation, I taught French for three years before coming to the U.S. When I got to the U.S., I had to obtain a certification to teach French. I went to the Maine Department of Education and they told me the requirements. I started applying for jobs, but I was not given any opportunities. A friend of mine who told me Lewiston is very diverse and it has many French-speaking people. I applied for a job at the middle school, and I was given the job. So here I am! I’m teaching French and I really enjoy it.

How do you think your teaching style differs from other French teachers and what is most important to you in the classroom?
First of all, I think teaching should be fun. You cannot learn without having fun, otherwise you will be bored. My philosophy is that students should have fun when they are learning. I think learning a language is different from learning other subjects because language is all about interaction. You learn a language from your family, your community, your workplace, and even school. All those places, you can learn a language without speaking. While in class, some students are very shy because French is not their first language. So I ask myself, “How do I move students from being shy to being engaged?” I do it through more games, more music, more dance, and exploring French culture. A language is not about books and text. A language is a living thing. French is a language of love. The students don’t have to know all the French. They need at least the basics just to enjoy the language. If they have a chance, they can go to another level because learning a new language has so many benefits. Research has shown that learning a new language helps your brain be active. It also helps you be a friendly person.

What is your favorite part about being a language teacher in Lewiston and Maine?
Lewiston is a very special place. I am an immigrant, and they have a lot of immigrants. A lot of parents speak French, but their kids do not because their parents are here in the U.S. and they are learning English and trying to speak to their kids in English. They are forgetting their French. Being in Maine, I want to revive the French language to those kids who are already forgetting their French. I also want to expose the kids who have not had the opportunity to learn French yet. It is not a very isolated language. I think that languages complement one another. I want to connect those kids who have a French background to those kids who don’t.

If there was one piece of education policy that could be immediately implemented in Maine, what would you choose?
I would choose having the kids begin learning a foreign language at a lower level. When students start learning in middle school, they cannot master the language completely. Linguistics say when kids start learning a language after the age of 12, they tend not to master the native accent. But, if they begin from the age of birth to 12, they have a great chance to speak a native-like accent.
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**

Self-Paced Online Course: University of Minnesota Improving Instruction of English Learners through Accessibility Decision Making

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

3.30.22 4:00-5:30pm: NNETESOL presents Dr. Andrea Honigsfeld Equity Strategies for Collaboratively Teaching Multilingual Learners

3.30.33 at 1:30pm: Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium Innovative Partnerships Supporting Families in Title I School Communities

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!


Summer 2022: CARLA Summer Institutes schedule now available

Articles of Interest

**Maine DOE Newsroom: Visiting Teachers from Spain Program**

**iNews: What language do they speak in Ukraine? The history of Ukrainian and how it’s different to Russian and Polish**

**The Language Educator: Antiracism in the World Language Classroom**

**WMTW: Maine has welcomed 240 Afghans evacuated by the US at the end of the war**

**Penobscot Bay Pilot: Second annual TV5MONDE Maine Heritage Film Grant awarded to ‘La Frontière’**

**iNews: When is Ramadan 2022? Start date, moon sighting explained, how long it lasts and when Eid al-Fitr is**

**News Center Maine: #LoveTeaching2022 | Graciela Dorsa, Spanish Teacher, Bangor High School**

**Maine Public: Asylum seeker scholarship program expanding to reach more Maine students**

**Sun Journal: Lewiston pharmacist to be first Somali American on Maine Board of Pharmacy**
ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Administration Window Closes Today, 3/18/22: A sincere congratulations to all Maine SAUs serving English learners for their significant efforts to complete ACCESS assessments this year!

Looking to next year: ACCESS data/reports will be available to Maine SAUs beginning 5/9/22 via WIDA AMS. Printed reports will be received by 5/25/22.

Reminder: 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.

Multilingual Education Task Force

The Maine DOE is getting ready to launch the Multilingual Education Task Force, which will be a group of educators and other community members interested in promoting bilingual programs in Maine. The Task Force will be cofacilitated by the Multistate Association for Bilingual Education. All language educators are encouraged to participate!!

- Are you interested in learning more about bilingual/dual language education?
- Would you like to gain knowledge and skills for advocating for bilingual education in your school?
- Do you want to start taking concrete steps towards implementation of a bilingual program?

Apply today to be part of this groundbreaking Task Force! In the first phase, there will be three meetings across April and May, TBD. Stay tuned to the Maine DOE Newsroom and Language Educators News for details as they become available. Contact April Perkins with any questions.
Job Opportunities

Cape Elizabeth Spanish/French Teacher
Maine Central Institute Spanish Teacher (Anticipated)
Ashwood Waldorf School Part-Time French Teacher
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

WL Graduation Requirements Survey
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!

AATF Scholarships
AATF-Maine is offering 2 scholarships: 1 for students: the Laurianna Boucher scholarship, and 1 for teachers: the Richard Williamson scholarship. Deadline to apply is May 13, 2022. For questions, email goreyn@link75.org

AATF Professional Learning
AATF-Maine is organizing its Summer 2022 Institute, in collaboration with le Francoforum! Teachers will have the opportunity to travel to the French islands of St Pierre-et-Miquelon and spend a week immersing themselves in the language and culture. Here are all the details and the registration form. The deadline to preregister is 3.28.22.

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.

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.

New French Courses
The Alliance Française du Maine has published its new program of Spring classes. Check out the diverse and exciting courses: www.afdume.org.

Monthly ESOL Office Hours

Next: 4.13.22 at 3:00pm
Focus Topic: Family Engagement
Register by 4.10.22

At least five registrants are required in order for office hours to be held.