

Educator's Voice



NYSUT'S JOURNAL OF BEST PRACTICES IN EDUCATION

VOLUME X, SPRING 2017

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Learning to Think, Read, and Write
Like Historians

The School Library
as a Makerspace

Teaching through
Entrepreneurship

Argument Friday

Enhancing Instruction through
Content Integration

Learning to Collaborate;
Collaborating to Learn

Co-Creating an Arts
Curriculum in Career and
Technical Education

Educating for Civic Well-Being

Guiding Chemistry Students with
Essential Questions

LOTE and the Five Cs:
A Reflection on Teaching
World Languages

New Wave of Fitness

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Engaging All Learners Through Content Area Instruction

In this issue ...

The work presented in this volume brings content area instruction to the fore. Authors share instructional practices designed to engage students by making them active partners in the learning process. Through classroom debate, guided inquiry, and project-based learning, the activities foster collaboration and capture students' interest by leveraging their input.

The authors describe practices across the curriculum, including in the arts and sciences, social studies and physical education. They infuse graphic arts in Career and Technical Education, present content integration in math and science, encourage young humanitarians to raise awareness for a cause, and use art as a platform to tackle bullying behaviors.

The practices presented here remind us that meaningful instruction has many different forms and contexts. Content instruction is a pivotal part of a balanced curriculum intended to nurture the whole child and to prepare aspiring minds to think, inquire, and engage.

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Dear Colleagues,

I am proud to present the 10th anniversary edition of *Educator's Voice* on Engaging All Learners Through Content Area Instruction. It has been my honor to work on this publication for the past three years. The journal was conceived by my predecessor, Maria Neira, who wanted to showcase the exciting work our members do every day in the classroom. Vice President Neira created this unique forum to enable practitioners to share their work with colleagues across the state. Past volumes have presented best practices in literacy instruction, assessment, technology integration, social-emotional learning, critical thinking and teaching English language learners. Each volume's theme is carefully chosen to reflect the most current developments in our field, and yet each volume offers an enduring collection of classroom activities that can be referenced again and again.

Today the new K-12 Social Studies Framework and the new P-12 Science Learning Standards are paving the way for content area instruction that is more inquiry-driven and student-centered. Classroom curriculum is becoming more akin to the language of the experts in the respective disciplines and students are becoming more engaged in their own learning. In history, students are thinking like historians, and using research to guide their investigations. In science, students probe through essential questions and teacher-facilitated inquiry. The school library is transformed into a makerspace and physical fitness and personal well-being takes on a new meaning in the gymnasium.

This collection demonstrates how content area instruction can become the core of daily practice with students front and center in the process. These practices emphasize the importance of meaningful content to guide students as they acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed.

With special thanks to all of the authors who have contributed to *Educator's Voice* over the past 10 years, including those published in this current volume, we invite each of you to consider sharing your work with the NYSUT community in the future.

Sincerely,



Catalina Fortino,

Vice President, NYSUT

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Engaging All Learners Through Content Area Instruction

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