

Readington Township Teacher Academy

2020-2021 FALL-WINTER Course Catalog



Please review the course descriptions in the catalog and make your selections via the on-line registration process on the district website. If you have any questions, please contact Anne Moore in the Curriculum Office at ext. 2954.

Deadline to register: Tuesday, October 20, 2020

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BOOK STUDY WORKSHOPS

(Books will be provided to Readington Staff Members)

Oct 26 – Jan 15

Book Study: *A Teacher's Guide to Reading Conferences Grades K-8*
by Jennifer Serravallo



Online
Study

Have you ever asked yourself: Why are reading conferences so important? What do effective reading conferences look and sound like? How do I fit reading conferences into my literacy block? If you have, then this book is a must-read for you. “Conferring,” writes Jennifer Serravallo, “is where the magic happens.” In this primer, she reveals that this seeming magic is actually purposeful, responsive instruction. Jen presents conferences for six specific instructional situations. A rich design, replete with infographics and special features, guides you quickly from learning to teaching with: Jen’s moves and language, 9 videos of her teaching in K–8 classrooms, 13 conference note-taking forms—one for each reading goal from the hierarchy in her Reading Strategies Book, and suggestions for connecting emergent bilingual learners’ language goals and reading goals.

Facilitator: Dr. Stacey Brown

Grades: K–8 ELA Teachers

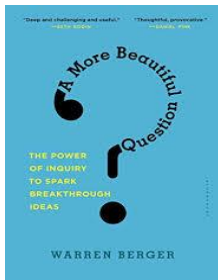
Location: Online

Time: Two hours of online discussion to be completed within a flexible time frame

Registration for this Course is on Oct 24th in the online registration calendar.

Jan 7

Book Study: *A More Beautiful Question: The Power of Inquiry to Spark Breakthrough Ideas*, by Warren Berger



A More Beautiful Question is an in-depth exploration of why questioning is so powerful. Warren Berger outlines a practical Why/What If/How system of inquiry that guides us through the process of innovative questioning to cultivate a culture of curiosity and inquiry in the classroom, our teaching practice, and our own lives. We’ll discuss strategies to inspire and activate questions and help learners and practitioners alike take ownership of their questions. As we’ll discuss, questions are like superpowers that can ultimately change our worlds for the better!

Facilitator: Betsy Freeman

Location: BOE Conference Room

Grades: 4-8 Staff

Time: 2:50 – 3:50

LITERACY WORKSHOPS

Nov 19
Dec 14
Jan 13

Using Data to Plan Instruction – A Three Part Course

There are several assessments that can be used to better understand a student's reading and writing abilities. Once data is collected and analyzed, teachers can plan instruction to meet the specific needs of students. This 3-session course is intended to guide participants through data collection, data analysis, and lesson planning. Although the sessions are interdependent, ***you must register for each one separately on the registration website.***



Nov 19 – Session 1 Gr. 4-8 2:45 – 3:45 Gr. K-3 3:50 – 4:50	Data Collection We will review the various assessments used to identify a student's specific needs. We will also discuss ways to track this data using a variety of collection tools (print or digital). Participants will develop a plan for data collection and select or design tools needed.
Dec 14 – Session 2 Gr. 4-8 2:45 – 3:45 Gr. K-3 3:50 – 4:50	Data Analysis & Lesson Planning Participants will bring assessment data collected to determine student goals. Within each goal, we will identify the specific skills and strategies needed. We will also review how conferences and small group strategy lessons can be used to support students in this work. Participants will use their data to plan a small group strategy lesson.
Jan 13 – Session 3 Gr. 4-8 2:45 – 3:15 Gr. K-3 3:45 – 4:15	Reflection & Next Steps Participants will bring new data to review to determine student progress. Participants will reflect on data collection/analysis, lesson planning, and student progress to share new ideas and next steps.

Facilitator: Nicole Maraventano
Grades: K-8 ELA Teachers

Location: BOE Conference Room
Please register for each session separately.

MATH WORKSHOPS

Oct 29

Using i-Ready Diagnostic Reports to Guide Small Group Instruction



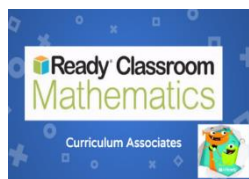
Now that the students have taken their first diagnostic, there are so many resources on i-Ready to help guide your small group instruction! This course will take you through the instructional groupings and prerequisite reports to help plan for your small group instruction. We can also look at individual domain plans for each of your students should they need personalized instruction. Bring your computer!

Facilitator: Maria Winter
Grades: 4-5 Math Teachers

Location: BOE Conference Room
Time: 2:45 – 3:45

Nov 18

Ready Classroom & Mastering Fluency with Struggling Learners



In this session, teachers will discuss how they are incorporating the components and routine of Ready Classroom into their Special Education/Intervention classrooms. We will redefine fluency and come up with a list of low-prep, highly engaging fluency activities that could be done throughout the year to refine our students' skills.

Facilitator: Jodi Rehrig
Grades: K–5 Math Teachers

Location: Virtual
Time: 3:45 – 4:45

SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

Nov 10

Creating Lessons Based on Phenomena



Phenomena-based science encourages students to ask questions, discover connections, and design models to make sense of what they observe. In this course, we will utilize what we learned from the NGSS District Partnership program to align old lessons and build lessons that focus on phenomena.

Facilitator: Cheryl Bellew
Grades: 6-8 Science Teachers

Location: RMS Room 404
Time: 2:45 – 3:45

SEL WORKSHOPS

Oct 29 – TBS/WHS
Nov 19 – HBS/RMS

Developing and Maintaining a Positive Mindset



Positivity changes everything! I have studied, practiced and applied positivity to my own life for the past 25 years. I have many user-friendly strategies that I would love to share with you. If you want your life to feel better, be easier and go more smoothly, please join me for a relaxed one hour of all things positive. I am confident that you will walk away thinking, "That was an hour well spent."

Facilitator: Shelly Gass
Grades 4-8 Staff

Nov 19 2:50–3:50

Location HBS Room TBD

Grades: PreK-3 Staff

Oct 29 4:00–5:00

Location: BOE Conference Room

Dec 10
Session 1

Practical Strategies for a Peaceful Mind – Focus on Self Care

"We can never find peace in the outer world, until we make peace with ourselves."
~Dalai Lama

Session 1 is centered around the self. During this time together, we will learn simple mindfulness practices. You will have time to reflect on each practice and create an action plan to incorporate one or more of them into your professional or personal life. We will have time built into the session to self reflect through writing in the following areas:

- share your experience during each practice
- how can you use these practices in your professional and/or personal life
- what obstacles could stand in your way of implementing these practices
- what are some possible solutions to these obstacles

We will have time to discuss your reflections together in a safe space to help create a more peaceful mind during this unsettling time.

Facilitators: Paul Smith/Anthony Tumolo
Grades: 4-8 Staff

Location: Virtual
Time: 3:00 – 4:00

Dec 17
Session 2

Practical Strategies for a Peaceful Mind – Focus on Classroom & Home Implementation



Session 2 is all about your students and their families. Together we will discuss and share strategies to implement into the classroom. You will have an opportunity to participate in small groups, held in break out rooms, where you will have time to practice and teach some of the strategies learned throughout the two sessions. We will have time built into the session to self reflect through writing in the following areas:

- share your experience teaching the practice in your breakout session
- how can you use these practices in your classroom
- what obstacles could stand in your way of implementing these practices
- what are some possible solutions to these obstacles

We will have time to discuss your reflections together in a safe space to help create a more peaceful mind during this unsettling time.

Facilitators: Paul Smith/Anthony Tumolo
Grades: 4-8 Staff

Location: Virtual
Time: 3:00 – 4:00

Jan 7

SEL in the Music Classroom



Social Emotional Learning may be a relatively new term, but music educators have been focusing on the Social Emotional well being of our students forever. This session will dive into discussions on how to conduct SEL activities into the music classroom. Whether it is a general music class or ensemble rehearsal, you will be able to walk away with several ideas of how to formally integrate SEL into your class/ rehearsal. Some of these may be examples of what you already do. Hopefully you will leave with some new/ different ideas as well.

Facilitator: John Hylkema
Grades: K-8 Music Teachers

Location: HBS Band Room
Time: 3:45 – 4:45

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

Oct 27

Google Jamboards & More for Interactive Digital Classrooms



Looking to develop a virtual learning community? Explore different ways to engage students in interactive online class activities. We will start with Google Jamboards and move on to activities you can do in Google Slides, on Jeopardylabs, Gimkit and/or other tools that you are interested in. There will be a quick survey prior to the class so that I can know which digital tools you want most to explore.

Facilitator: Emily Bengels
Grades: K–8 Teachers

Location: Virtual
Time: 3:30 – 4:30

Oct 28

SMART Suite is SWEET! (Intermediate/Advanced)



This course is for those of you who are already using and loving SMART Suite!

We will explore the possibilities, create interactive assessments and games and have time to compile a wealth of lessons from the SMART Exchange.

Please bring any materials needed to create lessons.

Facilitator: Jodi Rehrig
Grades: K-8 Teachers

Location: Virtual
Time: 3:45 – 4:45

Oct 29

Virtual Learning: What Works & What Doesn't



In Virtual Learning: What Works and What Doesn't, participants will explore various parts of virtual instructions. We will look at screensharing, Google Classroom, Meets/Zooms, as well as tips and tricks for using our technology resources, troubleshooting, and time to share what works and doesn't work for you. Please bring your laptop.

Facilitators: Carey-Anne Hendershot &
Lauren Greenberg
Grades: 6-8 Teachers

Location: RMS Media Center
Time: 2:45 – 3:45

Oct 30

Create Your Bitmoji Classroom (Without Starting from Scratch)



Learn how other teachers are using their Bitmojis classrooms and consider ways you can create your own. Modify pre-existing educational "classrooms" or start from scratch. Explore existing online communities of teachers who are sharing all sorts of ideas and materials to make hybrid teaching more accessible and productive!

Facilitator: Emily Bengels
Grades: K-3 Teachers

Location: Virtual
Time: 3:30 – 4:30

Nov 9

Top Ten Must-Have Tech Tips for Workflow & Student Engagement



This class will be a working-class designed to give you a few quick and ready-to-use tech tools to make your life and your lessons a little easier. I'll show you my Top Ten Must-Have Tech Tips that you can start using right away. Some of these are quick tricks designed to streamline your workflow, and some are designed around the goal of student engagement. The goal is for you to leave with two tips that you are ready to implement! The other 8 will always be there for you when you're ready to use them. All tech ability levels are welcome!

Facilitator: Lindsay Solano
Grades: 4-8 All Teachers

Location: BOE Conference Room
Time: 3:00 – 4:00

Nov 23

SMART Suite is SWEET! (Beginners Course)



What if we told you that any document you use in class can be made interactive with very little prep? That's the beauty of SMART Suite! At the very minimum, you can make any PowerPoint, SMART slideshow or document into a shareable, interactive document that is live! Activities can be individual or collaborative and shared with a touch of a button! There are also options for on the spot "shout outs" where kids can share their thinking and send speech bubbles as well as games and other engaging activities. Come join us whether you are new at this software or you are currently using it and need time to discover the endless possibilities that you can apply to your classroom. This Software is good for all teachers that use Chromebooks in class! Come check it out, you will NOT be disappointed!

Facilitator: Jodi Rehrig
Grades: K–8 Teachers

Location: HBS Room TBD
Time: 3:45 – 4:45

Jan 11

EdPuzzle



Do you want an easy way to engage your students using videos? Edpuzzle helps teachers customize video content for their classrooms by making them interactive. Teachers can edit video clips, add voice-overs, and embed quizzes, and more. Participants will learn how to use the EdPuzzle as well as have time to create their own video lessons and questions. Bring your laptop!

Facilitator: Sherry Krial
Grades: K-3 Teachers

Location: BOE Conference Room
Time: 3:50 – 4:50

INSTRUCTIONAL WORKSHOPS

Oct 22

1st Session

Setting Up for Success

Dec 3

2nd Session

Setting Up for Success! is geared to provide support to all new district hires to help everyone has a successful year! Whether you are brand new to the profession or an experienced teacher, this teacher academy will be a valuable experience for you. Each session includes time to share/answer questions, discuss key topics pertinent to the time of the school year, and if time, help with technology.



Please Note:

The 1st session on October 29th is for New Teachers **only**.

The 2nd session on December 3rd is for New Teachers **and** their Buddies/Mentors

Facilitator: Sherry Krial

Time: 2:50 – 3:50

Time: 4:00 – 5:00

Location: RMS Room TBD Grades: 4 – 8

Location: WHS Room TBD Grades: K – 3

Oct 26
and
Dec 7

Finding Your Passion Project: Starting a New Journey or Continuing Your Journey

This is a continuation of the Passion Project Teacher Academy Session which began in the 2020 Summer Teacher Academy. We will continue our Journey into Teacher Inquiry with a series of 4 sessions (2 in the Fall/Winter Teacher Academy and 2 in the Spring Teacher Academy) These meetings will be for members from Cohort 1 (Summer 2019) and Cohort 2 (summer 2020)



Oct 26 – Meeting 1	Cohort 1: How to mentor a novice teacher in the inquiry process. Cohort 2: How is data collection going?	Resource: Chapter 4
Dec 7 – Meeting 2	Cohort 1 & 2: Have you collected all data? Has this data collection satisfied your wondering?	Resource: Chapter 6
Feb 1 – Meeting 3	Cohort 1 & 2: What does it look like to share my learning?	Resource: Chapter 7
Mar 8 – Meeting 4	Cohort 1 & 2: How can you share your inquiry learning: Planning for a larger audience	Resource: Chapter 7

These sessions are for teachers who attended the summer sessions in 2019 and 2020. However, if you did not attend one of the summer sessions, but are interested in learning about Teacher Inquiry and the Passion Project, please contact Dr. Hart.

Facilitator: Dr. Jonathan Hart
Time: 3:00 – 4:00

Location: BOE Conference Room
Please register for each session separately

Nov 12

Introduction to Inquisitive Learning



In this session, participants will learn about the district goal of Inquisitive Learning and how this approach benefits individuals of any age and learning style.

Facilitator: Sarah Pauch
Grades: 4-8 All Staff
K-3 All Staff

Location: BOE Conference Room
Time: 2:45 – 3:45
Time: 3:50 - 4:50

Jan 14

Educating for SustainABILITY



Learn and discuss practical strategies for how students' (and staff!) knowledge, inquiry, and action can help build a healthy future here in our school community and the planet. We'll explore ways to bridge grade levels, subject areas, curriculum and school operations, and school-community partnerships to empower a sustainABLE learning community.

Facilitator: Betsy Freeman
Grades: 4-8 All Staff
K-3 All Staff

Location: BOE Conference Room
Time: 2:50 – 3:50
Time: 3:50 – 4:50

DISTRICT GOALS

Each of the 2020 Fall-Winter Teacher Academy Sessions aligns to one or more of our District Goals.

Inquisitive Learning

Create and establish an inquiry-based framework that values an interest-driven learning environment. Learners will, individually and collaboratively, focus on identifying, analyzing, and solving problems as inquisitive members of their community.

Social Awareness

Our learners will feel connected, valued, and secure in a learning environment cultivated by a shared sense of community. Every individual will develop skills that promote an awareness of self and others, including the ability to understand the impact of their decisions.

Partnerships

Establish partnerships that foster meaningful educational opportunities on local, regional, and global scales. Prepare all learners to become engaged and productive citizens through service to others, collaboration, and real-world connections.

Complete 6 hours of Teacher Academy Sessions in the 2020-2021 School Year and earn the option of a 1/2 FLEX DAY!

This Flex Day would be a 1/2 day excused absence on any day of the week except a Friday. The 1/2 Flex Day must be used on or before May 21, 2021. All staff are eligible for only one 1/2 Flex Day.