March 10, 2021

Wednesday Reader

Remember to Spring Forward Saturday Night

This weekend marks the start of Daylight Saving Time. Be sure to move clocks ahead one hour Saturday night . . . or when you leave school at the end of the week.

For those with students competing in the Montana BPA Virtual State Leadership Conference this weekend, remind your students as well.

This is also a great time to test smoke detectors and replace batteries.

Code.org Updates Summer 2021 Workshops to Virtual & Opens More Spring Options for CS Fundamentals

Code.org has announced all face-to-face summer 2021 workshops planned for Computer Science Discoveries and Computer Science Principles will be switched to a virtual format. Both Computer Science Discoveries and Computer Science Principles workshops were planned for Helena in June.

K–5 Educators: Computer Science Fundamentals Virtual Sessions
Computer Science Fundamentals blends online and "unplugged" activities, especially designed for teaching in the K-5 classroom. Using methods like puzzles, classroom games, and storytelling, students are taught basic computer science concepts through fun and engaging lessons that fit flexibly into any classroom schedule.

Workshops include comprehensive lesson plans, an online teacher dashboard, and are compatible with a variety of servers.

Virtual Computer Science Fundamentals workshops offered at no-cost for Montana educators are available at multiple times this spring. If interested, select the workshop best fitting your schedule.

- Option 1: March 13; 9 am-3 pm

- Option 2: March 22-24; 6-8 pm each day
- Option 3: April 3; 9 am-3 pm
- Option 4: April 12-14; 6-8 pm each day
- Option 5: May 1; 9 am-3 pm

Visit the Code.org website to create a free teacher account, to register for a virtual workshop, and to learn more about the Computer Science Fundamentals curriculum.

Computer Science Discoveries & Computer Science Principles Virtual Options
During summer 2021, four (4) virtual workshop options will be available for Computer Science Discoveries (grades 6-10) and Computer Science Principles (grades 9-12).

Additionally, scholarships are available for Montana educators from Code.org for qualified 6-12 applicants from schools with over 50% Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) or 50% under-represented community students; or, if a school is federally classified as "rural," the minimums drop to 40%.

Virtual workshops for both Computer Science Discoveries and Computer Science Principles will be offered four times during the summer.

- Option 1: June 21-25; 9 am-5 pm daily
- Option 2: July 19-23, 9 am-5 pm daily
- Option 3: August 2-6; 9 am-5 pm daily
- Option 4: August 9-13; 9 am-5 pm daily

Applications for the summer CS Discoveries and CS Principles virtual offerings are now being accepted.

Renewal units will be offered for all virtual workshops. For questions regarding the workshops and/or scholarships, please contact code@avid.org.

New Product Spotlight, $cholarships, & Current Events from EVERFI

EVERFI's 306: Continuing the Story (grades 8-12) extends the lessons of the original 306: African American History course, teaching students about events in U.S. history from both before and after the Civil Rights Era that have shaped the experience of many Black people in the United States.

This African American History curriculum celebrates exceptional achievements made by Black leaders, trailblazers, and communities, despite an undeniable context of racism, trauma, and dehumanization. Students will draw connections from past and present events to recognize and empathize with the ongoing challenges Black people continue to face in the United States.

Middle school students using EVERFI's FutureSmart financial literacy resource are eligible to enter the 2020-2021 MassMutual FutureSmart Scholarship Contest for a chance to win one of 10 $1,000 529 College Savings gift cards.

The FutureSmart Scholarship Contest is open to any U.S. student in grades 6-8 who has completed at least three of the FutureSmart digital lessons and submitted a short essay. Spring semester entries must be received by May 31, 2021. Click here for details.

Women's History Month is a time to honor extraordinary women and their achievements, struggles, and triumphs throughout history. Celebrate and recognize the contributions women have made by incorporating these lesson ideas.

When getting ready for April and Financial Literacy Month, check out EVERFI's suite of financial education resources and schedule a time to connect to discuss the rollout of these resources:

- High School Financial Wellness Suite
- Middle School
- Elementary School

For questions, or to learn more about EVERFI, contact Sean Thomas, Schools Manager, at sthomas@everfi.com, or Caitlin O'Connor, Director of K12 Programs, at caitlin@everfi.com.

Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers—Applications Due March 15

Do you teach Business Law or Street Law? If so, consider applying for the Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers. This teacher professional development institute brings a select group of high school social studies teachers to Washington, DC, for an immersive six days of educational activities related to teaching about the U.S. Supreme Court.

The two 2021 Summer Institutes will be held June 17-22 and June 24-29. Admission is based on a competitive application process and 30 teachers from across the country will be accepted for each Institute (60 total).

Applicants must: (1) teach secondary (grades 7-12) social studies or law-related education; (2) commit to attend all sessions, either Week 1: June 17-22 or Week 2: June 24-29; and (3) not have already attended one of Street Law's Supreme Court Summer Institutes or regional Supreme Court Seminars.

The deadline for applications is March 15, 2021. The Institute is co-sponsored by the Supreme Court Historical Society.

To learn more, visit the Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers section of the Street Law, Inc. website.

Even if you are not able to participate in the Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers this year, check out Street Law, Inc. for classroom resources for your law courses/units.

NGPF Registration is Open for Certification Course Cohort #10--Courses Begin Next Week

Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) invites you to become a distinguished Personal Finance Educator by enrolling in one of NGPF's Certification Courses.

NGPF offers online Certification Courses specializing in specific topics in personal finance. Educators strengthen their own content knowledge over 10 hours of professional development and are assessed through a one-hour exam. NGPF Certified educators are more confident, qualified, and ready for their classroom.

Cohort #10 runs for five (5) weeks and includes nine (9) hour courses beginning March 15 and ending April 15. The courses can be completed for free.

Seven courses will be available in Cohort #10:

- Advanced Investing
- Banking & Budgeting
- Behavioral Finance
- Career
- Investing
- Psychology of Money
- Taxes

The courses can be completed for free. Check with your school/district about earning OPI renewal units for completed courses.

For complete details and to register for Cohort #10, please visit the NGPF's Certification Courses page.

Design a Sticker, Win a Scholarship from Reach Higher Montana Contest Ends Monday, March 15

Design the next sticker for Reach Higher Montana and have your design inspire Montana high school students to find their path after high school!

The sticker design contest opened February 1 and closes March 15, 2021.

Prizes: The top two designers will each receive a $1,500 scholarship. The third and fourth place designers will each receive a $1,000 scholarship. The fifth and sixth place designers will each receive a $500 scholarship.

All six winners will receive 100 stickers.

The art program of the respective students will each receive $250 to purchase art supplies or equipment for their designated school or community art program.

Visit the [Reach Higher Montana Scholarship](#) page for more details.

Montana's STEM Scholarship Program—Applications Due Monday, March 15

[Montana's STEM Scholarship Program](#) is designed to provide an incentive for Montana high school students to prepare for, enter into, and complete degrees in postsecondary fields related to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and healthcare. The goal of this program is to increase the number of STEM degree recipients participating in Montana's workforce.

Successful applicants can receive $1000 for the first year, $1500 each for the second and third years of study, and $2000 for the fourth academic year.

The scholarship application and all supporting documentation must be postmarked by March 15.

For the complete application process, eligibility requirements, qualifying STEM majors, and a list of Montana post-secondary institutes for which the scholarship can be used, please visit the [Montana STEM Scholarship Program](#) page.

Cyber.org Announces the Cyber Education Discovery Forum in June

Do you teach cybersecurity or want to learn more about how you can include cybersecurity and cyber education concepts in your current curriculum? [Cyber.org](#) is hosting a three-day virtual professional development event designed to help you reset, regroup, and refresh with new cybersecurity content and strategies as you head into the 2022 school year.

The [Cyber Education Discovery Forum](#) will be held virtually, June 21-23, and will feature

- Interactive workshops during the mornings,
- Workshop supplies and conference swag bags shipped to you ahead of the event,
- Breakout sessions that explore new perspectives and resources you can immediately use,
- Networking sessions with guided topics to connect you with other attendees, and
- Keynotes from education leaders

Five workshop tracks will be offered for attendees.

Cybersecurity Awareness for elementary: This entry-level workshop is ideal for elementary educators looking to infuse basic cybersecurity concepts like digital citizenship and block-based coding into core subjects.

Cybersecurity Awareness for middle school: This session is designed for middle school educators looking to build cybersecurity awareness into new or existing project-based STEM content while supporting core subject standards.

Cyber Society for middle and high school: This humanities-based workshop is ideal for upper middle school and high school educators looking to focus on the societal implications of living in a connected world.

Cyber Literacy for middle and high school: This workshop is ideal for upper middle school and high school educators as an introduction to programming, robotics, and societal implications of cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity Credentials for high school: This workshop is ideal for high school educators as they prepare students to take technical cybersecurity certification exams like CompTIA Security and A+.

The registration fee is $35 and can be completed on the Cyber Education Discovery Forum website.

Visit Cyber.org to learn more about the free curriculum and resources available for teachers and students.

CodeHS Announces Eight New Courses for the 21-22 School Year

Are you looking for some new ideas for the 2021-2022 school year? Maybe one, or more, of the eight new courses from CodeHS can find their way into your classroom next year.

CodeHS will be launching six new free computer science courses and two more interdisciplinary projects for the 2021-2022 school year. A preview of these courses will be available in May 2021 for beta testing and the full courses will be available in July.

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence: The Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) course teaches students important programming concepts that enable the use of AI in computer science and society at large. Students learn the implications of AI on society and develop a series of projects that illustrate the variety of ways it can be used to optimize and predict information.

Data Science: Industries of all types are hiring data scientists to analyze and highlight the hidden patterns in data! This course equips students with the essential skills of a data scientist which include data collection, cleanup, transformation, analysis, and visualization.

Data Structures in C++: The Data Structures course in C++ teaches students about advanced data structures such as maps, queues and sets, while applying them in larger, real-world assignments and projects.

Game Design in Unity: This course teaches students the fundamentals of game design by using Unity's game engine. By the end of this course, students will understand the design

planning process, be knowledgeable of industry related careers, and be able to navigate the Unity environment in order to create their own 2D and 3D games.

Coding in Math: Coding in Math is a series of independent, standalone modules that use coding to reinforce and extend students' understanding of mathematics! As students learn major programming concepts, they will develop math-related projects that demonstrate their proficiency in math and computer science.

Coding in Science: Coding in Science is a series of independent, standalone modules that use coding to reinforce and extend students' understanding of science! As they learn major programming concepts, they will develop science-related projects that demonstrate their proficiency in both science and computer science.

IB Computer Science Standard Level: This course will facilitate the learning and project creation processes for students enrolled in the Standard Level section of their International Baccalaureate Diploma Programs.

IB Computer Science Higher Level: This course will facilitate the learning and project creation processes for students enrolled in the Higher Level section of their International Baccalaureate Diploma Programs.

Visit the Coming Soon section of the CodeHS Course Catalog to learn more about each course, to view the units of instruction, and to download all course syllabi.

CodeHS courses teach students applicable computer science skills. With a focus on helping students develop problem solving and computational thinking skills, students come away both with a knowledge of professional programming languages and the conceptual understanding needed to learn new languages.

ACTE's 2021 CareerTech VISION 2021 Call for Proposals Due April 15

ACTE's CareerTech VISION is the premier annual gathering of career and technical education (CTE) professionals. This year, CareerTech VISION will look a bit different. In an effort to include more participants in the valuable professional development experience, ACTE is planning a hybrid approach to delivering a high-quality experience. ACTE's 2021 CareerTech Hybrid VISION will be held December 1-4, in in New Orleans, Louisiana, and online.

ACTE is seeking proposals addressing a full range of issues facing CTE educators, administrators and other key stakeholders as they strive to prepare students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in the 21st century economy.

The selection committee will focus on innovative ideas or new approaches to key challenges within CTE, and will choose sessions featuring evidence-based, high-quality career and technical education program of study elements. Quality sessions will engage the audience and provide attendees with practical, "how to" ideas and resources that directly impact CTE programs and student achievement.

This year, ACTE is seeking both virtual and in-person proposals. The deadline to submit a Call for Proposal is April 15, 2021.

Please visit the 2021 CareerTech VISION's [Call for Proposals](#) page for complete details.

Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Applications Due March 31

Through House Bill 211, the 2019 Montana legislature renewed the quality educator loan assistance program as a recruitment and retention aid for rural schools. The Office of Public Instruction is responsible for administering the program. Applications for the [Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program](#) will be accepted from February 15-March 31, 2021.

Newly hired quality educators who teach or work in a subject that has been identified as a "critical quality educator shortage area" at an "impacted school" are eligible to receive state paid loan assistance for up to four years, so long as they remain a full-time employee at an impacted school.

The program provides for up to $3,000 of state funded loan repayment at the end of the first year of teaching, up to $4,000 at the end of the second year, and up to $5,000 at the end of the third year. In addition, the school district has the option to offer up to $5,000 at the end of the fourth year, but this is entirely a local decision.

[See the Quality Educator Loan Assistance FAQ's](#) for information on the criteria, applying, the list of impacted schools, and quality educator shortage areas.

At the time of application, the quality educator will have to provide the most current loan statement showing the remaining principal balance of the loan. To be eligible, the educational loan must not be in default, and the balance must be at least $1,000. The authorized loan assistance repayment amount will be the lesser of the principal balance or the maximum amount shown above.

Registration for CSTA 2021 is Open to All Members

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) is excited to announce registration for [CSTA 2021](#) is now open for all members.

This year's conference spans two and a half days full of amazing CSTA sessions. With over 150 presentations, there is tons of new content to help you inspire your students.

Register early to ensure you receive this year's swag box (U.S. and Canada residents only) and do not miss out on the fun.

The [CSTA 2021 Virtual Conference](#) will be July 14-16.

If you are not a CSTA member, you can become a [CSTA Basic Member](#) for free.

Apply Today for a CSTA 2021 Conference Scholarship

The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) prides itself in promoting equitable access to the CSTA Annual Conference by offering scholarships that subsidize 100% of the program cost. These scholarships are intended to support teachers whose limited financial resources may prevent them from attending. The goal is to support as many teachers as possible.

To be eligible for scholarships to the 2021 CSTA Conference, you must:

1. be a CSTA Basic (free) or CSTA+ member,
2. directly teach computer science to K-12 students, and
3. not have access to funding from your school or organization to cover conference registration fees.

Applications close on April 30, 2021.

ACTE Region V 2021 Conference Going Virtual—Early-Bird Registration Ends April 1

Hosted by Nevada ACTE, the 2021 ACTE Region V Conference will be held virtually, April 15-17.

Early registration is now open and can be completed online. The early registration rate for ACTE members is $199 and ends April 1. After April 1, the registration rate increases to $299.

Preliminary details can be found on the 2021 ACTE Region V Conference website.

For questions regarding the 2021 conference, please contact Jennifer Fisk at fiskje@nv.ccsd.net.

Fun Facts and Trivia

The X-Ray Tetra is a small species of schooling fish that is naturally found in the Amazon River's coastal waters in South America, mainly in the coastal rivers of Brazil, Guiana, Guyana, and Venezuela.

They were first described in 1894 and have since become one of the most popular freshwater fish kept in artificial aquariums today.

The X-Ray Tetra fish is also known as the Golden Pristella Tetra and the Water Goldfinch due to the faint golden coloration of their translucent skin.

The translucent layer of skin that covers the small body of the X-Ray Tetra allows the fish's backbone to be clearly seen.

The scales of the X-Ray Tetra are a silvery-yellowish color that is very faint, looking almost golden in some lights.

The body coloring of the X-Ray Tetra is unremarkable, but the fins make it rather distinctive.

The tail is an off red, and the dorsal and end fins have an unusual three-color pattern: bright yellow, black, and white.

The bony internal structure of an X-Ray Tetra is known as the Weberian apparatus, which is used in picking up sound waves, and contributes to an acute sense of hearing.

The Weberian apparatus in the X-Ray Tetra's body works by transmitting sound waves through their vertebra that have been received by the swim bladder and are then taken to the inner ear.

X-Ray Tetras inhabit clear-water streams and tributaries during the dry season, and with the coming of the rains, they move into the flooded marshlands where the water is softer and more acidic.

It is during the wet season that the X-Ray Tetra breed as they have better water conditions and a higher abundance of food.

During the rainy season. the X-Ray Tetra return to the flood-lands to spawn.

The female X-Ray Tetra lays between 300-400 eggs by scattering them amongst the vegetation.

X-Ray Tetra usually live for three or four years in the wild but can get to older ages in captivity.

Like many other small species of Fish that live in the Amazon River, the X-Ray Tetra is an omnivorous animal whose diet is made up of both animals and plants.

X-Ray Tetras primarily hunt worms, insects, and small crustaceans living close to the riverbed and their fry tend to feed on insect larvae.

For questions, please contact:

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