

Tobin K-8 School

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Spring is in the air...

"To find the universal elements enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter... to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or a wildflower in spring - these are some of the rewards of the simple life" ~ John Burroughs

"You must learn a new way to think before you can master a new way to be" ~ Marianne Williamson

"No matter how chaotic it is, wildflowers will still spring up in the middle of nowhere" ~ Sheryl Crow

"When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be" ~ Lao Tzu

"Vines will be planted, corn will spring up, a whole growth of new crops; and people will still fall in love in vintages and harvests yet to come. Life is eternal; it is a perpetual renewal of birth and growth" ~ Emile Zola

"Without renewal of mind, there is no transformation. The joy of reading is grace of renewal of mind" ~ Lailah Gifty Akita



"Genius is the ability to renew one's emotions in daily experience" ~ Paul Cezanne" ~

"The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are" ~ J. Pierpont Morgan



Upcoming Dates:

- **April 30, 2018**

Play-works Meeting, 2-3pm

- **May 2, 2018**

Whole School ILT, 8am

- **May 4, 2018**

LAT-F Meeting (Mr. Holly)

- **May 4, 2018**

Young Leader's Academy Field trip to Plimoth Plantation, 10:00am

- **May 9, 2018**

ILT (optional) meeting, 8:30am

Community Events:

- **May 1, 2018 (Tuesday)**

Chinese Calligraphy with Rayna Lo, RSVP: northeastern.edu/crossing or call 617-373-2555

- **May 5, 2018 (Saturday)**

3rd Annual Youth Leadership Symposium For Girls, KIPP Boston, 37 Babson St. Mattapan, 9am-4pm

- **May 5, 2018 (Saturday)**

Annual Tobin Spring Clean-up Day, Saturday, 10:00am – 2:00pm

- **May 9, 2018 (Wednesday)**

Family Movie Night, 5-7pm (Auditorium and Café reserved) See additional details from Ms. Miranda

• Whole School PD Wednesday and ILT Work:

As shared in the monthly recap for March we will be having a round of ILT meetings to do some of the planning for next school year. We have outlined the dates and times for the meetings followed by the overall goals and dates by which we are to submit our work to the district.

Wednesday, 5/2/18 - Whole School ILT (Mandatory)
8am-9am in the auditorium

• Topic: New state accountability process, MSV feedback, and Instructional Equity Tool.

Wednesday, 5/9/18 - ILT (Optional) 8:30am - 9:00am, location will be shared with agenda prior to that date.

• Topic: Developing an IF based on IFR and MSV data that is directly linked to Instructional Equity Tool. Brainstorming PD to support the IF.

Monday, 5/14/18 - ILT (Optional) 8:30am - 9:00am, location will be shared with agenda prior to that date.

• Topic: Finalizing a draft of a PD plan to support IF. Brainstorming inquiry cycle structure to support the IF. The goals of this process are:

1. Re-write the IF or develop a new one so that it is directly linked to one of the essentials from the BPS Essentials for Instructional Equity tool.
2. Develop a PD schedule that directly supports the IF.
3. Develop an inquiry cycle structure to measure the impact of the IF work.

Some hard deadlines linked to this work are below;

- 1 May 15th - Principals will have a draft of their plans to share at the school leader PD.
- 2 June 7th - Final drafts need to be submitted to district by school leaders.

At the Tobin we will be revising what is submitted to the district so that it also reflects student achievement data. Below are the release dates that we received from the state for the MCAS preliminary data;

- 1 June 4th - All machine scored items.
- 2 June 29th - All machine and hand scored items.

Finally, on Friday we received the second report from the MSV. Both the first and second reports will be being shared with teacher facilitators today. Parts of the reports will be utilized during these meetings for planning purposes.

• Mid-Year Warning Notices Due Monday, April 30, 2018 (Extension):

We printed, hand delivered, and emailed the Mid-Year notices for Grade K2 and Grade 1-5 on Tuesday, April 24th. Notices also posted on the Tobin Handbook <http://tobink8.org/handbook.html> | Progress/Report Cards Tab in English and Spanish. **The deadline for completing Mid-Year Warning Notices is Monday, April 30, 2018.**

In accordance with *BPS Promotional Policy*, pp.13-15 (see attached), students must fulfill several requirements to be promoted to the next grade. BPS Educators must complete a Mid-Year Warning Notice for students who do not meet BPS Promotional Policy requirements. Those requirements include: ASPEN Grade Reports, Performance assessments in ELA, Math and Attendance.





As with past practice, students will not be considered for retention and/or summer school without a *Mid-Year Warning Notice* on file. In addition, a record of communication is also required. Communication includes: phone calls, letters, progress reports, mid-term warning notices and other forms of communication. Please let us know if you have any questions.

• BPS School Climate Parent Survey Update:

Ms. Miranda thanks those staff who have really tried to push parents to complete the parent survey. Your efforts are evident and our rate so far has increased from 9% to almost 17%. Please continue and try to convince parents in completing the survey. If parents come into your room often,

and you would like a chromebook to have in your room, please see Ms. Miranda or Mr. Toledano. The link is <http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/climatesurvey>

Our family movie night is next Wednesday, where we plan on having parents complete surveys, this should help in boosting our rates. (Tomorrow is my class, so at least I get to show us off a little). Last week I sent a Google doc for the event. If you are able to contribute individual bags of popcorn, juice boxes, water or even your time, we would really appreciate it!

Lastly, our staff completion rate is 80%, please help me by completing it if you have not. We really need 100%. <https://tinyurl.com/teacherclimate18> Thanks again for everything you do and all your support!

• PD/Workshops sponsored by the Boston Public Schools

Teacher Led Professional Learning (BPS Essentials for Instructional Equity)

Would you like to join a network of BPS teachers in unpacking what instructional equity looks like in the classroom? Are you interested in tapping into your own expertise as a classroom teacher to collaboratively test and develop practices & techniques that can support all BPS teachers in ensuring instructional equity for their students? This is an opportunity for BPS teachers experienced in the Essentials to leverage their expertise to co-design resources that will be featured on the [Essentials for Instructional Equity website](#). Registration is now open for BPS Essentials for Instructional Equity Practice Networks. [Learn more and register now](#) **Contact: Melissa Grubbs**

New ESE Resource: Free Online Courses on Inclusive Practice:

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) continues to sponsor two free online courses, Foundations for Inclusive Practice: Educator and Foundations for Inclusive Practice: Administrator, to help educators and school leaders be more effective in inclusive settings. Educators can register at the [Guidebook for Inclusive Practice website](#). These courses are self-paced and are one way to earn the 15 professional development points in "effective schooling for students with disabilities and instruction of students with diverse learning styles" that are required to [renew a professional license](#).

DIY Coaching Application open through May 4th

DIY Coaching 1.0 application for SY2018-19 is open! DIY Coaching brings together **K-12 math and science teachers** in the Boston area to engage in self and peer-to-peer coaching rooted in classroom video. In addition to being a fantastic professional learning opportunity, this also comes with **3 free graduate credits for participants!** Applications will be accepted through **Friday, May 4th**, at tinyurl.com/DIYapp18-19. The main

page of the application has a brief video of teacher testimonials, our mission and vision statements, and details of the DIY Coaching 1.0 experience. **Contact:** diycoachingboston@gmail.com

The Teacher Leadership Fund: What challenge do you want to solve?

The Teacher Leadership Fund, a new feature of the BTU contract, puts resources directly in the hands of BTU educators to address the challenges they see in their classrooms and schools and across the district. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available for teams of educators who want to create and share solutions to improve student learning and well-being. [See complete information about the program](#), including application and guidelines. **The application deadline is May 7.** *Note: This replaces the Lead Teacher program. There will be no centrally funded stipends for a lead teacher in each school next year.* **Contact:** [Paul Tritter](#) and [Shakera Ford Walker](#)

Teacher Summer Institute (2018)

Join us for the 2nd Annual Teacher Summer Institute August 20-22. ALL EDUCATORS are invited to come learn about the Essentials from fellow educators. To register, [click here!](#) If you would like to present a session at TSI 2018, please review the [Call for Session Proposals](#).

• BPS Summer Programs Information Kiosk, 2018

Summer is right around the corner, and the Office of Expanded Learning Time is happy to announce that BPS will offer 50+ Summer student programs in the 5th Quarter Portfolio! Please click on the planning documents below for information about K-12 programming options, registration, and a general FAQ!

- BPS Summer Learning Memo_For School Leaders 4.13.18

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YwpnnEFrM_ArbXm09kqffKmQ2atTgmeSZ3PrcKHa1s4/edit

- BPS Summer Learning FAQ_School Leaders, 2018

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_7vQTYWEERr1vYwkMzCLnNs8TNjwniy3Qq6MGIONOIY/edit

- BPS Summer Learning Program Offerings, 2018

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W11LkGkd16a6CkaV8PLB2TZz4xR52Khpuj_dGZCGyDc/edit

- BPS Summer Program 5th Quarter Details for School Staff, 2018

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17FVe6nxQAEdAA_kvKLG9dJgOr2gZxypKTO5mymR2pRA/edit - gid=0

- How to Register a Student for Summer School on ASPEN, 2018

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IcKaiTJtnmh0cbYta7gnb4E7c7mvFE1FxoZ12waKlo4/edit>

BPS Summer Learning Team Contacts:

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Lauren Barry

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• Tobin K-8 | MCAS Spring 2018 Support and Planning Page:

The MCAS page <http://www.tobink8.org/mcas.html> is designed for Tobin/BPS educators to utilize information from DESE to support forward planning for Spring 2018 MCAS assessments. The MCAS page features a drop down menu for Test administrator training and a set of planning tools for ELA, Math and Science. DESE Blueprints for the MCAS assessments reference the number of MCAS test sessions, question type descriptors, points per question/category and other helpful information within each menu.

We support the ongoing use of MCAS **ELA** Graphic organizers, Bilingual Word-to-Word Dictionaries, **Math** Reference Sheets, **Math** and **Science** Equation Editor Guides and Symbol keys AND the sustained use of MCAS Student tutorials and MCAS Practice tests for Spring 2018. Let's continue...

1. Go to Tobin/MCAS Support Page <http://tobink8.org/mcas.html> to access the Tobin Training Modules 1-7, and the **ELA**, **Math** and **Science** drop down resources menus for planning and student preparation for Spring 2018

2. Access MCAS Student Tutorial and Practice Tests Updated for Spring 2018
<http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/student>

3. Access Paper-based Practice Tests for additional practice (PBT – Grade 3/6)
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/testadmin/practice/pbt.html>

• MCAS Equation Editor for Mathematics and Science, Spring 2018:

In preparation for Spring 2018 MCAS assessments we recommend educators in grade 3-8 share the tips for using the Math equation editor with a review of the symbols for students. As a result, students will be equipped to use the Equation Editor (EE) tool embedded in CBT Mathematics and STE MCAS Tests to illustrate thinking and approach to math items. To access the guides and keys go to: <http://tobink8.org/mcas.html> and click the Math or Science drop down menus.

Equation Editor Guide for Grades 3-5

<http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/resources/student/EquationEditorGuideforGrades3-5.pdf>

Equation Editor Symbols for Grades 3-5

<http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/resources/student/EquationEditorSymbolsKeyforGrades3-5.pdf>

Equation Editor Guide for Grades 6-8

<http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/resources/student/EquationEditorGuideforGrades6-8.pdf>

Equation Editor Symbols for Grades 6-8

<http://mcas.pearsonsupport.com/resources/student/EquationEditorSymbolsKeyforGrades6-8.pdf>

• MCAS Graphic Organizers, Checklists, and Supplemental Reference Sheets, Spring 2018:

To access the Spring 2018 approved graphic organizers, checklists, and supplemental reference sheets go to <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/accessibility/organizers/> The approved graphic organizers, checklists, and supplemental reference sheets listed in the table below (see inset) are for use by students with disabilities in grades 3–8 who have this MCAS accommodation (A9 from the Accessibility and Accommodations Manual for the Spring 2018 MCAS Grades 3–8 Tests) listed in their IEPs or 504 plans.

Tobin School leadership and the DESE encourages schools to familiarize students with these tools, since students should be comfortable using their graphic organizer or reference sheet during MCAS testing.

Approved ELA Graphic Organizers	Approved Supplemental Mathematics Reference Sheets	Sample STE Reference Sheets
MCAS Grades 3 and 4: Short Response	MCAS Grade 3	MCAS Grade 5
MCAS Grades 3-5: Essay	MCAS Grade 4	MCAS Grade 8
MCAS Grades 3-5: Narrative	MCAS Grade 5	Approval Cover Sheet for STE
MCAS Grades 6-8: Essay	MCAS Grade 6	
MCAS Grades 6-8: Narrative	MCAS Grade 7	
	MCAS Grade 8	

• Spring 2018 MATH MCAS Test Designs (MATH):

The DESE/BPS released the Spring 2018 **Math** MCAS Test designs for Grade 3-8 to support instructional planning and preparation for students. Click on the link below to access:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wnfdsh8DRAu16kmeIxD747srkR6wTXvC/view>

The **Math** MCAS Test design for Spring 2018 documents reference Standards assessed, number of sessions, calculator use, question types e.g. *(MC, MS, TE, SA/FIB, CR), total points per question type, grade levels and other information related to the Math MCAS assessment.

*Multiple Choice, Multiple Select, Technology Enhanced, Short Answer (or Fill in the blank) and Narrative and Constructed Response. Please review p.2-3 of the Test design for specific information regarding common questions, Reporting Category percentages by grade and matrix question overview.

Reminder, The Tobin/MCAS support page <http://tobink8.org/mcas.html> is designed for Tobin/BPS educators to utilize information from DESE to support forward planning for Spring 2018 MCAS assessments. The MCAS page features a drop down menu for Test administrator training and a set of planning tools for **ELA**, **Math** and **Science**. As referenced above, the DESE Design for the MCAS assessments reference the number of MCAS test sessions, question type descriptors, points per question/category and other helpful information within each menu.

• Spring 2018 SCIENCE MCAS Test Designs (SCIENCE):

The DESE/BPS released the Spring 2018 **Science** MCAS Test design blueprint for Grade 5 and 8 to support instructional planning and preparation for students. Click on the link below to

access: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/tdd/sci.html?section=testdesign>

The 2018 **STE** MCAS test for grade 5 & grade 8 will be based on "overlapping" standards from the 2001/06 & 2016 STE curriculum frameworks.

- Grade 5 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bwn5Gk-vXP98eUJYalRpSIYxVFk/view>
- Grade 8 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bwn5Gk-vXP98dTdtMk1SOV9LRjA/view>

The Science MCAS Test design blueprint for Spring 2018 documents reference the number of multiple choice and open response items for common and matrix form questions as well as point totals. In addition, the test design blueprint illustrates the reporting category, distribution and total points by grade level.