

WATERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Curriculum and Professional Development

Professional Development Offerings 2025-2026

If you are interested in any of the offerings below or want more information contact Jen Allen or the facilitator of the professional development. Additional offerings will be added throughout the year. Contact hours are distributed with participation in pd sessions.

Scroll Down to Find Offerings Organized Chronologically for the 2025-2026 year.

Mentor Training

Facilitator: Trisha Maxwell

June 18th(8:00-2:00) and June 20th(8:00-11:00)

Winslow High School

Looking to become a teacher mentor? Trisha Maxwell will be offering training this summer at Winslow High School. There are 8 slots for Waterville teachers. If you are interested contact Trish at tmaxwell@aos92.org.

Our Nature Project

When: Ongoing Collaboration (Monthly Meetings)

Where: George J. Mitchell School

Facilitators: *Katiann Carey, Katherine Merrill, Ranae Bray, and Holly Hubbard*

This educator working group meets monthly to explore nature-based, hands-on learning that connects students to the natural world, creative expression, and one another. Projects grow organically and are grounded in curiosity, community, and cross-curricular connections. Inspired by *Making Change* by Eric Booth and a Project Design Learning Lab (PDL) model of collaboration, the group explores how curiosity, student engagement, and community connection can help shape positive change in schools.

Our recent work has included:

- Nature journaling experiences across K–5
- Snow sculpting activities

- Earth Day and Screen-Free Week celebrations
- Printmaking collaboration with Colby College
- Upcycled instrument making in music
- Initiatives to bring more engaging activities to recess

The project is supported by ongoing partnerships with Serena Sanborn of Waterville Creates and Tyler French of Colby Arts, helping to build strong community ties and deepen student engagement.

We welcome educators curious about reimagining learning through creativity, nature, and collaboration. Contact hours will be given to participants. Please join us!
If Interested Contact GJMS teachers:

**Katiann Carey – kacarey@aos92.org, Katherine Merrill – kamerrill@aos92.org,
Ranae Bray – rbray@aos92.org, or Holly Hubbard – hhubbard@aos92.org**



What: Educator Open House

When: Sept 5, 3 pm - 4:30 pm

Where: Greene Block + Studios

Drop in anytime at Greene Block + Studios for a snack and beverage to end your week or kick off your First Friday in downtown Waterville. Colby Arts will give a short presentation on how classrooms of all disciplines can engage with the arts through special performances, artist residencies, and educator professional development. Take a moment to connect with other local educators or participate in a hands-on artmaking activity you can bring back into your classroom.

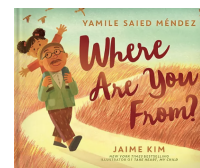
We All Belong! Using Picture Books to Build Community with Multilingual Learners

Facilitator: Jenna Zemrak

Grades K-5 will meet at the Mitchell School, 3:00-4:00 pm

Two sessions, Tuesday, September 9th & Thursday, December 4th

Join Erica & Jenna to explore how picture books can be used to create a sense of belonging for not only our Multilingual students, but everyone in the classroom community. We will share resources and activities to incorporate the different titles into your classroom. If interested contact Erica Millett at emillett@aos92.org or Jenna Zemrak at jzemrak@aos92.org



Marzano Overview

September 16, 2025- WSHS Media Center - 2:30-3:30

This is an overview of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers and veteran teachers. It's for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher! Email Jen Allen if planning to attend.

Marzano Overview

September 17, 2025- WJH Media Center - 2:30-3:30

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Marzano Overview

September 23, 2025- ASH Media Center - 3:00-4:00

This is an overview of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers and veteran teachers. It's for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher! Email Jen Allen if planning to attend.

Marzano Overview

September 25, 2025- GJM Library - 3:00-4:00

This is an overview of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers and veteran teachers. It's for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher! Email Jen Allen if planning to attend.



Waterville Creates: Mini-Accordion Book Workshop

When September 30, 2025- 3:15-4:15

Where: Waterville Creates

Facilitator: Lisa Wheeler

Enjoy an hour to yourself and join Lisa Wheeler downtown at Waterville Creates and make your own mini- accordion book. This is a one hour session. Participation limited to 10. [Sign up via the Google Form](#)

Supporting Multilingual Learners: *Stages of Language Acquisition*

When: September 30, 2025- 3:15-4:15

Where: Central Office Conference Room

Facilitator: Jenna Zemrak

Looking to learn more about how to best support multilingual learners. Come join Jenna Zemrak and learn about the stages of language acquisition.
If interested, sign up via the [Google link](#).

Wellness Offering: What's the Deal with Food Additives?

When: October 2, 2025- 3:15-4:15

Where: Central Office Conference Room

Facilitator: Kelley Dow

Join us to discuss the function of the food additives and discuss our perceived beliefs regarding their use. This mediated session is designed to review science-backed research and encourage broad thinking when making food choices. If interested, sign up via the [Google link](#).



Art Offering: Flower Crown and Jewelry Making with Florist Terry Ehnes

When: October 9, 2025- 3:15-4:15

Where: Greene Block and Studios

Join seasoned event planner and florist Terry Ehnes as she teaches you to make your own flower crowns with fresh, local flowers! All skill levels are welcome for this relaxing and approachable arts activity.

If interested, sign up via the [Google link](#).

Using Art to Inspire Students to Be Courageous and Involved Citizens with artist and author Robert Shetterly-Virtual Presentation

When: October 16th 3:00-4:00

Google Link:<https://meet.google.com/prk-tfzz-zdg?hs=122&authuser=0>

A virtual speaker series on exploring diversity, equity, and inclusion by Waterville Public Schools. Our district is committed to addressing social justice inequities and developing solutions. The district's mission "is to help students attain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to achieve personal fulfillment, be responsible citizens, do meaningful work, and pursue lifelong learning."

How do you capture courage in a painting? Artist Robert Shetterly can tell you how. Since 2002, he has painted over 250 portraits of Americans who have displayed courageous citizenship in his [Americans Who Tell the Truth](#) series.

Robert Shetterly was born in 1946 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated in 1969 from Harvard College with a degree in English Literature. At Harvard he took some courses in drawing which changed the direction of his creative life — from the written word to the

image. Today Robert's paintings and prints are in collections all over the U.S. and Europe.

Join the virtual presentation! Robert will talk about ways he uses his work to inspire students to be courageous and involved citizens.

Supporting Multilingual Learners: *SIOP- How it Can Improve Learning for All*

When: October 29, 2025- 3:15-4:15

Where: Central Office Conference Room

Facilitator: Leaha Hellen

Looking to learn more about how to best support multilingual learners. Come join Leaha Hellen and learn about SIOP. Learn what it is and how it can improve learning for all students.

If interested, sign up via the [Google link](#).



Waterville Creates: Batik Workshop

When October 29, 2025- 3:15-4:15

Where: Waterville Creates

Facilitator: Lisa Wheeler

Join Lisa Wheeler downtown at Waterville Creates and explore the art of batik. Batik is the art of decorating cloth using wax and dye. This is a one hour session. Participation limited to 10.

If interested, sign up via the [Google link](#).

What's New in Children's Literature?

Facilitator: Jenna Zemrak

Grades K-3 at GJM, 7:30-8:00 am One Thursday per month

Grades 3-5 at ASHS, 7:15-7:45 am One Wednesday per month

Mid/Late monthly, October - March, 5 sessions



Are you looking for a fresh new read aloud for your students? Or a new series to add to your classroom library? Through this group we will keep up to date on recently published literature, explore new reading trends that our students are interested in, and view blogs/podcasts with the latest buzz about children's literature! Participants will receive their first book to enjoy over

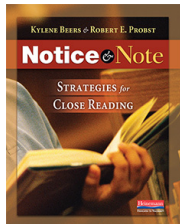
the summer! If interested contact Jenna Zemrak at jzemrak@aos92.org

Book Study: Notice & Note: Strategies for Close Reading by Kyrene Beers and Bob Probst

Facilitator: Jenna Zemrak

Grades 4-5 @ ASH PD Room, 2:45-3:30 pm

Four sessions, monthly, October - March, Wednesdays



"The close reading strategies in Notice and Note will help you cultivate those critical reading habits that will make your students more attentive, thoughtful, independent readers." Through this book study we will explore the six "signposts" that help readers understand and respond to character development, conflict, point of view, and theme.

These signposts are a part of the *HMH Into Reading* program that we will be piloting at ASH this year and implementing in the 26-27 school year....so let's get a head start on this component! If interested contact Jenna Zemrak at jzemrak@aos92.org



Intro to Audio Production at the Gordon Center for Creative and Performing Arts' Mix Down Studio with Alex Fulton

When: December 11, 2025- 3:15-4:15

Where: Greene Block and Studios

Learn the basic ins and outs of audio and music production at the mix down studio with audio expert and record producer Alex Fulton of Fulton Street Media Group. If interested, sign up via the [Google link](#).



Waterville Creates: Clay Trinket Dish Workshop

When: February 24, 2026- 3:15-4:15

Where: Waterville Creates

Facilitator: Lisa Wheeler

Enjoy an hour to yourself and join Lisa Wheeler downtown at Waterville Creates and make your own clay trinket dish. This is a one hour session. Participation limited to 10.

[Sign up via Google Form.](#)

Supporting Multilingual Learners: *Intersection of ML Learners and Special Education*

When: February 25th, 2026- 3:15-4:15

Where: Central Office Conference Room

Facilitator: Leaha Hellen

Looking to learn more about how to best support multilingual learners. Come join Leaha on a session on strategies of supporting multilingual learners and the intersection with special education.

If interested, sign up via the [Google link](#).

****[Maine DOE Professional Development](#) ****

This site is a calendar of all professional development that is available through the Maine Department of Education. It is continually updated throughout the calendar year.

Supporting Multilingual Learners- Self-Paced Modules

Interested in how to best support multilingual learners in your classroom? You may be interested in pursuing the self-based modules offered through WIDA. If you are interested, reach out to Jen Allen so that she can set you up with a WIDA account. Once you have an account you can access the modules for free.

Self Paced Workshops

- Developing Language for Learning in Mathematics
- Engaging Multilingual Learners in Science: Making Sense of Phenomena
- Exploring the WIDA PreK-3 Essential Actions
- Let's Play! Multilingual Children's Joyful Learning in PreK-3
- Making Language Visible in the Classroom
- Newcomers: Promoting Success through Strengthening Practice
- Reading Comprehension Across Content Areas with Multilingual Learners
- Reframing Education for Long-term English Learners
- Teaching Multilingual Learners Social Studies through Multiple Perspectives
- The WIDA ELD Standards Framework: A Collaborative Approach

Dawnland Maine Indian History

Where: Online, 4 modules

Sign Up Link:

<https://discover.maine.edu/product?catalog=Dawnland-Maine-Indian-History>

Cost: \$25- Reimbursed once the Modules are Completed.
Contact Hours: 8 Contact Hours awarded upon completion

This course explores the history of the original people of Maine. The Dawnland: Maine Indian History digital badge is awarded to those who earn an 80% or better score on module quizzes. Learners will complete the four online modules by working through an array of PowerPoint presentations, handouts, readings, and short learning videos. Each module ends with a quiz. Learners who achieve 80% accuracy or better on each quiz will receive a University of Maine System verified digital badge. Once completed send Jen Allen a copy of the badge and documentation of payment for reimbursement and contact hours.

The four-module topics include:

1. The Ice Age module discusses how early peoples moved across the land navigating glacial formations while engaged in hunting and survival.
2. The Prehistory module explains the Indigenous lifeways before the arrival of European settlers and settlements.
3. The History module addresses early interactions between the Indigenous people and European settlers.
4. The Current Policy and Practice module details the current issues Maine Indigenous peoples are facing in terms of their political and cultural survival.

Professional Development Offerings

2024~2025

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Mentor Training with Trish Souviney

June 20th(8:00-2:00) and June 21st (8:00-11:00)

Winslow High School

Looking to become a teacher mentor? Trish Souviney will be offering training this summer at Winslow High School. There are 8 slots for Waterville teachers. If you are interested contact Trish at tsouviney@aos92.org.

What: Dawnland Maine Indian History

Where: Online, 4 modules

Sign Up Link: <https://discover.maine.edu/product?catalog=Dawnland-Maine-Indian-History>

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Contact Hours: 8 Contact Hours awarded upon completion

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The four-module topics include:

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Clay- Waterville Creates

September 30, 2024- 3:15-4:15

Enjoy an hour to yourself exploring clay.. Join Lisa Wheeler downtown at Waterville Creates to make your own clay creation.. This is a one hour session Participation limited to 10
Sign up with the Google Form Link- <https://forms.gle/HmP1oenpbQZsC2dD9>

Nature Journaling with Serena Sanborn, Maine Master Naturalist

September 29, 2024- 3:15-4:15- GJM Library

Exploring Outdoor Education: A Nature Journal Workshop with Serena Sanborn

Curious about how to effectively use a nature journal to teach outside? Wondering how to safely explore the outdoors with students? Join Serena Sanborn from Waterville Creates for an engaging and interactive workshop. Learn to craft nature journals that seamlessly integrate with your curriculum while embracing a teaching approach that fosters curiosity and wonder. Discover practical strategies for guiding students through outdoor experiences in a safe and inspiring way.

The approach Serena uses is inspired by John Muir Laws. Here is a bit about what he says about nature journals, *"Keeping an illustrated, observational journal is a centuries-old method that has been reenvisioned and refined through the lens of our understanding of neuroscience, learning, and deliberate practice. A nature journal is a lens that focuses our attention and crystalizes our observations, thoughts, and experiences. Nature Journaling is collecting and organizing your observations, questions, connections, and explanations on the pages of a notebook using words pictures, and numbers. You do not need to be an artist or a naturalist to begin. These skills can be learned by anyone, and you can develop them with deliberate practice. The system is creative, rigorous, and playful, easy to begin and learn, and will grow and mature over a lifetime. Start now: you can do this, and the world is waiting. Nature Journaling will enrich your experiences and develop observation, curiosity, gratitude, reverence, memory, and the skills of a naturalist. It helps you discover, think, remember, and integrate new information with your existing knowledge. Train your mind, and the world will offer you its secrets of wonder and beauty."*

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Marzano Overview

September 25, 2024- WJH Media Center - 2:30-3:30

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Social Justice and Equity Virtual Speaker Series

October 3, 2024

3:00-4:00

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/ajo-meoa-auo

Author Jennifer Boylan- *She's Not There: a Life in Two Genders*

PROFESSOR JENNIFER FINNEY BOYLAN, author of eighteen books, is the inaugural Anna Quindlen Writer in Residence at Barnard College of Columbia University. Her 2003 memoir, *She's Not There: a Life in Two Genders* (Broadway/Doubleday/Random House) was the first bestselling work by a transgender American. A novelist, memoirist, and short story writer, she is also a nationally known advocate for human rights. Jenny has appeared on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* on four occasions; *Live with Larry King* twice; the *Today Show*, the *Barbara Walters Special*, *NPR's Marketplace* and *Talk of the Nation*; she has also been the subject of documentaries on *CBS News' 48 Hours* and *The History Channel*. She served as an advisor to the television series *Transparent*. Jenny is also coauthor of the novel, *Mad Honey* with Jodi Picoult. She lives in New York City and in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, with her wife, Deedie. They have a son, Sean and a daughter, Zai.



Nature Connect Art with Charlene Lutz- Greene Block and Studios

October 10, 2024- 3:15-4:15

Join artist, author, and wellness practitioner Charlene Lutz for a nature-connected art workshop. Tune into the moment and become mindfully present, experimenting and creating mini-gratitude postcards using patterns inspired by nature. Relax your inner critic and relieve stress in this exploratory and freeing slow-flow process art session. Please show up with the following supplies: Paper (medium to heavy

weight is best), pen, pencil, scissors, nature items such as pine needles, leaves, seeds, berries, acorns, twigs, moss, lichen, etc.

What's New in Children's Literature?

Grades K-3 at George J. Mitchell School, 7:30-8:00 am Thursdays

Grades 3-5 at Albert S. Hall School, 7:15-7:45 am Wednesdays

Once Monthly October - March, 5 sessions

Are you looking for a fresh new read aloud for your students? Or a new series to add to your classroom library? Through this group we will keep up to date on recently published literature, explore new reading trends that our students are interested in, and explore blogs and the latest buzz about children's literature! Participants will receive their first book to enjoy over the summer, each reading a different title and we'll do a book talk for each one at our first meeting in October. If Interested Contact Jenna Zemrak at ASH

Book Study: The Writing Strategies Book: Your Everything Guide to Developing Skilled Writers by Jennifer Serravallo

Grades K-3 @ GJM PD Room, 7:30-8:15 am

Grades 4-5 @ ASH PD Room, 2:45-3:30 pm

Four Group Meetings from Aug- Feb

How can we up the writing game in all aspects of the writing process, genres, and modes of writing? This resource will be a great ADDITION to the curriculum materials we have, but offer a fresh outlook on problem solving the skills and strategies that we battle each day with students. We will meet five times to explore the different sections such as: engagement, writing ideas, focus and organization, elaboration, etc. The first session will be in late August before the year starts, and the following four sessions will run throughout the first half of the year. If Interested Contact Jenna Zemrak at ASH

Writing Workshop 101

Grades K-3 @ GJM PD Room, 7:30-8:00 am

Grades 4-5 @ ASH PD Room, Time TBD

Three Group Meetings, Sept- Nov

What are the basics of the Writing Workshop and how can it help your writing time? Writing time is often disjointed and hard to manage as students are all in different places with different levels of support needed. Writing Workshop allows teachers to engage in responsive teaching and support writing versus always presenting lessons. We will use resources from the Lucy Calkins Kits and Ralph Fletcher/Joann Portalupi's *Writing Workshop Essential Guide*. By digging in quickly at the beginning of the year, hopefully you'll be able to start the year strong with routines and structure! If Interested Contact Jenna Zemrak at ASH

Social Justice and Equity Virtual Speaker Series

November 21, 2024

3:00-4:00

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/qik-gzpm-hxk

Papay Solomon- Painter

Liberian-American artist Papay Solomon lives between two worlds: his adopted home in America and that of his African heritage. His work boldly attempts to reconcile the two with an artistic vision enhanced by his formal education in the West and at the same time wildly alive with the indelible imprint of his home country. Born in Guinea in 1993, Solomon's mother fled the First Liberian Civil War while she was still pregnant with him and crossed into the neighboring country on foot. At age 5, growing political unrest in the Guinean city of Gueckedou forced Solomon and his family to again relocate hundreds of miles away to refugee camps, where he would spend much of his childhood. At 14, Solomon resettled with his family

in the United States, where he attended high school and the Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts at Arizona State University, graduating with a BFA and being awarded Outstanding Undergraduate in 2018. Solomon received the 2018 Friends of Contemporary Art Artists' Grants Award from the Phoenix Art Museum and the Erni Cabat Award from the Tucson Museum of Art.

Marzano Refresher

December 4, 2024- Central Office Conference Room (Downstairs)- 3:00

This is a refresher of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers and veteran teachers. It's for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher! If you have questions you would like answered it's an opportunity to get them answered. Email Jen Allen if planning to attend.

Book Study: *Math Workshop: Five Steps to Implementing Guided Math, Learning Stations, Reflection, and More* by Jennifer Lempp

Grades K-3 will meet at the George J. Mitchell School, 7:30-8:00 a.m. on Wednesdays

Grades 4 & 5 will meet at the Albert S. Hall School, 2:45-3:15 p.m. on Wednesdays

Once Monthly, for six 30-minute sessions, starting in October

Do you want to revamp your math block? Are you interested in math workshop? In this group, we will:

- Learn what math workshop is and is not
- Discuss best practices for establishing a math workshop community
- Explore different structures that can be used
- Connect the elements of the workshop structure to the components of *Reveal Math*
- Reflect on and refine our practice

If Interested Contact Erica Millett at GJM

Math Learning Labs

Math Learning Labs will be offered during the year. Topics will vary by session. Sessions will be open to K-5 teachers. Dates and times will be determined and shared at a later date. Sub coverage will be provided for teachers that opt to participate in these learning opportunities.

If Interested Contact Erica Millett at GJM

Literacy PD Mini-Sessions

PD Mini-Sessions for literacy related topics will be offered throughout the course of the year all classroom teachers and special education teachers. Dates and times will be determined at a later date. Feel free to suggest topics that would be beneficial to all.

If Interested Contact Jenna Zemrak at ASH



Greene Block and Studios

Taji (Tai Chi) with Tara Weaver

December 5th

3:15-4:15

Come learn a short Taiji form to take home and use for your own daily practice and pleasure. Tara has been teaching dance, fitness and martial arts for over a decade. She has a passion for helping people learn to move well. Tara will work with you to find relaxation, strength and balance through this artistic and ancient form of movement. [sign up with the Google Form](#)

Marzano Refresher

January 8, 2025- Central Office Conference Room (Downstairs)- 3:00

This is a refresher of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers and veteran teachers. It's for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher! If you have questions you would like answered it's an opportunity to get them answered. Email Jen Allen if planning to attend.

Engaging Minds: A Day of Learning

January 27, 2025

This is a district professional development day. There are over 60 sessions offered throughout the day. The sign-ups for this day will take place in early January. Details will be shared through schools this fall.

January 27, 2025

A Day of Learning: Engaging Minds

District Professional Development

Keynote Speaker: Chief Justice John Broderick

Changing the Conversation around Mental Health

John Broderick became the senior director of external affairs at Dartmouth Health in 2017. He was a member of the New Hampshire Supreme Court from 1995 to 2010, serving his last seven years there as chief justice. After stepping down from that role, he became dean of the University of New Hampshire's Franklin Pierce Law School. Since 2016, he has spoken countless times to various audiences about the five most common signs of mental illness and about the R.E.A.C.T. campaign, designed by Dartmouth-Health and embraced by the New Hampshire Department of Education in an effort to improve understanding and awareness of mental illness.

January 27, 2025

A Day of Learning: Engaging Minds

District Professional Development

Mya Williams - Metaphors for Mental Illness

This poetry workshop will go into the depths of describing, both positively and negatively, the use of metaphor in our etymology. We will talk specifically about metaphors for mental illness and how it has been used as a tool to stigmatize. We will look at poetry by Reginald Dwayne Betts, Shira Erlichman, Wanda Coleman, Patricia Smith, Taylor Johnson, and Emily Dickinson. We will learn new ways to express and understand concepts of mental illness, discuss how to write poems about psychosocial wellness, and begin work on a poem. A version of this workshop looking closely at religious related trauma based on Maya's debut *Judas & Suicide* is also available.

January 27, 2025

A Day of Learning: Engaging Minds

District Professional Development

Mya Williams - Where Does Your Grief Sit

It is difficult to talk about grief, and it can even be more difficult to write through grief. In this workshop, we'll read Simonides' poetry for epitaphs in Ancient Greece, Anis Mojgani's poems that are in response to a person who is no longer living and in response to a person who is still living, and Kaveh Akbar's poem about the repetition and images of grief. We'll explore how grief is related to our mental health, and how poems might be written and revised during hard times. Group guidelines will be shared on how to talk about the topics of war, suicide, death, divorce, and communal grief as safely and as bravely as possible.

Marzano Refresher

February 5, 2025- Central Office Conference Room (Downstairs)- 3:00

This is a refresher of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers and veteran teachers. It's for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher! If you have questions you would like answered it's an opportunity to get them answered. Email Jen Allen if planning to attend.



Collage- Waterville Creates with Lisa Wheeler

February 25, 2025- 3:15-4:15

Enjoy an hour to yourself learning a new technique. Join Lisa Wheeler downtown at Waterville Creates to explore the art of collage. This is a one hour session. Participation limited to 10 people.

Marzano Refresher

March 5, 2025- Central Office Conference Room (Downstairs)- 3:00

This is a refresher of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers and veteran teachers. It's for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher! If you have questions you would like answered it's an opportunity to get them answered. Email Jen Allen if planning to attend.



Gelatin Prints- Waterville Creates

March 25, 2025- 3:15-4:15

Enjoy an hour to yourself learning a new technique. Join Lisa Wheeler downtown at Waterville Creates to make your own gelatin prints. This is a one hour session Participation limited to 10

Social Justice and Equity Virtual Speaker Series

March 27, 2025

3:00-4:00

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/zgf-raau-okx

Sarah Sockbeson- Wabanaki Basketry

Sarah has been an artist her entire life. Being Penobscot, she had seen baskets in museums and in the homes of family members and was always fascinated by them. She wanted to be a part of this tradition. In 2004, Sarah apprenticed with Jennifer Neptune as part of the Maine Arts Commission Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. Although Sarah uses traditional material and techniques, her style comes from the place she lives in today. As for her inspiration, she looks to the past, present and future. She sees it as being vitally important to acknowledge the traditions of the past. Sarah has a responsibility to honor her ancestors that have practiced the art of basketry long before she was alive. Not only does she aspire to create things that are visually appealing and a reflection of herself, but also strives to preserve Wabanaki basketry to ensure that it is not lost or forgotten. Sarah sees it as part of her duty, since obtaining this knowledge, to pass it on. It is personally important to her, not just as an artist, but also as a Native American to create art that will inspire future generations, and keep the tradition of Basketry alive.

*****Offerings 2023-2024 Offerings****

Surviving to Thriving: The Impact of Poverty on Student Aspirations and Engagement

Elyse Pratt- Ronco -*Poverty in Education*

August 28, 2023- Opening Day Keynote Speaker

Elsye Pratt- Ronco will be our opening day keynote speaker. Elsy Pratt-Ronco has worked for ten years with low-income students from the Upward Bound program. She is currently an educational counselor for the Upward Bound program at the University of Maine Farmington. She also teaches a graduate course on poverty and education, as well as an undergraduate course on diversity and social justice. Her [research](#) on rural poverty and adolescents has been nationally recognized. Elyse will speak on how the brain is impacted by the chronic stress of poverty and specific ways educators can mitigate the negative impacts by leveraging the unique strengths of students to increase persistence in the face of adversity, build individual resilience in students, and help them to embrace their struggles.

Google Drive for Beginners

September 13, 2023- 3:15-4:15

Albert S. Hall School Computer Lab

What is Google Drive, and how does it work? This session will cover how to upload, create, and share files and folders. Bring your own laptop or use one of our Chromebooks to practice creating documents, spreadsheets, and presentations. This session is with Deb Majewski Sign up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/LMmdQDDjXhLsQpWD9>



Gelatin Prints- Waterville Creates

September 19, 2023- 3:15-4:15

Enjoy an hour to yourself learning a new technique. Join Lisa Wheeler downtown at Waterville Creates to make your own gelatin prints. This is a one hour session Participation limited to 10 Sign up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/LqPRXReZLsCUGBaj8>

Why Do Pronouns Matter?-Sue and Brady Barre

September 21, 2023- Virtual Speaker Series

Have you found yourself wondering why pronouns matter? Are you feeling unsure about the right thing to say or how to best support LGBTQ+ students? Brady Barre (they/them/theirs), a 2019 graduate of WSHS and a recent graduate of UNH, and their Mom Sue Barre (she/her/hers) will discuss the need to work on pronouns and so much more to create a space that is safe and affirming for LGBTQ+ students. Join the Google Meet -<https://meet.google.com/nah-irzc-zmd?hs=122&authuser=0>

Marzano Overview

September 26, 2023- WSHS Media Center - 2:30-3:30

This session is an overview of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers or anyone who is up for a teacher evaluation and interested in a refresher! Sign Up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/qAe4KE3HzH4qEDZr8>

Responsive Classroom

October 4, 11, 18, 25- Library- 2:45-3:30

Have you been curious about class morning meetings but unsure how to make it work in your class and schedule?

Do you want a powerful way to:

- Set the tone for respectful and engaged learning in a climate of trust in your classroom?
- Build a positive community by fulfilling students' need to belong, feel significant, and have fun?
- Model and practice social-emotional skills?
- Review or practice academic skills or content in a way that gets students interested in the learning to come?

This brief study group will help you launch morning meetings in your classroom in a way that works for you and your classroom goals. According to the Responsive Classroom website, "Morning Meeting is an engaging way to start each day, build a strong sense of community, and set children up for success socially and academically. Each morning, students and teachers gather together in a circle... and interact with one another during four purposeful components": Greeting, Sharing, Group Activity, and Morning Message. ([See more here.](#)) We'll read the newest edition of The Morning Meeting Book in our teacher study groups. We'll plan a smooth, scaffolded rollout of the morning meeting structure in your classroom. We'll troubleshoot the learning process as you try it out with your real-live students. We'll try some of the activities and greetings together so you can introduce them with confidence and excitement in your classroom.

Our study groups will dovetail with our October Responsive Classroom Introduction, at a time designed to fit in right at the end of the day, to allow you to still tend to after-school commitments.

What's New in Children's Literature? - Early Elementary

Grades K-3 at George J. Mitchell School

Once Monthly October - March, 7:30-8:00 am Thursdays

Are you looking for some fresh new read alouds and/or books to add to your classroom library? Through this group we will keep up to date on recently published literature, explore new reading trends that our students are interested in, and explore blogs and the latest buzz about children's literature! The first book we will talk about will be *Farmhouse* by Sophie Blackwell. Limited to 10 participants. **If interested contact Jenna Zemrak.**

What's New in Children's Literature? - Upper Elementary

Grades 3-5 at Albert S. Hall School

Once Monthly October - March, 7:15-7:45 am Wednesdays

Do you want to stay up to date with what your students are interested in reading? Are you looking for a new series to add to your library or a great new read aloud to share with your students? We will explore all of these, find new great additions to your classroom, explore reading blogs, and stay up to date on current events in literature. The first book we will talk about will be *The Strangers* by Margaret Patterson Haddix. Limited to 10 participants. **If interested contact Jenna Zemrak.**

Breathing New Life Into Book Clubs - Upper Elementary (3-5)

Teachers Grades 3-5

Four one hour Group Meetings at ASH PD Room: 8/22 9-10am, 10/17, 12/5, 2/13 3-4pm

Imagine small groups clustered together in cozy spots around the room, making reading plans with their club members, talking about books, and asking each other questions. We can hear a hum of joyful laughter and positive energy around the room putting into practice the skills we've been teaching. "Whether you're looking to breathe new life into book clubs or begin implementing them in your classroom, we invite you to join this journey" by digging into ***Breathing New Life into Book Clubs: A Practical Guide for Teachers*** by Sonja Cherry-Paul and Dana Johansen. We will meet four times to

explore and plan for better book clubs, once before the year starts in August, and the following three throughout the first half of the year (see dates above). Limited to 10 participants. **If interested contact Jenna Zemrak.**

Book Study: *Productive Math Struggle: A 6-Point Action Plan for Fostering Perseverance* by John SanGiovanni, Susie Katt, & Kevin Dykema

Grades 4 & 5 will meet at the Albert S. Hall School, 7:15-7:45 a.m. on Fridays.

Grades K-3 will meet at the George J. Mitchell School, 7:30-8:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Once Monthly, for six 30-minute sessions, starting in October

"All students face struggle, and they should- it is how they learn and grow. The teacher's job is not to remove struggle, but rather to value and harness it, helping students develop good habits of productive struggle. Revolving around the idea that math is a way of thinking and understanding, and not just the pursuit of answers and procedures, this book empowers students to embrace productive struggle to build essential skills for learning and living- both inside and outside the classroom." Limited to 10 participants.

If interested contact Erica Millett.

Mastering Math Manipulatives

Grades 4-5 will meet at the Hall School

Grades K-3 will meet at the Mitchell School

One session in September

Would you like to provide students with more opportunities to use math manipulatives in your classroom, but not sure how or where to start? Join this one-time session to gain new ideas for incorporating math manipulatives! Participants will receive a copy of the book, *Mastering Math Manipulatives: Hands-on and Virtual Activities for Building and Connecting Mathematical Ideas* by Sara Delano Moore & Kimberly Rimbey. Limited to 10 participants. **If interested contact Erica Millett.**

Math is Lit!

Grades 3-5 will meet at the Hall School

Grades K-2 will meet at the Mitchell School

Two sessions, October & April

Join Erica & Jenna to explore how picture books can be approached through a math lens. We'll also look at *Mathical* award winners and honor books. Ideas and resources will be shared from *Mathematizing Children's Literature: Sparking Connections, Joy, and Wonder Through Read Alouds & Discussion* by Allison Hintz & Antony T. Smith. Limited to 10 participants. **If interested contact Jenna Zemrak or Erica Millett.**

Marzano Overview

October 3, 2023- WJH Media Center - 2:30-3:30

This is an overview of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers or for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher!

Sign up on the Google Form-<https://forms.gle/bGC4eNXSasszKiNd8>



What: Devising Theater: Methods to Create Original Theater in Schools and Community

Where: Greene Block and Studios

When: October 5th

Time 3:15-4:15

Google Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/cKoS6a3BULCZiXd26>

In this introductory workshop, we will explore improvisational theater exercises, brain-storming activities, and critical discussion techniques designed to create relevant and engaging original theater. The methods explored in

the workshop align with the National Core Arts Standards categories of *connect, create, perform, and respond*. Using these methods, we create as a group, on our feet, pushing the desks and chairs aside. Each theater exercise has a specific objective from: creating focus, to team building, to exploring curriculum through creating story. Devising theater as a group allows us to connect with others and bond through common experience. This workshop is open to educators of all disciplines.

Jeri Pitcher came to Maine for a summer theater job in 1987 and has continuously worked as a teaching artist, theater educator, director, playwright, and performer ever since! Her work is dedicated to devising original theater through a collaborative group process which, most often, explores the questions: how do we connect to the past and how can we, together, create the future?

As a founding faculty member at Maine Arts Academy, Jeri served as the Director of the Theater Program and Arts Faculty Chair. She teaches as an adjunct faculty member at The University of Maine at Augusta and has created innovative projects with community partners, such as: the UMA Interactive Theater project, The Lonely Soldier, and CREATED EQUAL theater programs.

Jeri has completed well over 100 theater residencies, creating original theater in Maine schools in her 25+ years of experience, from York to Caribou and Eastport to Bethel, ME and can be found on the Teaching Artist rosters of the Maine Arts Commission and Maine Alliance for Arts Education. Jeri worked at The Theater At Monmouth, an Equity LORT repertory company, for 13 years as a director, actor, and wrote or adapted many plays for young audiences. She also served as Second Stage Director and Associate Artistic Director in her tenure at TAM.

What: *Supporting Girls and Nonbinary Youth in Maine Classroom*

Presented by: Hardy Girls' Executive Director, Adrienne Carmack, M.Ed., and Meg Charest, Manager of Teen Programs and the Training Institute

Where: Greene Block and Studios

When: November 4, 2023

Time: 11:00-3:00

Cost: \$80- Reimbursed upon completion of participation

Sign Up Link: <https://hardygirls.org/professional-development/>

At Hardy Girls, our research-driven youth development work is centered on the belief that when youth are equipped with a supportive environment in which to thrive, they change their world in remarkable ways. We are excited to offer professional development opportunities for youth-serving adults across Maine to gather, build coalitions, discuss the challenges girls and nonbinary youth in Maine face, and use the most up-to-date data and research in girls' development to forge a path forward.

Join us on November 4th for *Supporting Girls and Nonbinary Youth in Maine Classrooms*, led by Hardy Girls' Executive Director, Adrienne Carmack, M.Ed., and Meg Charest, Manager of Teen Programs and the Training Institute. This workshop will cover the latest data from the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey. Our discussions will center on ways to use this data to ground our consideration and development of strengths-based approaches to youth support that are sustainable and empowering for students and educators alike.

Marzano Overview

October 10, 2023- GJM Library - 3:00-4:00

This is an overview of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers or for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher!

Sign Up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/u8PXrQbMSP4pVFpy6>

Marzano Overview

October 24, 2023- ASH Library- 2:45-3:45

This is an overview of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers or for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher!

Sign Up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/qQJ3RxQdvG9mq9Et6>

My Story Through Art-Genevieve Gagnard- Virtual Speaker Series**November 2, 2023**

The daughter of a black father and white mother, Gagnard's youth was marked by a strong sense of invisibility. Was her family white enough to be white? Black enough to be black? Gagnard interrogates notions of "passing" in an effort to address these questions. Genevieve challenges viewers to navigate the powers and anxieties of intersectional identity. Gagnard blends humor, persona and popular culture to reveal the ways in which the meeting and mixing of contrasting realities can feel much like displacement.

Gagnard received her MFA in Photography at Yale University and her BFA in Photography at

Massachusetts College of Art. www.genevievegagnard.com

Join the Google Meet - <https://meet.google.com/aoy-asbm-mue?hs=122&authuser=0>

Marzano Refresher**December 13, 2023- Central Office - 3:00-4:00**

This is a refresher of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers or for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher!

Sign Up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/hxkrCeXLPSFcFGAy9>

**Green Block and Studios****Evelyn Wong****December 7, 2023- Greene Block- 3:15-4:15**

Come explore book making with artist Evelyn Wong. Make a book or two to take away.

Sign up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/1JyntX4mjbhmDQ3GA>

Marzano Refresher**January 10, 2024- Central Office - 3:00-4:00**

This is a refresher of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers or for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher!

Sign Up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/2cBNYkGRdszXqYRt5>

Waterville Senior High School**Engaging Minds: A Day of Learning****January 22, 2024**

This is a district professional development day. There are over 60 sessions offered throughout the day. The sign-ups for this day will take place in early January. Details will be shared through schools this fall.

The Afghan Refugee Experience- Freshta Taeb**January 22, 2024- A Day of Learning, Keynote Speaker**

Freshta is an Afghan American. She has advised and presented on essential topics such as domestic violence, refugee rights, cultural sensitivity and holistic health for over 1,000 state, federal, social service, and non-profit employees as well as countless community organizations. Through providing culturally competent intervention and other services, She hopes to bridge the gap and disparities that we have with respect to language and culture. Freshta believes all human beings need to feel seen, heard and understood in order to be welcomed to the fabric of our society.

What Would You Do? Race in the Classroom- Dr. Sonja Thomas
January 22, 2024- A Day of Learning Session

Dr. Sonja Thomas is an Associate Professor of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies at Colby College where she teaches courses in race, caste, gender, and sexuality. Sonja will present on January 22, 2024 during our District Professional Development day. She will present two active learning sessions providing real life scenarios of race/racism that have happened to students. Participants will break into groups with each of the scenarios to discuss possible solutions and "what would you do" before returning to the larger group for a full discussion (and to learn what actually happened in each scenario). This is a no judgment active learning session.

Marzano Refresher

February 14, 2024- Central Office - 3:00-4:00

This is a refresher of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers or for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher!

Sign up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/CFGhYzUej6Em6hU5A>



Collage- Waterville Creates with Lisa Wheeler

February 27, 2024- 3:15-4:15

Enjoy an hour to yourself learning a new technique. Join Lisa Wheeler downtown at Waterville Creates to explore the art of collage. This is a one hour session. Participation limited to 10 people.

Sign up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/XnVmArhS5jeo7uoP9>



Green Block and Studios

The Story Generator Workshop with Bess Welden

March 7, 2024- Greene Block- 3:15-4:15

Join playwright and Colby theater faculty, Bess Welden for an hour of juicy creative writing experiments. We'll play with a collaborative game, The story generator, that will help you instantly establish character, setting, and action to launch any forms of story you'd like to tell. No writing experience necessary, just a willingness to jump in and explore.



Clay- Waterville Creates with Lisa Wheeler

March 19, 2024- 3:15-4:15

Enjoy an hour to yourself learning a new technique. Join Lisa Wheeler downtown at Waterville Creates to explore the art of clay. This is a one hour session. Participation limited to 10 people.

Marzano Refresher

March 7, 2024- Central Office - 3:00-4:00

This is a refresher of Waterville's teacher evaluation model- Marzano. It is designed for new teachers or for any teacher up for evaluation and interested in a refresher!

Sign Up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/CFGhYzUej6Em6hU5A>



Green Block and Studios

March 7, 2024- Greene Block- 3:15-4:15

The details of this session are to be announced.

Sign up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/E4uRgSCsasykLc3C6>



Clay- Waterville Creates

March 19, 2024- 3:15-4:15

Enjoy an hour to yourself learning a new technique. Join Lisa Wheeler downtown at Waterville Creates to explore the art of clay. This is a one hour session. Participation limited to 10 people.

Sign up on the Google Form- <https://forms.gle/EcXeygWTQsAMP5vd7>

Night of the Living Rez- Morgan Talty

March 28, 2024- Virtual Speaker Series

Google Link to the Meet: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0/r/day/2024/3/28>

Morgan Talty, a citizen of the Penobscot Indian Nation, is the author of the national bestselling and critically acclaimed story collection *Night of the Living Rez* from Tin House Books, which won the New England Book Award, was a Finalist for the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers, was a Finalist for the 2023 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and is a Finalist for The Story Prize. Talty is an Assistant Professor of English in Creative Writing and Native American and Contemporary Literature

at the University of Maine, Orono, and he is on the faculty at the Stonecoast MFA in creative writing as well as the Institute of American Indian Arts.

Mentor Training with Trish Souviney

June 20th(8:00-2:00) and June 21st (8:00-11:00)

Winslow High School

Looking to become a teacher mentor? Trish Souviney will be offering training this summer at Winslow High School. There are 8 slots for Waterville teachers. If you are interested contact Trish at tsouviney@aos92.org.

Summer Curriculum Proposals

Due April 12, 2024

As a means of building capacity for improving student learning and teacher practice, teachers are encouraged to submit summer work proposals.

Projects that are aligned to school goals and that focus on evidence-based strategies to increase student achievement will be given priority. Projects that address our district goal for increasing engagement will also be considered for funding.

Summer projects are funded for work that takes place after the last contract day of the current academic year and before the first contract day of the new school year. A rate of \$30 an hour is paid upon completion of the project.

Teachers interested in submitting a proposal should complete this form and forward it to their building principal and Jen Allen. Please submit all proposals by April 12, 2024. All applicants will be notified of the proposal status by May 1, 2024.

Summer Work Proposal Template

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ki921KlxZWivA7TMFSR3S-GOx1vWQdXOHxqcaUGFxPc/edit?usp=sharing>

What: Dawnland Maine Indian History

Where: Online, 4 modules

Sign Up Link: <https://discover.maine.edu/product?catalog=Dawnland-Maine-Indian-History>

Cost: \$25- Reimbursed once the Modules are Completed.

Contact Hours: 8 Contact Hours awarded upon completion

This course explores the history of the original people of Maine. The Dawnland: Maine Indian History digital badge is awarded to those who earn an 80% or better score on module quizzes. Learners will complete the four online modules by working through an array of PowerPoint presentations, handouts, readings, and short learning videos. Each module ends with a quiz. Learners who achieve 80% accuracy or better on each quiz will receive a University of Maine System verified digital badge.

The four-module topics include:

9. The Ice Age module discusses how early peoples moved across the land navigating glacial formations while engaged in hunting and survival.
10. The Prehistory module explains the Indigenous lifeways before the arrival of European settlers and settlements.
11. The History module addresses early interactions between the Indigenous people and European settlers.
12. The Current Policy and Practice module details the current issues Maine Indigenous peoples are facing in terms of their political and cultural survival.

2022~2023 Offerings

Virtual Speaker Series

April 6, 2023 - Dr. Sandy Butler and Dr. Luisa Deprez

Social Welfare Policy (3:00-4:00)

Dr. Butler teaches courses in social welfare policy and macro social work practice. Her research focuses primarily on the health needs and social welfare experiences of low-income women across the life span. Her publications are in the areas of poverty, direct care workers, public assistance, older workers, rural aging, the impact of higher education for low-income mothers, LGBT aging, lesbian health, homelessness, teen parenting and pregnancy, and policy practice.

Dr. Butler has her PhD in Social Welfare from the University of Washington in Seattle; MSW (Masters of Social Work) from Washington University in St. Louis, BA in Human Ecology from Carleton College in Northfield, MN.

Dr. Luisa Deprez's commitment is to social justice, equality and equity. For over 50 years she has devoted her work, teaching, scholarship and service to the amelioration of poverty and to the plight of low-income people in the US. With a focus on social policy, her work unearths the politics of policy-making as well as the impact of ideology, public opinion and discriminatory stereotypes on policy exposing resultant social, economic, and personal consequences.



Music and Movement Workshop
Thursday, April 6, 2023
Greene Block and Studios (3:15-4:15)

Join choreographer Matthew Cumbie and composer José Martínez in a movement and music workshop engaging in the questions driving their community-based performance taking place later this spring: where do you call home? What makes a home? Gain arts-based tools to move between content research, discussion, and creation in your classroom.

February 2023

[The Thriving Classroom](#)

The Thriving Classroom is a professional development series built specifically for educators and facilitated by Hurricane Island Outward Bound School. Delivered virtually via live, interactive sessions, it provides an opportunity to connect with colleagues in a supportive learning environment and discover new skills for engaging your students in learning. Many sessions complement each other and are designed to be delivered in a progressive series. Sign up for one track or combine them for greater impact.

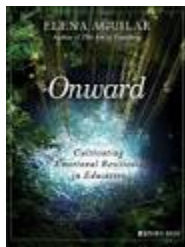
Excel Academy:UCLA
Meets Monthly at WSHS Media Center
2022-2024

Professional Development in the Education of Multilingual Learners The state of Maine currently has identified over 5800 multilingual students as of October 2022 enrollment. Our number of multilingual students continues to increase. Excel Leadership through UCLA is offering free micro-credential courses. There are 12 to choose from and are self-paced. There is also a \$250 stipend for courses completed. This grant is supported through USDOE. Overview of the courses and contact information can be found at the following link.

<https://www.excelleadershipacademy.org/>

SOS (Supporting Our Staff) through Maine DOE
Self Guided Modules

The Maine Department of Education's Office of School and Students Supports invites all educators to access the SOS (Supporting Our Staff) platform. Educators are invited to chart their own course and choose modules from social emotional intelligence, diversity equity and inclusion, instructional skills and resources, and school safety and prevention. All you have to do is register at SOS/SEL4ME Registration and then simply track your modules and send your documentation to Kellie Bailey (kellie.bailey@maine.gov) at the DOE to receive your contact hours.



Onward Cultivating Emotional Resilience in Educators Facilitated by Sue Barre

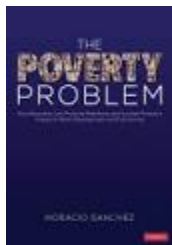
This is a book study using the text, *Onward* by Elena Aguilar. The book tackles educator stress and provides a framework for preventing teacher burnout.

Who: Any K-12 Educator

Time: 2:30-3:45

Meeting Dates: 9/29, 10/27, 12/1, and 1/26

Materials: Book Provided



***The Poverty Problem: How Education Can Promote Resilience and Counter Poverty's Impact on Brain Development and Functioning* Facilitated by Jen Allen**

(9/29, 10/19, and 12/21)- GJM

This group will meet 3:00-4:00 with three meetings from September through December. It will be a mixture of in person and virtual meetings. *The Poverty Problem* explores how to increase students' perseverance and confidence and positively impact outcomes by arming yourself with research-based instructional strategies that are inspiring, realistic, and proven to work.

January 23, 2023- Dr. Elyse Pratt- Ronco

Poverty and Education

Elyse is our opening keynote speaker on January 23rd for our district professional development day. This is an in person event. Elyse will speak from 8:00-8:45 in the high school auditorium.

Elyse Pratt-Ronco has worked for ten years with low-income students from the Upward Bound program. She is currently an Educational Counselor for the Upward Bound program at the University of Maine Farmington. She also teaches a graduate course on Poverty and Education, as well as an undergraduate course on Diversity and Social Justice. Her [research](#) on rural poverty and adolescents has been nationally recognized.

Elyse received her BA in Elementary Education from the University of Maine at Farmington. She earned her Masters Degree in Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College and her Doctorate in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College.

January 23, 2023 - Sujey Vega

Importance of Teacher-Student Emotional Bonds with Marginalized Students and Families

Sujey Vega is an Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies at Arizona State University. Her primary research focus explores Latina/o immigrant communities in the United States, with a specific interest on religious social networks and ethnic belonging to cultures/nations across borders. Sujey will speak virtually on the importance of teacher-student bonds with marginalized students and families on January 23, 2023 during our District Professional Development day. She will present two sessions (9:00-9:45 and 10:00-10:45)

Join with Google Meet Link:meet.google.com/aaf-xybn-onr

January 23, 2023 - Dr. Sonja Thomas

What Would You Do? Racism in the Classroom

Dr. Sonja Thomas is an Associate Professor of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies at Colby College where she teaches courses in race, caste, gender, and sexuality. Sonja will speak virtually on January 23, 2023 during our District Professional Development day. She will present two active learning sessions (12:00-12:45 and 1:00-1:45) providing real life scenarios of race/racism that have happened to students. Participants will break into groups with each of the scenarios to discuss possible solutions and "what would you do" before returning to the larger group for a full discussion (and to learn what actually happened in each scenario). This is a no judgment active learning session.

Join with Google Meet Link:meet.google.com/tzh-jzez-caq



Jewelry Making with Maggie Libby
Thursday, March 2nd
Greene Block and Studios (3:15-4:15)

All Are Welcome!

Paying tribute to Waterville Hardware, which used to be located at 18 Main St., Maggie Libby will lead participants through a jewelry making workshop using reclaimed objects and hardware. This workshop is a part of Maggie's ongoing installation at Greene Block + Studios, [Where We Are Now: Maps and Doorways](#). Participants may bring reclaimed hardware or objects they're interested in turning into wearable art to take home or add to the installation.

BARWE- Building Antiracist White Educators: -Facilitator -Cathy Lovendahl

We will meet once a month from 3:15- 4:00 in a combination of in-person and virtual meetings to be determined by the group. This is open to anyone in the district.

This group will explore race through a series of monthly articles. We will be a branch of the main BARWE group who is leading its third Inquiry Series, and currently reaches educators nation-wide with over 6,500 subscribers. This Reading and Inquiry Series provides a monthly set of tools for learning, introspection and having conversations about issues of racism in our schools, classrooms and communities. We hope that through regular reflection and conversation, you can get better at recognizing and resisting your biases and the impact they have on your students and colleagues of color. [BARWE215](#)

Caste -Facilitated by Dr. Sonja Thomas

What is it and why is everyone suddenly talking about it? This reading group will look at the idea that systemic racism in the US is a caste system. But we will not stop there. We will also look at caste in India and casteism in the US amongst South Asian Americans. We will conclude by thinking through how race and caste operate as systems of power/oppression that inform one another by specifically looking at Kamala Harris and the Capitol riots. This group will meet a total of 4 times, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec. The first Wednesday of the month from 3-4 (maybe 4:30pm). Let's face it. We're all really busy. So the "readings" are on the shorter side. We'll have a selection of chapters from Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste*, and Yashica Dutt's *Coming Out as Dalit* for our first two meetings. Our third meeting will be four 6-7 minute radio broadcasts, and one 34 minute podcast. The last meeting will be a very short op-ed and a newsmagazine article. Join us and learn about caste!

***My Grandmother's Hands* - Facilitated by Jeni Frazee**

This group will meet 2:45-3:15 for five Wednesdays. Would you like to be able to talk and reflect about topics of social justice and race with more confidence and sensitivity? This will be a safe space for us to show up with compassion and care for our own and others' experiences. Using a combination of book chapters, podcasts, conversations, and group reflections, we will use body-based practices to help ourselves handle and grow through the challenges of these times of change and conflict. Body-based practices focus on our sensations, urges, thoughts, and feelings. For example, we might notice a faster heartbeat or temperature change, which could give us information about how we are feeling about a topic or situation.

In this group, we will explore the many possibilities for strength and resilience that we can cultivate while looking at challenging topics. Our bodies have an innate wisdom to help us process the strong feelings that can come up around topics of social justice and race. Ongoing body-based practices can help us to develop "thick skin, a fortified mind, and a malleable heart," even in challenging and charged situations. (Quote from Resmaa Menakem, trauma therapist)

This is for anyone in our school district, not just teachers! You can even just show up and not feel pressured to say anything. Prior experience or comfort with any of these topics is not required, just an interest and openness to play with and explore our responses and how they might change. The group will also be open to continue practicing together indefinitely, for anyone who wishes.

**September-November with Maine Math Science Alliance
Grades 6-12**

Dr. Kate Cook will be working with science teachers K-12 around the Next Generation Science Standards with an emphasis on supporting the implementation of these standards and the incorporation of science engineering practice, cross cutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas/content into lesson design.. This is the first of a series of workshops with Dr. Cook that will extend into next year.

Monthly New Teacher Group

Grades K-5 (Wednesday Meetings, Full Day Release-Monthly October –April, 8:30-2:30)

This group is designed to support the needs of teachers new to our district, those teachers new to the profession for their first two years, and those switching grade levels. Teachers will participate in peer observations, learn how assessments and student work can be used to inform/guide instruction, and on- going curriculum planning. We will explore the new teacher effectiveness model using Marzano's text, *Becoming a Reflective Teacher*. This will run as needed.

What's New in Children's Literature - Early Elementary

Grades K-3 at George J. Mitchell School

Once Monthly October - March, 7:30-8:00am Thursdays

This group will explore a new children's book each meeting. We will follow a few popular book blogs, Teachers Books Readers (<https://teachersbooksreaders.com/>) and A(nother) Year of Reading (<https://ayearofreading.org/>). The first book we will talk about will be *Wonder Walkers* by Micha Archer

What's New in Children's Literature - Upper Elementary

Grades 3-5 at Albert S. Hall School

Once Monthly October - March, 7:15-7:45 am Wednesdays

This group will explore a new children's book each meeting. We will follow a few popular book blogs, Teachers Books Readers (<https://teachersbooksreaders.com/>) and A(nother) Year of Reading (<https://ayearofreading.org/>). The first book we will talk about will be *The Turtle of Michigan* by Naomi Shihab Nye

Fluency in Focus

Grades 2-3 at George Mitchell School, 3:00-3:30 pm Wednesdays

Grades 4-5 at Albert S. Hall School, 7:15-7:45 am Fridays

Once Monthly October - March

"Fluency is the bridge between word recognition and comprehension." In this group, we will explore the work of Timothy V. Rasinski and Melissa Cheesman Smith's new book *The Megabook of Fluency: Strategies and Texts to Engage All Readers*. Each month we'll preview authentic fluency activities, try them with our students in the subsequent weeks and reflect on how it went when we meet again as a group, sharing ideas with one another to further our fluency instruction.

Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics: 14 Teaching Practices for Enhancing Learning by Peter Liljedahl

Grades K-5 will meet at the George J. Mitchell School, 3:00-4:00 p.m. on Thursdays (Once a Month - October, December, February, & April)

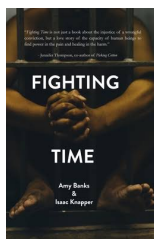
Participants may also choose to complete online chapter reflections (Google Form) to earn additional contact hours.

"A thinking student is an engaged student... Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics, Grades K-12 helps teachers implement 14 optimal practices for thinking that create an ideal setting for deep mathematics learning to occur. When combined, these unique research-based practices create the optimal conditions for learner-centered, student-owned deep mathematical thinking and learning, and have the power to transform mathematics classrooms like never before."

Daily Routines to Jump-Start Math Class: Engage Students, Improve Number Sense, and Practice Reasoning by John Sangiovanni

Grades K-5 will meet at the Albert S. Hall School, 7:15-7:45 a.m. on Tuesdays (Once a Month - September, November, January, & March)

"Swap out traditional warmup practices and captivate your elementary students with these new, innovative, and ready-to-go routines! Trusted elementary math expert John J. SanGiovanni details 20 classroom-proven practice routines to help you ignite student engagement, reinforce learning, and prepare students for the lesson ahead. Each quick and lively activity spurs mathematics discussion and provides a structure for talking about numbers, number concepts, and number sense."



Fighting Time by Dr. Amy Banks and Issac Knapper- Facilitated by Lisa Evans
Meetings- 9/20 and 9/27

Time: 3:15 at WJH Media Center

This group will read and discuss the book, *Fighting Time*. Dr. Amy Banks and Issac Knapper are our first virtual speakers. This group will meet twice, once before the September 22nd virtual presentation and once after listening to the authors share their story. Reach out if you would like a copy of the book and to join in the book group.

Virtual Speaker Series #1

September 22nd with Dr. Amy Banks and Isaac Knapper

This is the first in our virtual speaker series for the year. Our first speakers will be Dr. Amy Banks and Isaac Knapper, authors of the book, *Fighting Time*. Amy Banks MD, a Harvard trained psychiatrist with Maine roots and Issa Knapper, head trainer of Crescent Boxing Gym in New Orleans tell their story of their thirty-six year journey from Murder to meeting. It's the story

of two families whose lives became entangled. Amy's father, Dr. Ronald Banks, a University of Maine professor was murdered on April 29th in the French Quarter in New Orleans. Issac Knapper was the sixteen year-old boy who was wrongfully convicted of Dr. Banks' murder and sentenced to life imprisonment without parole. No need to sign up for this offering.



Taiji (Tai Chi) with Tara Weaver
October 6th
Greene Block and Studios 3:15-4:15

"There is no better way to calm the nervous system and strengthen focus than to do a bit of Tai Chi. Unbend that sore back and tight neck with this calming exercise. Loosen up those tight hips, knees and ankles and get the blood flowing again with careful focused breathing and movement. This workshop is for all abilities and levels of experience.

Tara Weaver began training in a variety of martial arts styles beginning in 2012 with professional fighters and trainers at Redline Fight Sports in Cambridge, MA. Since 2015 she has competed in multiple International Kuo Shu Championship Tournaments under the coaching of Henry Lee. In 2019 she placed in several categories, including 4th in Adult Advanced Short Weapon, 2nd in Advanced Kung Fu Northern Style, and 1st in Adult Advanced Tai Chi (Wudang Style). Following in the steps of her many excellent teachers, Tara strives to share the multitude of health benefits of martial arts training with all those wishing to learn."

Virtual Series #2 with Nyamuon Nguany Machar ("Moon")
October 27th, 3:00-4:00

Join with the Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/rfg-pami-gfs

Nyamuon Nguany Machar ("Moon") is a spoken word poet, army veteran, and activist for refugees and asylum seekers. She currently serves as a cultural representative for Disability Rights Maine. She is originally from South Sudan and uses her resettlement experience to assist others.

Moon was featured in the PBS documentary, *I Come From Away: An Immigrant in Maine*. She is happy to talk with us about the film and her own experiences, highlighting key insights into supporting and understanding the experiences of families who immigrate to Maine.

Moon requests that we watch the documentary, *I Come From Away: An Immigrant in Maine*, prior to her talk, if possible. She also offers the documentary as a resource for teachers to share with older students. You can find the documentary at:
<https://www.pbs.org/video/i-come-from-away-an-immigrant-in-maine-ujzfr4/>



Evelyn Wong, Artist and Bookmaker

November 3rd, Greene Block and Studios from 3:15-4:15

Join Evelyn Wong, an artist and bookmaker to learn simple bookmaking techniques. Evelyn Wong is an interdisciplinary artist exploring themes of history, trauma, culture, race, and gender through the lens of personal narratives as well as her Asian American heritage. She has recently exhibited work at the Northern Arizona University Art Museum in Flagstaff, Arizona, the Portland Museum of Art in Portland, Maine, and the Museum of Craft and Design in San Francisco, California. Residencies include The Studios at MASS MoCA and the Ellis-Beauregard Foundation Artist's Residency Program. Wong received her BFA from the University of South Carolina and MFA from Maine College of Art. In 2019, she was awarded the Professional Development and Creative Entrepreneurship Grant at Maine College of Art to launch Fireball Bookbindery, where she currently crafts hand-bound journals and notebooks inspired by Asian traditions in materials, designs, and book-bindings. <https://evelynwongartist.com/about/>

July 2022

Creative Interactions with Math

Are you looking to increase student engagement and creativity within your math classroom? This is an opportunity to come and watch creative interactions with math in action at the summer Waterville Sum Camp. Scott Taylor from Colby secured a grant to make this opportunity possible for our students. Be a part of hands-on learning and walk away with new strategies that you can incorporate in your own math classroom. You can choose to observe a couple of hours or a whole day. Contact Jen Allen if you are interested in this opportunity.

Who: Any Interested K-6 Teacher

Dates: July 25th, 26th, or 27th

Where: Albert S. Hall School

Time 8:30-12:00 or 8:30 - 2:30

Honorarium: \$60

please contact Jen Allen

Taiji (Tai Chi) with Tara Weaver

November 17th

3:00-4:00 at GJM Library

Additional Dates: 12/15, 1/12, 2/9, 3/23

"There is no better way to calm the nervous system and strengthen focus than to do a bit of Tai Chi. Unbend that sore back and tight neck with this calming exercise. Loosen up those tight hips, knees and ankles and get the blood flowing again with careful focused breathing and movement. This workshop is for all abilities and levels of experience.

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Greene Block and Studios

18 Main Street

December 1, 2022

3:15-4:15

The December offering is with Matthew Cumbie. Matthew Cumbie (he/him/his) is a collaborative dance maker and artist- educator in Waterville, ME. His artistic research cultivates processes and experiences that are participatory and intergenerational. If you are interested in this offering please sign up with Jen



Waterville Food Stories with the Center for Book and Print

with Fannie Ouyang and Tyler French

Thursday, February 2nd

Greene Block and Studios (3:15-4:15)

All Are Welcome!

Learn about artistic annotation with poet Tyler French and print your own annotated food story on the risograph machine with Visual Art Librarian Fannie Ouyang. Participants will walk away with a unique print and have the option of contributing their print for inclusion in the Waterville Community cookbook Project. Please bring a copy of a recipe that is meaningful to you and any print or photos you'd like to collage.

February 16, 2023- Starr Kelly

Can We Decolonize Educational Spaces

Starr Kelly served as Curator of Education, where she led the Abbe Museum's education and public programs work, including development and delivery, teacher training, and educational resource development.

She graduated from Colgate University, where she received her B.A. in Native American Studies and Masters of Teaching. Defining herself as a "social justice-oriented educator," her approach works to honor those she teaches about while creating an environment that is responsive to the needs of learners. During her five years at the Abbe, Kelly developed many innovative programs, including their first virtual lecture series *Indigenous Methodologies*, which highlights

the ongoing work of Native researchers and scholars. Most recently, she co-curated [*Stitching Ourselves Together: Mi'kmaq Porcupine Quillwork*](#) with Jennifer Pictou, Mi'kmaq. This celebrated exhibit is presented from a first-person perspective with the group "Quillers of the Dawn" as they share their experiences working toward the revitalization of Mi'kmaq quillwork. Starr Kelly currently works at the Children's Museum & Theater of Maine as Director of Education and Exhibits.