

THE WEDNESDAY READER
December 15, 2021

Please note: This will be the last Wednesday Reader for 2021. Additionally, I will be out of the office for the upcoming holidays beginning Tuesday, December 20 and returning Monday, January 3. Have a Merry Christmas, a great break, and a happy new year.

Important Notice from OPI'S Licensure Office

Attention to all Montana Educators: The Montana State Educator Information System (MSEIS) will be shutting down to the public on December 31, 2021. The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) will not be accepting any new applications via that system after that date.

If you have an open application or need to renew in 2022, you will have the option of submitting any necessary documentation by paper through February 1, 2022. For licenses expiring on June 30, 2022, renewals can be submitted beginning January 1, 2022.

Information on this process and answers to other questions you may have will be added to the [Educator Licensure page](#) in the next month.

The new licensure system is projected to be deployed and opened for use on June 1, 2022.

December Activity from Start Here. Go Places.®: Make the Most Out of Scholarship Season

New from [Start Here. Go Places.®](#), this month's accounting-related activity is [How to Make it Rain: A Guide to Finding Scholarships](#). This activity will help students shift their thinking about scholarships. They will learn tips on finding ones that are worth applying for and how to make scholarship season as stress-free as possible.

New to [Start Here. Go Places.®](#)? Create your free teacher account today to start exploring all the free tools, resources, and activities to enhance your accounting instruction and to engage students within the exciting world of accounting.

Save the Date for the 2022 Dual Enrollment Summit

Calling all educators, staff, and administrators of high schools and colleges (two-year or four-year)! The University of Montana Missoula College, along with the University of Montana Summer Office and Reach Higher Montana, invites you to save the date for the second annual [Montana Dual Enrollment Summit](#) taking place on June 20-21, 2022. The hope is to come together in-person, with some virtual options available; more details will be announced in the spring.

As many of you know from attending last year, the Dual Enrollment Summit is a professional development opportunity for the educators, staff, and administrators of high schools and colleges that aims to provide an opportunity for connections and networking between college and high school faculty, staff, and administrators to support continuous improvement, quality, and rigor in dual enrollment course offerings to Montana high school students.

Registration will open on April 4, 2022, along with an invitation for proposals for the Summit. If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to Jordan Patterson in the UM Dual Enrollment office at jordan.patterson@mso.umt.edu or to Becka Simons in the UM Summer Office at becka.simons@mso.umt.edu.

ISTELive 22 Registration is Now Open—Go Big in the Big Easy

If you're choosing just one event this year, it has to be [ISTELive 22](#) in New Orleans, June 26-29. Conference registration and hotel reservations are now open.

When you sign up for [ISTELive 22](#), you will not only have the chance to participate in over 1,000 learning opportunities presented by global experts, you will also get to collaborate, share and see your community again—at last. And, the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) has designed this event for every comfort level, so you can do all of that in person or virtually.

ISTE Live is no longer just a four-day event—it is customized, flexible, year-round PD. So, be sure to check out all the ways you can participate.

[Register now](#). Prices increase in March.

Kick off 2022 with an NGPF Certification Course

[Register now](#) for the [Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (NGPF) Cohort #19 Certification Course and start 2022 with quality professional development.

Complete the five-week, nine hour courses to become certified in specific personal finance topics.

Sessions are just two hours a week and start the week of January 3

- Start your 2022 with quality PD through an NGPF Certification Course
- Increase your confidence in your personal finance content knowledge
- Have ready-to-implement resources to bring to your students
- Empower yourself as an expert at your school site
- Earn a Certification Badge to share on your email signature, resume, and LinkedIn
- Continue earning your credits for [NGPF Academy](#) this school year.

Four courses are available during this cohort:

- Advanced Investing
- Credit
- Insurance
- Investing

Cohort #19 starts January 3 and ends February 11, [register today](#). Be sure to work with your local district/school to get approved to earn OPI renewal units for your participation in Cohort #19.

K12 Grant Opportunity from TestOut for Spring 2022

[TestOut's K12 Grant](#) is an excellent way for teachers and students to soar to new heights using our IT and Microsoft Office courseware. Just like rockets blast into outer space, TestOut will help your students reach for the stars.

[TestOut's courseware](#) is an integrated suite of resources that provides everything teachers need to prepare their students for certification and a successful career in the IT industry and everyday Microsoft Office applications. TestOut courseware includes video instruction and demonstrations, concise text lessons, quizzes, and exams to test their knowledge in hands-on labs.

TestOut's easy-to-use, all-in-one courseware aligns to industry certifications like MOS, CompTIA, Cisco, EC-Council's Certified Ethical Hacker and includes a voucher to their 100% Performance-based TestOut Pro certification.

TestOut's complete, end-to-end certification training software provides teaching methods that keep users focused and engaged. Each course uses various resources that give you everything needed to prepare for certification, including video instruction, text lessons, demonstrations, lab simulations, and comprehensive practice exams.

[TestOut's grant](#) provides districts, teachers, and students with full access to training courseware, provides video instruction, hands-on practice through real-life simulations, testing, and certification prep in one easy-to-use platform at no cost. Grant access will run the entire semester from January 1, 2022, through July 31, 2022.

The K12 grant is for instructors that have never used TestOut course materials. Please visit [TestOut](#) for more details and a complete list of course offerings and resources.

[Lessons to Keep Students Engaged in Weeks Before Winter Break from EVERFI](#)

This time of year can be especially challenging to keep students engaged, motivated, and learning. Try leveraging one of the hundreds of free and fully student directed lessons from EVERFI. Their [resource library](#) contains a wide variety of critical K-12 lessons on financial literacy, career exploration, SEL, and more.

Getting started takes only minutes, and these lessons are great tools for pre-break learning (or even activities to build skills at home). Contact your local EVERFI support leader Sean (sthomas@everfi.com) and he can show you how to access the lesson over email, in a 15-minute call, or by leading your class through their first virtual lesson.

[Applications are Now Open in Montana for the Code.org Professional Learning Program](#)

Applications are now open for [Code.org's Professional Learning Program](#) for middle and high school educators. If you are interested in teaching computer science for the 2022-2023 academic year, this is your time to explore computer science (CS) curriculum and collaborate with educators of all experience levels to develop lesson plans and teaching strategies.

What is the Professional Learning Program? Hosted by highly trained facilitators, the professional development workshops will prepare you to confidently bring CS to your students as well as connect with an online and in-person community of peers. Most workshops have scholarship funding available.

New this year, Computer Science A (CSA) professional learning has arrived. For teachers looking for support in teaching CSA in the 2022-23 school year, [find a professional learning program near you](#).

[Elementary teachers](#) can sign-up for a one-day workshop near you! Applications are not required for Computer Science Fundamentals workshops and take place throughout the country, year-round.

[Middle and high school teachers](#) will begin with a five-day workshop on Computer Science Discoveries, Computer Science Principles and Computer Science A in the summer, with academic year workshops thereafter.

Workshops for Montana teachers include—

CS Discoveries:

--June 27-July 1, 2022; Seattle

--August 1-5, 2022; Virtual

CS Principles:

--June 27-July 1, 2022; Seattle

--August 1-5, 2022; Virtual

Computer Science A:

--June 27-July 1, 2022; Seattle

Avid, Montana's regional Code.org partner, has scholarships available for teachers in Montana. That means you can apply to possibly attend this professional learning program at reduced or no cost to you/your school. AVID is planning on offering both virtual and in-person/hybrid summer workshops during the summer of 2022, and will switch to all-virtual if needed.

If you have any questions, please [use this form to contact your regional partner](#).

PBS Media Literacy Micro-Credential and Professional Development

Demonstrate your expertise in teaching PreK-12 students to think critically about their roles as media consumers and creators—or in training teachers to do so.

To promote competency-based validation of media literacy skills for educators of all kinds, PBS and KQED offer media literacy micro-credentials that are available for free via the [Digital Promise platform](#). Teachers, ToSAs, coaches, and librarians are all encouraged to apply. Choose a micro-credential from the list below and log in to the [Digital Promise platform](#). Earn eight micro-credentials and automatically become a PBS Certified Media Literacy Educator.

These free, instructor-led courses on KQED Teach include:

--Assessing Student Media

--Creating a Code of Conduct

--Critically Analyzing Media

--Evaluating Online Information

--Evaluating Online Tools for Classroom Use

--Implementing Media Projects: in Early Childhood or in Upper Grades

--Making Media for Classroom Use: Audio & Video

--Making Media for Classroom Use: Images, Graphics & Interactives

PBS Media Literacy Educator Certification by KQED was a 2020 EdTech Awards finalist in the Badging & Credentialing category and KQED Media Literacy Educator micro-credentials received the 2019 Award of Excellence from Tech & Learning magazine.

Learn more about the [PBS Media Literacy Micro-Credential](#).

APBP Advanced Accounting Curriculum Summer Training Schedule

The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA) is very excited to announce that Accounting Project to Bridge the Profession (APBP) trainings are back.

The AICPA offers training for high school teachers on an advanced accounting curriculum. This college-level course provides students with a real-world view of the accounting profession while focusing on

the development of critical thinking skills. If you are an accounting, finance, or business educator and would like to receive *FREE* training, please join the AICPA this summer. To learn more about APBP, click [here](#).

There will be holding four summer training sessions across the country in 2022. Thank you to everyone who participated in the APBP training survey which helped us pick the following locations:

- Las Vegas, Nevada at AICPA's ENGAGE Conference: June 7-9, 2022 (limited space available)
- Chicago, Illinois: June 20-22, 2022
- Houston, Texas: July 20-22, 2022
- Pennsylvania/New Jersey: Dates and location coming soon

Please save the date for your preferred location. Registration is expected to be available through [StartHereGoPlaces](#) by the first week of December. An email announcement will be made when registration officially opens.

Send any inquiries to apbp@aicpa-cima.com.

Career & Technical Education Scholarships—500 Scholarships at up to \$2,500 each

The [Career & Technical Scholarship Program](#) is funded through the generosity of Horatio Alger Association Members, Jim F. Dicke II and Dennis Washington. Scholarships are awarded to students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their lives who wish to pursue a career or technical education at an accredited non-profit post-secondary institution in the United States.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Have completed high school (or earned a high school equivalency credential)
- Enrolled in eligible program in Fall 2021
- Exhibit a strong commitment to pursue and complete a career or technical program (up to 2 years) at an accredited non-profit post-secondary institution in the United States
- Demonstrated critical financial need (must be eligible to receive the Federal Pell grant as determined by completion of the FAFSA)
- Demonstrated perseverance in overcoming adversity
- Be under the age of 30
- Be a United States citizen

Funds may be used for tuition, fees, books, and supplies. All scholarship funds are paid directly to the institution on behalf of the recipient.

If you are a school official, you may sign up for the Stay Connected list so that you will be notified of important application updates and to print a poster to put up in your school. To do so, please visit the [School Officials](#) page.

The [CTE application](#) is now open with a priority deadline of July 15 (applications will continue to be awarded on a rolling basis until all awards have been claimed).

[Apply Now](#).

Nominate a High School Senior for the Cutler-Bell Prize

The [Computer Science Teachers Association](#) (CSTA) has just opened applications for the [2021-2022 Cutler-Bell Application](#), which looks to recognize up to four high school senior students residing in the US for their projects in computer science. Winners will receive a \$10,000 prize to go to their college/university of choice. Applications are due by January 10, 2022, at 9 a.m. [Learn about the prize](#), review the [application questions](#), or nominate a student to apply using [this form](#).

The ACM/Cutler Bell Prize in High School Computing is designed to recognize talented students intending to continue their higher education in the areas of computer science or technology. The program seeks to promote and encourage computer science and empower young and aspiring leaders to pursue computing challenges outside of the traditional classroom environment.

Students must develop an original computational artifact that engages modern computing technology and computer science. See previous winners to learn about the types of projects selected. This year, to help better prepare students for the application, a google document of all applications is available for review; we encourage students to make a copy to prepare their answers before submitting. Students must develop an original computational artifact that engages modern computing technology and computer science.

The application includes:

- Description of the project and development (two essays of <1,000 words each)
- Project source code and executable file
- A short video showing and describing the project (2 minutes)
- Consent form

A group of educators will review all submissions and judge the project's ingenuity, complexity, relevancy, originality, and the student's desire to further computer science as a discipline.

Please visit the [2021-2022 Cutler-Bell Application](#) site for complete details. Nominations close January 18, 2022.

Fun Facts & Trivia

Milton Bradley developed the game *Life* in 1860.

Bradley was 23 years old at the time and the original game was called *The Checkered Game of Life*.

At this time, games were considered a waste of time, so Bradley created a game which eliminated dice and cards to downplay game's frivolous nature and to emphasize "virtuous" teachings.

The game consisted of 64 squares and took players from infancy to happy old age with pitfalls in between.

The intention was to teach children that having good morals was, in fact, rewarding even though some mishaps and real-life problems were included in the original version of the game.

The game sold over 40,000 copies in its first year of release.

Bradley's earliest version of *Life* offered both great reward—advanced education, marriage—and significant penalties for making poor choices—including a “Suicide” square and one for “Ruin,” where the player becomes fall over drunk and destitute.

Sensing a need to supply Civil War soldiers with items to occupy their minds, Bradley offered a bundled game set that included chess, checkers, dominoes, and his own *Checkered Game of Life*.

At less than five ounces, the package was small and light enough to be mailed virtually anywhere; Bradley advertised it as “just the thing” to send to members of the armed forces during Christmas.

To commemorate the game's 100th anniversary in 1960, the Milton Bradley company gave freelance designer Reuben Klamer a task: update and retool Bradley's original idea for contemporary audiences.

Klamer added a spinner, tiny plastic avatars in automobiles, piles of cash, and removed most of the more morbid fates for players.

With the inclusion of mountains and buildings in the 1960 redesign, *Life* became the first 3D board game.

The revised, suicide-free edition has gone on to sell over 50 million copies.

Klamer had a relationship with television host Art Linkletter who heavily promoted the new *Life* game on air and Linkletter even appeared on boxes with the quote, “I heartily endorse this family game.”

The \$10,000 bills were printed with his face on them.

As a tribute to the company's namesake, Milton Bradley manufactured all denominations of bills from their 1977 release with the face of an older, bearded Bradley.

Klamer's reimagining of the game drew perpetual criticism for rewarding materialism as the player with the most money wins.

In 1992, the company offered an update featuring squares that allowed players to adopt pets, vote, and drive sober.

Recognizing *Life* had unparalleled brand recognition, Hasbro—which absorbed Milton Bradley in 1984—paired with TV network the Hub Network in 2011 to air *The Game of Life* as a family game show.

Teams competed in trivia and activities of daily living like barbecues; a computer-generated board moved car pieces through squares.

At least one contestant got motion sickness from having the prop shaken by crew members to simulate driving.

While the paper currency has long been a fixture of *Life*, in 2007 Hasbro offered *Life: Twists & Turns*, which switched out hard cash for a Visa-branded credit card reader.

Critics huffed that it would devalue money in the eyes of juvenile players; Hasbro countered that the game taught fiscal responsibility.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

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"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh