



Please keep in mind....

Payroll is working very hard to process our raise and the retro checks. However, if we keep emailing them or calling them, it slows the process. The ladies must hand input all the information and this takes time to make sure no errors are made. Please don't expect your retro check or raise to show on up until at least the end of March. It may be April so don't count on it for spring break. Please be patient, we will get it when we get it.

Don't forget: March 1 is the last day to nominate a student for Incight Scholarships

March 1 is the last day CTA members can nominate students for the 2014 Incight Scholarships sponsored by The Standard. There are eight one-time scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each reserved for students nominated by CTA members. Any active CTA member in good standing may nominate up to three students for the 2014 Incight Scholarships sponsored by The Standard. To be eligible, the student must have a documented physical, learning or cognitive disability, be at least a senior in high school and plan to enroll full-time in a vocational school, two- or four-year college or university for the 2014-2015 school year. Students must complete their applications by April 1, 2014. To learn more and to submit your student nominations, visit www.standard.com/cta/scholarship



Spring Break is Almost Here! Theme Parks & Movie Discounts

TSA offers discounts on a majority of entertainment tickets. Tickets require advance purchase and are not available for purchase at the gate or "will call." Prices are subject to change and certain restrictions apply. All orders are subject to approval and availability by TSA. Tickets are non-refundable. Allow at least two weeks mailing time when placing an order through the mail. All orders with subtotals of \$500.00 or more will be shipped overnight at an additional charge of \$15.00. TSA accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover, personal checks, and direct debit from First Financial Credit Union accounts for all purchases. Tickets are limited to availability and are not available for pickup. Call 1 (800) 537-8491 to order tickets.



Need Assistance with Common Core Math?

The NEA Academy can help you learn more about the new Math CCSS requirements through our unique, budget-friendly online courses which have been reviewed and approved by educators like you! Check out the NEA Academy at <http://www.neacademy.org/>

2013-2014 Calendar	Rep Council Meetings	Exec Board Meetings	School Board Meetings
February	2/15	2/11	2/4 and 2/18
March	No March Mtg.	No March Meeting	3/4 and 3/18
April	4/29	4/8	4/1 and 4/15
May	No May Mtg.	5/13	5/6 and 5/20
June	6/3		6/3 and 6/17

Ten Tips for Assessing Project Based Learning

Recently, I watched a team of ninth graders present their vision for a city of the future. They had clearly done their research, investigating everything from the politics of ancient Athens to the principles of sustainable design in the 21st century. Then they applied what they learned to design a 3-D model of their ideal city. As their classmates and teachers gathered around the scale model, the young urban designers pointed out the innovative features of their metropolis. I couldn't help but notice their passion, eloquence, and creativity—none of which would have been adequately assessed by a multiple-choice test. If we hope to offer students real-world learning experiences like this one, we need to be ready with a tool kit of authentic assessment strategies to guide the teaching and learning process. This classroom guide is intended to inspire and expand your thinking about effective assessment in project-based learning.

The tips listed below are organized to follow the arc of a project. First comes planning, then the launch into active learning, and then a culminating presentation. Reflection is the final stage, and it's equally important for students and teachers. At each stage, paying attention to assessment will pay dividends.

We start with tip #1: Keep It Real with Authentic Products. These suggestions help you imagine final products that will offer students better ways to demonstrate what they have learned. Follow the links to videos, online discussions, digital tools, and other resources from educators who have wisdom to share.

Assessment doesn't just happen at the end of a project, of course. That's why we offer tips, tools, and strategies to help with formative assessment. For example, tip #5, Gather Feedback—Fast, offers ideas for quick check-ins at the start and end of the day to help keep learning on track during an extended project. At the national level, conversations about school reform are increasingly focused on assessment. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has called for educators to rethink standardized assessment so that it goes beyond narrowly focused bubble tests, and new projects are in the pipeline to build a better system for gauging what students know and can do. Tip #3, Learn from Big Thinkers, offers insights from education experts to help you stay up-to-date about the latest thinking on school reform.

Many suggestions in this guide come from creative educators in the Edutopia community who are devising their own good strategies for comprehensive assessment. We invite you to join the conversation by taking part in online discussions. (Get started at <http://www.edutopia.org/pblgroup>.) What are your favorite tools and strategies for effective assessment? What do you do to help students keep projects on track so that they can take learning to new heights? Please share your ideas so we can continue learning together.

—Suzie Boss

Edutopia blogger and coauthor of
Reinventing Project-Based Learning



Grievance Team Site Coverage

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