Educational Makerspaces – Why, How, and Wow!
Sylvia Martinez, Author
- All Audiences
Want to get started with “making” in the classroom or library? This session will explore learning by doing with a wide range of new materials and technologies for STEM, STEAM, and other subjects. We will discuss tinkering, design thinking, genius hour, PBL, and other frameworks that support hands-on, minds-on experiences for 21st century learners. Learn how educators around the world manage the iterative design process with engaging prompts and helpful (but not TOO helpful) scaffolding. Participants will view new research on assessment for projects using modern technology and materials. Options and ideas for the best starter purchases and makerspace design will be shared.

Play Like a Pirate: Using Toys to Teach in Every Classroom
Quinn Rollins, Author, Educator, Social Studies Curriculum Specialist
- All Audiences
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required
Students learn best when they’re engaged in hands-on learning. In elementary school they often use manipulatives, but by middle school we leave that behind. Why not use some of the manipulatives they know best -- toys? In this hands-on workshop, teachers will learn how to use Play-Doh, action figures, Hot Wheels, superheroes, LEGO, and other tools to make their classrooms fun again -- while connecting the fun to the core concepts of your curriculum.

Stand Up for Your Greatness: Helping Students Develop As Leaders
Ed Gerety, Author, Speaker, Trainer
- Student Leadership, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
In this high energy and inspirational program, Ed shares practical ideas and strategies for educators to use to help students develop a growth mindset, persevere, and assist them in achieving their goals. Ed teaches the principles and skills that are essential to students developing as leaders, being resilient, and creating a rewarding future.

Being a Leader Is Not Enough: Become a Catalyst
Marc Lamson, President, ASLAN Training & Development
- Leadership in Education, K-12, Administrators, Grade Level Leaders, Technology Coaches, Department Heads
The key to exceeding today's academic performance standards requires not just change at the student level, but change at the staff and leadership level as well. A catalyst is defined as "an agent that accelerates change." Most seem to agree that the skills today's children need to ensure a successful future are dramatically different from yesterday's lessons of cursive writing, long division, typing, and using the card catalog. Communication, teamwork, creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving are among some of the key skills for tomorrow and will require significant change for staff to teach them. Your school and/or district's ability to adapt and achieve the expected results for meeting standards is largely dependent on the staff.

Interactive Input: Beyond Simple Questions and Personalization
Mira Canion, Author, Speaker, Educator, Photographer
- ELA, Reading, World Languages, 5-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session
Keeping the input flowing and monitoring every student's comprehension can be daunting. Learn and practice the skills of scaffolded questions, non-verbal checks, and purposeful personalization.

Scaffolding Real World Math Content with Intention
Emily Boucher, Math Teacher, Middlebridge School
- Consumer Math, 9-12
This session will share an alternatively-designed assessment that was created for and used with the presenter's Consumer Math class, a high school class for students with learning differences. The assessment closed out a unit about car buying and car loan financing. The test was a multi-part activity, designed to mimic the order and some of the select actions of the car buying process. The centerpiece of the assessment is a tiny, cardboard “car lot” filled with priced Matchbox-like cars.
This hands-on approach triggered excitement and silliness from students who traditionally show anxiety and dread when given paper and pencil exams. The assessment hinges around choices and also relies heavily on students understanding how their decisions fit into the larger situation.
Best Practices from High Performing School Districts in Rhode Island to Support Mathematical Learning
Timothy Marum, Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), K-12 Mathematics Curriculum Development, Portsmouth School District / University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

- Math, K-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session

Want to know what best practices in mathematics education are being implemented in high performing school districts in the state of Rhode Island? As a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), from the Portsmouth School District, Timothy has been tasked to visit these high performing school districts to better understand, uncover, and bring back to his home district the following:

1. their best instructional practices,
2. pedagogical approaches,
3. systems, and
4. protocols that enable high levels of student achievement

As a participant, you will explore with Timothy the many rituals, routines, initiatives, and actionable steps these districts have taken to enhance the learning of mathematics for all of their students. More specifically, presenter and audience together will unpack their teaching and learning “in action” and expose many of their research-driven best practices as meaningful anecdotal pieces of evidence from their celebrations of success with high student achievement.

The Nonfiction Triumvirate: Text Category, Writing Style, and Text Structure
Melissa Stewart, Children's Book Author

- ELA, K-12

Today's nonfiction is more creative than ever before. Discover how understanding and experimenting with nonfiction categories, writing styles, and text structures can help young writers make their writing more engaging. Handout with mentor texts provided.

Introduction to Conscious Discipline and the School Family
Cheryl Cotter, Director of Training and Consultation, The Autism Project
Christine Johansen, Lead Trainer and Consultant, The Autism Project

- Social/emotional learning, K-12, Teachers, Administrators

Conscious Discipline (CD), developed by Dr. Becky Bailey, offers a relationship-based model of classroom management. The key is a sense of community developed though the “School Family” model. Participants will learn strategies to support their students' emotional and problem-solving skills across the day in a safe environment. CD is effective for all students and faculty across all grades and activities within a school.

Data-Based Decision Making in Social & Emotional Learning: How Do We Write Measurable Goals?
Melanie DuBard, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Clinical Director, The Bradley School-South County

- Special education, behavior/menthal health, K-12

Social emotional learning is the method by which individuals learn about their own and others' emotions and how to regulate their emotional response in situations that can be challenging. Many situations arise throughout the school day from interactions with peers to interactions with curriculum that may pose a challenge to our students. We have to be able to assess their ability to cope, identify methods to teach them when they cannot cope, and monitor their progress with skills acquisition if they are to be successful in school and beyond. This is no easy task and requires thoughtful planning on the part of the school team to determine the problem, the best way to teach and how to demonstrate success or lack of success in a data based manner.

This presentation will discuss how to go about identifying the most critical social emotional needs of a student, how to gather appropriate baseline data, and how to write a goal that is measurable and attainable within an IEP. Participants will have time to work through some case examples in small groups and create appropriate data collection systems and IEP goals. This meets the conference mission by providing an opportunity for teachers to hear about a way to address social emotional learning with students in the classroom from a hands on perspective based on current practice.
Think Like a Historian: Helping Students Play Detective with Historical Materials
Sarah Carr, Education and Program Manager, Museum of Work & Culture, Rhode Island Historical Society
Geralyn Ducady, Director of the Newell D. Goff Center for Education and Public Programs, Rhode Island Historical Society

- Social Studies, 5-12

Our session reviews the methods & strategies that teachers can utilize in their classrooms to help students relate to historical themes through interaction with historical objects and primary sources. We will demonstrate how the use of primary sources and artifacts in teaching allows students to actively engage with history and learn to "think like historians," use evidence in their arguments, think critically, and build 21st Century Skills.

The interactive portion will underscore the skills discussed in the presentation, and will focus on the Immigrant Suitcase activity offered by the Museum of Work & Culture. The activity is structured so that teams of students are able to sort through the belongings of an early 20th century immigrant family. Items include photos, documents, period clothing, toys, religious icons, and mementos. Museum staff use leading questions to help students critically think about the objects they are finding and what, as a group, they may imply about the suitcase's owners. They are asked to draw conclusions about where the family was coming from, the family makeup (parents, children, etc), their jobs, their social status, where they were headed, etc. Each team presents their findings and then is led in a broader discussion of the similarities and differences between the suitcases and what they may mean for immigration generally.

Upgrade Your Worksheet
Alice Keeler, Author, Speaker, Google Certified Educator

- Google Sheets, K-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session

We can use technology to make learning better, not just paperless. Instead of moving the worksheets online, upgrade them! In this session we will explore and practice the best ways to Upgrade Your Worksheet to include at least one of the 4 C's and to make the information relevant to students in order to transform their learning experience.

Design Thinking
Dr. Nicole L'Etoile, Assistant Principal, West Warwick High School

- K-12, Administrators
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session

Participants will collaborate and develop strategies in order to address common challenges that they are tackling in their schools using Design Thinking: discovery, interpretation, ideation, experimentation, and evolution.

Results: School leaders develop questions, interview each other, receive feedback from others, and come up with a solution for their problem. This session is based on the Friday Institutes Leading Schools Summit Session: Design Thinking for School Leaders. It has been adapted for all educators.

Tech Coach ShareFest
Jessica Geremia, District Technology Fellow, Chariho Regional School District
Corey Lennon, Middle School Technology Coach, South Kingstown School District
Michaela Pantaleo, High School Technology Coach, South Kingstown School District
René Rosivach, District Technology Fellow, Chariho Regional School District

- Technology/Computer Science, Teachers, Administrators, Technology Coaches
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required

Coaches will give a brief overview of the work that they are doing in their district to build capacity in blended and personalized learning. This includes professional development strategies, coaching models, and favorite tech tools. Other Coaches and administrators attending the session will be invited to share their work as well. Participants will leave with many ideas and tools to bring back to the teachers/coaches/administrators in their district.

This session will be an interactive sharing of ideas with other tech coaches, administrators, and others, who do not regularly have the time and opportunity to share what is working in their unique roles. Resources, tools, and tips will be shared in a relaxed roundtable setting to promote deeper dive discussions.
Integrate Coding into Every Student’s Experience
Bryan Lucas
Liz Patterson, Computer Science Teacher, Portsmouth High School
Deb Ramm, Instructional Technology Coordinator, Johnston Public Schools
- Technology/Computer Science, K-12
All students should be engaged in 21st century applied learning opportunities and as educators, we must develop their skills of communication, collaboration, creativity, problem solving, and persistence. This session will provide an introduction to how teachers are integrating coding and computer science into the student experience at the elementary, middle, and high school levels through the CS4RI Initiative. This will include software used and when and how CS is accessible to students.

Increasing Student Engagement
Dianne Mohler, Elementary Technology Coach, Lincoln School Department
- Technology/Computer Science, K-
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required
Learn how to create powerful and engaging lessons that will keep your students motivated. The end result will be exciting evidence of learning and growth with just a few tools and a whole lot of fun! Take a deep dive into the Google app called Pear Deck and see how easy it is to create those powerful presentations that are engaging and fun.

Preparing Teachers for a Mission: Six Lessons Shared with the Military
Rear Admiral Barbara E. McGann, USN (Ret), Educational Consultant, Leading and Learning Institute
Kathy Vespia, Ed.D., Educational Consultant, Leading and Learning Institute
- Leadership, Professional Disposition, Well-being, K-12, Administrators
All educators need tools to effectively address the academic, social, and emotional demands of the profession. In their recently published research, the presenters found that the tools used by both educational and military professionals are strikingly similar in preparing both to successfully fulfill their respective missions. Participants will have the opportunity to learn how these six lessons are relevant when outcomes matter and professional challenges can become overwhelming.

Resource Gems! Find Out What’s Waiting to be Mined in Your Library
Dorothy Frechette, Executive Director, RILINK
- All Audiences
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session
Learn about the rich resources available through RILINK member libraries. Delve into the online Destiny Discover catalog and its integrated curriculum features. Explore Exploring Nature, the Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science K-12 database. Cruise through CultureGrams, a treasure trove of worldwide primary sources, videos, slideshows, photo galleries, interviews, and more.
The library is the resource hub of every school. RILINK member libraries in particular, through their membership benefits, have access to a wide array of digital resources that support all subject areas. This session, in addition to providing an overview of these resources, will also demonstrate specific research, science, and social studies modules and allow for hands-on exploration of each.

Rhode Island’s Writing and Publishing Community
Steven R. Porter, President, Association of Rhode Island Authors (ARIA)
- ELA, 5-12
Steven will discuss the state’s growing and active writing community, and the resources available to librarians, teachers, and students alike. Thanks to generous donations by the organization’s authors, several ARIA titles are available at RILINK member school libraries.

Portfolio Assessments with Google Sites
Edward J. Davis, Teacher, West Warwick Public Schools
- All Audiences, K-12
- Participants are required to bring a Chromebook or laptop to this session
This session will focus on the use of digital portfolios as an assessment tool. Teachers will be shown examples of portfolios done at the MS and HS level as well as different software packages. Multiple tools for website creation will be discussed. The participants will create a site with Google Sites (the old version) and be shown how to make individual pages, insert and format text, and insert multiple files.
Deep Dive into EBSCO with AskRI
John Bent, Digital Content Coordinator, Providence Public Library and AskRI
Beatrice Pulliam, Director of Technology & Information Services, Providence Public Library and AskRI
- All Audiences
Join us for an under the hood look at some of EBSCO’s hidden treasures. Come learn how to use EBSCO resources to enhance the classroom experience for your students.

Making Sense of Music and the Brain
Dr. Audrey Cardany, Associate Professor of Music, University of Rhode Island
- Music, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
This session is designed for educators and administrators who are curious about the talk of “music making us smarter.” This interactive presentation will highlight some of the research connecting music making and listening to brain development, brain plasticity, social and emotional development, and learning. Suggestions for how to make music a part of life to reap brain benefits will be included.

Science Starters: Engaging Students and Meeting the NGSS
Jim Kaczynski, Grades 7/8 Science Teacher, Jamestown Public Schools
- Science, 5-8
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required
In this session teachers will learn how to engage students from the minute they enter the room while also meeting goals set out in the NGSS in the first few minutes of class. Participants will have an opportunity to experience and plan how this method can be used in their classrooms.

Interactive Discussion Using Google Slides
Alice Keeler, Author, Speaker, Google Certified Educator
- Interactive Google Slides, Q&A, K-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session
The best learning experiences are interactive between teachers and students and peer to peer. In this session, you’ll learn how to use Google Slides with your students to enhance the collaboration and interaction process in your classroom.

How to Get Your Students Excited About Reading
Melanie Roy, Library Teacher, Barrington Public Schools
- ELA, Library, K-8
This session will provide many tips to help teachers and librarians ignite a passion for reading with their students.

The Fake News Invasion: Ideas for Teaching and Learning About Fake News
Heidi Blais, Library Media Specialist, Cranston High School East
- Information Literacy, 5-12
The Internet is filled with fake information sites masquerading as real news. Often it is difficult for students and adults to differentiate between what is real and what is fake. Even President Obama has recognized that fake news is a serious issue, stating, “If we are not serious about facts, if we can’t discriminate between serious arguments and propaganda, than we have problems.” In this session, participants will be introduced to resources for teaching students about fake news, and will learn about strategies used in a collaborative unit about fake news.

Must Have Apps for Teachers!
Susanne Suprock, HS Visual Art Educator, Middletown Public Schools; Adjunct Professor at RIC
- Visual Arts, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice
Must Have Apps for Teachers will allow participants to explore and interact with a multitude of free online apps and programs. Some of the resources that will be presented include:
- online plan book
- digital imaging sites & apps
- texting tools for classroom assignment reminders
- digital curation
- infographic tools
- video & animation tools
- online whiteboard tools
Wild About Education with RI Department of Environmental Management
Tee Jay Boudreau, Administrative Officer, RI DEM Division of Forest Environment
Mary Grande, Wildlife Outreach Coordinator, RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife
Kimberly Sullivan, Principal Fisheries Biologist / Aquatic Resource Education Coordinator, RI DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Environmental Education, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) provides numerous environmental education opportunities to K-12 students and teachers throughout the state. From in-school programming to field trips, RI DEM is a tremendous resource for teachers to supplement their curricula and broaden the horizons of their students. This session will include an overview of all the educational programs offered through the Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Aquatic Resource Education and Wildlife Outreach programs as well as the Division of Forest Environment’s Urban and Community Forestry program.

Beyond Batman: The Best Nonfiction Graphic Novels and Comics
Quinn Rollins, Author, Educator, Social Studies Curriculum Specialist
- All Audiences
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required
There's been a boom in nonfiction graphic novel publishing over the last decade, but many teachers aren't sure which ones are best for their classrooms. This session will share the best titles for elementary and secondary classrooms, sorted by content area into ELA, social studies, and science. We'll also explore strategies for classroom use that move beyond traditional texts and into the realm of graphic novels.

Teaching Math with Google Apps
Alice Keeler, Author, Speaker, Google Certified Educator
- Math, K-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice
Teaching math in the 21st century is different—it asks students to be critical thinkers, model their math, critique the reasoning of others, and to analyze. Many of the math problems we have traditionally been using have literally become obsolete as a result of modern technology. This is a gift! This session is an introduction to ways we can use Google Apps to make this shift.

Connecting Culture and Students Through Novels
Mira Canion, Author, Speaker, Educator, Photographer
- ELA, Reading, World Languages, 5-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session
Pre-teaching vocabulary before reading a novel or text increases reading comprehension. Learn how to perfect the next step: connect students to the themes, characters, and setting using comprehensible input.

Stop Skimming, Start Learning: How to Ensure That Every Student Reads for Depth
Scott Freschet, Director of Partnerships, Actively Learn
- ELA, 5-12, Teachers, Administrators
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session
Reading for depth means getting our brains to work harder and focus longer than they want to. Although we like to think of ourselves as intellectual, cogitating creatures, our brains are wired for efficiency and conservation of energy. The vast majority of thinking happens like a reflex: it’s fast and automatic. The human brain would rather remember than reason; it prefers simplicity over complexity. This is why switching gears to thinking in a slow, deliberate way requires significant time and effort.

Helping Students Overcome Their Biggest Nonfiction Writing Roadblocks
Sarah Albee, Children’s Book Author
Melissa Stewart, Children’s Book Author
- ELA, K-12
To succeed in college and their future careers, students need the skills to summarize information and synthesize ideas so that they can craft expository writing that’s clear, logical, and interesting. Award-winning nonfiction authors Melissa Stewart and Sarah Albee will lead a lively, interactive discussion about successful strategies for helping students select a focused topic, think creatively about research, organize information, identify the perfect text structure, find the stamina to revise, and work productively with critique partners.
How to Create a Peaceful Classroom Community Through Nonviolence
Robin Wildman, Educator and Nonviolence Trainer, South Kingstown/Nonviolent Schools, RI
  ● Nonviolence Education, K-12
This session will include an introduction to Kingian Nonviolence, linked to the American civil rights movements. Participants will learn about Dr. King’s 6 Principles, which can be used to create a set of values to be used in a classroom and/or school. Additionally, Dr. King’s 6 Steps to reconcile conflict (which includes restorative justice) will be explored. All information will be connected to forming a peaceful community in a school setting.

The Teenage Brain
Renae S. Martin, RN, BSN, BS, DFC Project Coordinator, Narragansett Prevention Partnership
  ● Health & Wellness, 5-12
This session will explore brain development, birth to teen years, and explain why teens do the unexpected things they do. We will discuss why the unique developmental state of the teenage brain leaves it more vulnerable to addiction than the adult brain. Strategies will be discussed to aid in understanding this very exciting yet challenging time of life.

Behavior Tips, Tricks, and Tidbits
Kelsey Avila, Behavior Specialist, Barrington Public Schools
  ● Behavior, K-4
This session will examine effective behavior management strategies and tips to increase teacher capacity when handling challenging behaviors within the public school setting. Kelsey will model and describe behavior management strategies, discuss the ABC’s of behavior, demonstrate how to identify the function of behavior, and discuss the importance of data collection and data driven instruction. Although behavior can sometimes be loud, disruptive, or unsafe, behavior is a form of communication. It is our job to listen and ensure all learners are receiving what they need in order to be successful!

Teachers as Designers: A Human-Centered Approach to Solving Problems—and Creating New Opportunities—in Schools
Jessica Brown, Student Experience Lab Associate, Business Innovation Factory
  ● Design Thinking, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
Over the past few years, “design thinking” has emerged as one of the most effective collaborative strategies that leaders, educators, and students can use to tap into the intrinsic capacities that all individuals and groups possess, but that tend to be overlooked by more conventional approaches to leadership, problem-solving, and collective action. By bringing a human-centered approach to investigating and solving problems, design thinking helps organizations and groups create experiences and products that will provide the best outcomes for everyone involved. For the past several years, the Business Innovation Factory in Providence, Rhode Island, has been working with teachers to harness the creativity and critical-thinking skills they use every day to solve tough problems in education—from creating student-centered schools to elevating the priorities of teachers in school governance to creating, testing, and implementing classroom activities and pedagogical approaches that meet the needs of every student. This workshop will teach educators Design Thinking skills that will empower them to create, test, and implement solutions that can transform education. We will use Teachers Design for Education (TD4Ed), a free, collaborative platform and curriculum that the Business Innovation Factory’s Student Experience Lab co-created with teachers with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Many Uses of CultureGrams
Melanie Lawhead, Middle School Spanish Teacher, Exeter West Greenwich Regional Schools
Bevin Winner, Junior/Senior High School Library Media Specialist, Exeter West Greenwich Regional Schools
  ● Information Literacy, World Languages, 3-10
  ● Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required
Melanie and Bevin will demonstrate the great features of the CultureGrams database and the various collaborations that have enhanced their lessons and engaged their students, including projects on culture, language, and statistics in French, Spanish, and World Cultures classes.
Making Presentations POP with Tech!
Jen Thomas, Media and Educational Technology Specialist at West Bridgewater Middle Senior High School (MA)
- Advocacy, Technology, Information/Digital Literacy, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session

As educators, we are advocates for our programs, spaces, and jobs. Sometimes finding the right technology tool to help us communicate with stakeholders is very overwhelming. Some of the questions and thoughts we’ve had include: "Where do I even begin?" "I COULD just use PowerPoint...again." "There are just too many choices!" "Ok, I like this tech tool but how do I use it?"

This workshop will give educators the opportunity to explore a few powerful presentation tools, empowering them to build upon their digital toolbox. Participants will have time to work individually and collaboratively to put the tools into action!

Maximizing Student Engagement
Cathy Long, M.Ed., First Grade Teacher, Cranston Public Schools
Kathleen Torregrossa, Ed.D., Coordinator of Teacher Evaluation, Professional Development, and Mentoring, Cranston Public Schools
- All Audiences

How do we engage students to actively participate in their learning? Beyond technology, we need students to collaborate, problem solve, be creative critical thinkers, and actively engage in the learning process. We will share a variety of non-tech strategies that can be easily incorporated into your classrooms, along with a few tech solutions! During the activities, participants will be given the opportunity to share their successful best practices with colleagues.

Girls & STEAM: Inclusion, Equity, and Action
Sylvia Martinez, Author
- All Audiences

Are there ways to interest more girls in STEAM, and keep them interested? How can K-12 schools and informal learning organizations address a gender disparity problem that impacts not just schools, but colleges, jobs, and every walk of life? This session will explore research, resources, and best practices to involve girls of all ages in STEAM.

Creating a culture of inclusion and equity goes well beyond the lessons in a classroom or buying the right tools and technology. Culture, both in schools and organizations, must be co-created and supported in multiple ways and over the long term.

Participants will learn about the potential to bring new tools and technology to learning spaces to support hands-on learning across all grades and curriculum – plus areas that are of particular interest to girls, such as inventions that help people, sewable electronics, e-textiles, bio-materials, citizen science, and community projects.

Visual Literacy: "Reading" and Creating Educational Imagery
Kevin Alan Somerville, Self-employed Medical Illustrator, Secondary Substitute Teacher
- Visual Literacy, 3-12

Visual Literacy is based on the idea or premise that pictures can be “read” and the information presented within them can be interpreted and understood, much like we do with written or printed text. It not only enhances learning by promoting the ability to interpret, evaluate, and make meaning from information presented in the form of an image or visual actions; it also fosters development of the skills needed to create such imagery.
NatureSpace: Utilizing the Schoolyard to Connect and Educate Children about the Natural World
Haley Barber, Program Director, Conanicut Island Sailing Foundation
Jane Mitchell, Kindergarten Teacher, Jamestown School District

- Science, K-8

This presentation highlights the journey of two passionate and experienced educators on their quest to connect children to the natural world through nature-based learning. The presenters will share ideas that are easy to implement and will support your current curriculum. All the activities include outdoor exploration, observation, and hands-on investigation that can be facilitated in and around the schoolyard for grades Pre-K-6. Not only are the lessons fun and engaging, they are also aligned with the RI state standards. Come get inspired and learn how easy and fun nature-based learning can be.

It's Not Make and Take, It's Believe and Do!
Brittany Richer, Sixth Grade Language Arts Teacher, Jamestown School District
Charlene Tuttle, Sixth Grade Science and Social Studies Teacher, Jamestown School District

- ELA, Social Studies, Science, 5-8

We will take you on a journey of discovery. In this session, we will share our story of how one topic naturally integrated ELA, Social Studies, and Science to extend student ideas and actions beyond the classroom walls. We will share some images and events from the school year to tell our story. You will then have time to find new possibilities in your own curriculum and create your manifesto for this work to begin next year.

Jumping into STEAM and Makerspace
Amy Olsen, Art Teacher, Lincoln Public Schools
Donna Ouellette, Library Media Specialist, Lincoln Public Schools

- Information Literacy, STEAM, K-4

In this session, Amy and Donna will share resources and activities for STEAM and Makerspace that they've used with students in K-5. They'll also share tips and experiences about getting materials and funding, and provide ideas for promoting STEAM and Makerspace activities. Finally, they will share tech tools they use in their classrooms.

Flippin' PD!
Jennifer Romph, Technology Support and Integration Specialist, Jamestown School Department

- Technology/Computer Science, K-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session

Let’s FLIP this PD! See how Jamestown flipped their PD model. They not only traditional model by putting everything online but they also provided “Choice’ their educators wanted to learn. Jen will share Jamestown’s online PD site and successfully transformed their PD. You will get tips on building a Google site, resources, creating badges, tracking completed work, and organizing it all.

Growing and Supporting Meaningful 21st Century Language Learning Experiences for Children
Erin Papa, Curriculum Consultant, Pawtucket Public Schools
Sarah J. Steverman, World Languages District Department Chair, Westerly Public Schools

- World Languages, K-12, Teachers, Administrators

In this session, participants will be provided with an overview of best practices for 21st century language learning in order to recruit, evaluate, and retain quality instructors and support and grow successful programs to meet the needs of the ever-changing post-secondary opportunities and challenges facing our students in the 21st century.

Presenters will:
- review research on best practices in 21st century language learning
- discuss resources for growing college and career oriented language learning opportunities for students
- connect language learning experiences to literacy and graduation requirements
Fake News, Propaganda, and Hoaxes, Oh My!: Evaluating Information in 2017  
Alyssa Taft, School Library Media Specialist  
- Information Literacy, 9-12  
- *Participant devices (tablet, iPad, or laptop) are recommended but not required for this session*  

Our students interact with media and information every day, but do they possess the skills to critically evaluate the messages they receive? This session will focus on how to begin teaching the critical evaluation of media and news in your library or classroom, including fake news, propaganda, going beyond the CRAAP test, the role of information in a democracy, and freedom of speech. Lesson plans and multimedia resources will be available for participants to take back to their schools to begin teaching this increasingly critical topic to their students.

Pathway from RI Music GSEs into the National Core Arts Standards  
Scarlett St. Martin, General Music Chair, Rhode Island Music Educators' Association (RIMEA)  
Nicole M. Worzel, Advocacy Chair, Rhode Island Music Educators' Association (RIMEA)  
- Music, K-12, Teachers, Administrators  

This session will give a thorough understanding of the transition from the Rhode Island Music Grade Span Expectations to the National Core Arts Standards. Music teachers will be given the resources to incorporate the standards into their lessons with ease and confidence.

Connecting Horses, Students, and Programs (Part 1*)  
Elizabeth Santilli, Program Director, Gaits of Harmony Therapeutic Riding, Inc.  
- Special Educators, Administrators, K-12  
- *This is a two-part session; participation in Part 2 of this session on August 9 requires registration for and attendance at Part 1 on August 8*  

Designed for special educators and administrators, this workshop will provide information on what is therapeutic riding, how and why it is beneficial for students with emotional, behavioral, cognitive, and/or physical disabilities, and how this enjoyable activity could complement and be integrated into existing school programs.

Strategies to Increase Student Discourse in the Classroom  
Nicole T. Bridge, Math Coach/Consultant, Bridge-Fernando Consulting, Inc.  
- All Audiences  

Student voice and discourse are necessary components to shifting our classrooms from places where answers are given to places where questions are posed and explored. Come learn some student-centered, culturally responsive strategies that are sure to get students talking from the very first day of school. Strategies discussed will be: Notice & Wonder, Which One Doesn’t Belong?, Visual Thinking Strategies

Using Math Literature To Make Math Magical  
Ann Barbour, Grade 3 Teacher, Exeter West Greenwich Regional Schools  
Gina Kilday, Math Coach, Exeter West Greenwich Regional Schools  
- Math, K-4  
- *Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required*  

Come explore various ideas for using quality children's literature to make math instruction more meaningful. The presenters will show participants how the use of literature and related manipulatives will help students make cross-curricular, inter-concept and real world application connections that will engage students, make math equitable, and allow success for all in their classroom!

Making a Story Awesome: Teaching Story Structure  
Adam Gidwitz, Author  
- All Audiences  

This interactive workshop is for anyone interested in writing, or the teaching of writing. You will learn about Adam's own process, and how he equips students (of all ages) to tell stories of their own.

Social Studies Strategies: Fast and Furious  
Quinn Rollins, Author, Educator, Social Studies Curriculum Specialist  
- Social Studies, K-12  
- *Participant devices are recommended for this session/not required*  

Looking for new ways to freshen up some of your content? History, geography, and civics have never been more important, and there have never been more tools to teach in innovative ways. Come discover new approaches, new resources, and new ways to make social studies relevant to your students' lives.
Google Classroom Tips and Questions (for Intermediate Users)
Alice Keeler, Author, Speaker, Google Certified Educator

- All Audiences
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session

Are you already using Google Classroom and know the basics? Join Alice for a fun and fast paced session on Google Classroom Tips and Questions where she’ll share tips and hacks to use Google Classroom like a pro.

Raising Reading Comprehension: Thinking and Talking
Mira Canion, Author, Speaker, Educator, Photographer

- ELA, Reading, World Languages, 5-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice

Making sense of a text can be challenging and isolating. Thinking about what we read and discussing what we are reading comprise the core of comprehension.

Leveraging the Growth Mindset in Math
Tracey L. Whitehead, Principal, Nayatt School, Barrington Public Schools

- Math, K-12
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required

This session supports the mission of student engagement and providing educators with tools and resources to engage learners and improve student achievement.

Diagnosing Mathematics Deficiencies with First Steps in Mathematics
Chris Castillero, Mathematics Specialist, Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)
Gina Kilday, K-6 Math Coach and RtI Coordinator, Exeter West Greenwich Regional Schools
Susan Pagliaro, Mathematics Specialist, Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)

- Math, K-8

This is a joint session put on by RIMTA and RIDE to provide a no-cost option for districts to access materials and professional learning in diagnosing mathematics deficiencies.

First Steps in Mathematics is a free, open source resource that uses professional judgment and content knowledge as the starting point for making decisions. Combined with teacher resources, these materials and professional development help teachers make informed decisions over time.

First Steps can be used in any instructional environment (Core Instruction, Intervention(RtI), Special Education etc.).

The participants in this session will be provided with access to the resources as well as a demonstration of how and why they work. In addition to the demonstration, participants will also hear about the RIMTA/RIDE partnership. The RIMTA/RIDE partnership will provide follow-up training during the school year, with training dates and locations that districts can access at no cost (districts only have to cover the substitute cost).

The hope is that RIMTA/RIDE can build capacity for educators to use these resources across the state over the next few years and that First Steps will enhance mathematics instruction at all levels.

It's Not Safe to be Out: Using Teen Fiction to Create Safe Spaces for Teens with Mental Illness
Anne Hird, Ph.D., Secondary Education, Bridgewater State University

- ELA, Library, 7-12, Teachers, Administrators

Twenty percent of teens will experience mental illness by the time they reach 18 and only half will receive treatment. Countless others are living with and in many cases caring for a mentally ill parent. But it is still not safe to be “out” as a teen facing mental health challenges, due to constant negative images of mental illness. Media coverage of mass shootings and subsequent calls for gun control laws to keep firearms out of the hands of the mentally ill promote the myth that the every mentally ill person is extremely violent and volatile. Books like One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest and Girl, Interrupted perpetuate stereotypes of long abandoned, often inhumane, treatment for mental illness. In this climate, even adults who are living successfully with mental illness and could be role models for teens, remain invisible. Teachers can't solve this problem, but you can help make your classroom a safe haven. In this workshop, learn how teens are affected by mental illness and the common stereotypes, stigma, and discrimination they face. Listen to video accounts by teens living with mental illness and learn ways to use contemporary novels about teens struggling with mental illness to replace stigma with understanding.
New Classroom Read Alouds with the RI Children's Book Award Program
Carolyn Garth, 5th Grade English Teacher, Moses Brown School
Renee Perron, Children's Librarian, RI Children's Book Award Committee
Chair 2016-2017
- ELA, 3-5
The session will introduce elementary school educators to the RI Children's Book Award program, an annual children's choice award for books for grades 3-5. The goal of this session is to encourage teachers to explore new read alouds that can be used in their classroom while also helping students to become eligible to vote for the RICBA winner in February 2018. The 2018 RICBA nominated titles will be presented along with curriculum connections and resources available on the webpage. A selection of RICBA nominated books will be used as giveaways. Through this session, educators throughout RI will be introduced and encouraged to participate in the statewide children's book award program, thus creating an educational connection with other teachers, schools, and communities in the state.

Mind Games: Think, Learn, & Have Fun!!!
Maria Gaskell
Ronald G. Shapiro, Ph.D., Speaker & Consultant, Ronald G Shapiro, PhD, LLC - Education By Entertainment
- All Audiences, 3-12
We'll review a basic model of human cognition illustrating human strengths and weaknesses with 25 activities which have been described as amazing, awesome, cool, educational, fabulous, fascinating, fun, hilarious, insightful, interesting, and mind-blowing. Bring these activities which have been described as amazing, awesome, cool, educational, endearing, insightful, fabulous, fascinating, fun, hilarious, insightful, interesting, and mind-blowing. Bring these activities which have been described as amazing, awesome, cool, educational, endearing, insightful, mind-blowing, fascinating, fun, hilarious, insightful, interesting, and mind-blowing to your classroom and students may improve safety, academic performance, a

Do Ask... We Will Tell
Susan Baylis, Manager of Family Support, The Autism Project
Alicia Ead, Sr. Family Support Specialist, The Autism Project
Minerva Ortiz, Family Support Specialist, The Autism Project
- Special Education, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
This is an interactive parent panel where professionals are offered an opportunity to ask questions in a safe judgement-free environment in order to learn from each other. The presenters are our Family Support Specialists at The Autism Project. They are also parents of children/young adults with ASD/DD.

In the education system, parents and professionals share the goal of working to provide the best educational experience possible for each student. In order to reach that goal, we must work together and benefit from the unique perspective of each member of the child's educational team. During this interactive panel, seasoned parents share their perspective, their joys, and their challenges of raising a child with a disability.

Rhode Island Autism Update
Giulia Righi, Ph.D., Staff Psychologist, Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities; Assistant Professor (Research,) Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior; E. P. Bradley Hospital; Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Stephen Sheinkopf, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry & Pediatrics; Director, RI Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment; Women & Infants Hospital; Brown Medical School
- Special Education, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
This presentation is designed to provide participants with an overview of the most current understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). ASD is one of the most common disorders of childhood, with an estimated prevalence of about 1 in 68 children in the United States (CDC, 2014). The assessment of this syndrome is relatively challenging because its presentation is heterogeneous, and varies depending on developmental level, cognitive functioning, language functioning, and the presence of psychiatric co-morbidities.
This presentation will offer participants an overview of evidence-based practices for the assessment and treatment of ASD from childhood to early adulthood, with an emphasis on behavioral supports in classroom or peer group settings. Presenters will share local resources for diagnostic and therapeutic services for families and schools, including an overview of the Rhode Island Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment.
Mindfulness in Education: A Pilot Study in Preschool Education and Beyond
CJ Meehan, B.S., M.A.T., Preschool Teacher Associate, Henry Barnard Laboratory School at Rhode Island College
- Health & Wellness, K-12
Through demonstration, hands-on activities, slides, and videos, this session will present information and research on the use of Mindfulness in Education, including discussion of a preschool-focused pilot program designed for this academic year. All information is transferable to K-12 settings with adjustments for developmental levels of the students.

What If Your Lessons Were as Engaging as Social Media?
Matt Croyle, Direct Sales Representative, Capstone Publishing Company
Kathleen Lynch, Library Media Specialist, East Greenwich School District
- Technology/Computer Science, Library, Cross-Curricular, 3-6
Twenty-first Century learning seeks to encourage collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking. Learn how pivotEd, the latest innovation from Capstone, allows educators to facilitate lessons through a discussion-generating app. Responding to prompts on their device, every student has a voice in the discussion while the educator monitors understanding, pace, and participation.
In this session, you’ll be “hands on” with pivotEd, examining the variety of lesson types and discussion prompts. Most applicable for grades 3-6, pivotEd helps your instruction move beyond technology for technology’s sake and into a zone where it is facilitating deeper understanding for both student and teacher.

Using Location Technology to Enhance STEM Literacy
Peter Stetson, Teacher, Coventry
- Technology/Computer Science, 3-12
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required
Location Technology is the third fastest growing career area in the world yet very few educators and fewer students recognize its importance. In this session, educators will get hands on experience working with a free website and free data which can be used to analyze location information. For example: How far away is the closest fire station/EMA location to my house/business and should the town build one to service an area that is not served?; how can locally collected data be analyzed using location technology?

Effective Questioning, Delivery Techniques, and Discussion Strategies
Cathy Long, M.Ed., First Grade Teacher, Cranston Public Schools
Kathleen Torregrossa, Ed.D., Coordinator of Teacher Evaluation, Professional Development, and Mentoring, Cranston Public Schools
- All Audiences
This interactive session will provide ideas for developing effective questions, strategies for delivering questions, and suggestions for getting students engaged in discussions. These skills are an integral part of a 21st Century classroom. Participants will be given opportunities to share their successful best practices with colleagues during the activities.

eBook Basics: Students, Slides, and Screencastify!
Kimberly Ramos, Technology Instructional Coach, North Kingstown School Dept.
Sue Warburton, 6th Grade Science Teacher, North Kingstown School Dept.
- Technology/Computer Science, K-12
- Participant Chromebooks or laptops are required for this session; participant must have an existing G Suite or gMail account; laptops must have the Chrome browser installed
Are you looking for an engaging way for students to show what they know? eBooks could be the perfect solution! Learn the basics of using Google Slides and Screencastify to create eBooks with your students. Bring your Chromebook or laptop and give it a whirl! This session will briefly detail a cross-curricular, cross-grade level project focused on hatching chicks in grade 6 and kindergarten. Presenters will give basic instruction on Google Slides and Screencastify and will support participants as they create and narrate their own eBook slideshows.

Using HyperDocs to Transform Your Lessons
Darshell Silva, Librarian and Technology Integration Specialist, Rocky Hill School
- Blended Learning, K-12
- Participants are required to bring a Chromebook or laptop to this session if they wish to create their own HyperDocs; tablets or iPads can be used for viewing only
In this session, teachers will learn what HyperDocs are and how they can fully engage their students. HyperDocs can also be used as a professional deve teachers during in-house professional development!
Books as a Gateway to Tough Topics with Students: Addiction
Melissa Guerrette, Grade 5 Humanities Teacher, Oxford Elementary School, MSAD 17
- All Audiences, 3-8
The statistics about overdoses and fatalities from drug abuse and addiction are on the rise and more families are affected each day. How, then, do we respond to this growing epidemic in the classroom? One teacher shares the impact of using literature alongside a health and nutrition unit to provide students with a window--or a mirror--illustrating the effects of drug abuse on users and their families. This session will include examples, ideas, and resources for addressing the tough topic of addiction with empathy in the classroom.

Beyond Career Day: Connecting Kids and Community Members in Authentic and Lasting Ways
Nick Alfred, Grade 7/8 Math Teacher, Jamestown Schools
Jenn Kittredge, Grade 5 Math/ELA Teacher, Jamestown Schools
- Community Engagement, Project-based Learning, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
True community involvement is a key to the success and engagement of students. In this workshop, we will share the evolution, including the success and challenges, of our yearly community event, "Island Treasures Day." Now in its 11th year, this is a day when students and teachers engage in hands-on learning workshops led by Jamestown community members. These workshops take place at our school campus, across Conanicut Island, and even on Narragansett Bay! Volunteers share their professional and personal talents and passions and, by the end of the day, everyone--adults and kids alike--walk away inspired and with lasting connections.
We are confident that other schools across Rhode Island can also connect kids to their communities in meaningful ways by tapping the unique talents and resources in your town. We hope to inspire you to bring a day like this to your school and, if you do, we guarantee it will become your favorite day of the year!

Online Classes: Should You or Shouldn't You?
Gina Giramma, Social Studies Teacher, Narragansett Public Schools
- Multi-curricula, Technology, 5-12, Teachers, Administrators
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, laptop) for this session
Good teachers are constantly trying to improve their craft. Sometimes good teachers make bad choices. Teaching online is not like teaching at all, and this session can help those thinking about 'getting their feet wet' in this deep ocean of educational exploration chart the right course.

All About the Books
Lisa Girard, Librarian, Smithfield Public Schools
- ELA, Library, 5-12, Teachers
Are you sick of hearing "UGH" when you bring up reading to the tweens and teens you work with? Learn about some great new books and some new techniques to engage your most reluctant readers.

Shifting into Hyper Drive with HyperDocs
Andrew Belanger, High School Special Education Teacher, West Warwick Public Schools
Tracy Enos, 8th Grade ELA Teacher, West Warwick Public Schools
- Technology/Computer Science, 3-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session
Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about an instructional tool that is being utilized in classrooms across the country: HyperDocs. Approximately 15 minutes of the session will be informative-what are the essential elements of HyperDocs, what is their purpose, why should teachers incorporate HyperDocs into lessons, and how HyperDocs can be very easily adapted from templates and samples.
What Hat Are You Wearing Today? Librarian as Tech Coach
Darshell Silva, Librarian and Technology Integration Specialist, Rocky Hill School
- Library, K-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session

Attendees will look at the roles they are expected to fulfill as a School Librarian in today’s digital learning environment. School Librarians are consistently being turned to as the school’s expert for anything that has to do with Information Literacy, Digital Literacy, Media Literacy, and/or technology which are usually intertwined in many aspects. They will explore what those roles mean and how to prioritize what they are doing in their own school.

Darshell will share tips and resources to help School Librarians fulfill all of these roles and still be the most effective they can be in their position while implementing programs and projects that will impress students, teachers, administrators, and parents. This presentation will give librarians tips and techniques to get it all done.

Increasing Student Engagement & Mindblowing Creation of Content Using Buncee
Karen Festa, Special Education Teacher, Narragansett Public Schools
- Science, K-8
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required

Looking for ideas on how to engage students and ignite creativity while allowing voice and choice in science? We will review the abstract, introduction, and findings of a research study conducted in a fourth grade integrated classroom using Buncee to analyze data and provide information upon conducting a Foss-Web Science investigation. Attendees will view samples of student Buncee’s as well as have an opportunity to explore the digital canvas tool Buncee itself.

The presenter will allow time for Q & A as well as share resources and ideas of how Buncee can be used within classrooms at various elementary and middle school levels.

Setting Goals to Personalize Learning in the Classroom
Joe Pirraglia, Principal, Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District
- Personalization, K-12

A personalized learning approach can address the distinct learning needs, interests, aspirations, and/or cultural backgrounds of individual students. This session will explore how setting student goals can lead to personalized learning in the classroom, and increased student effort and resiliency.

Teaching STEM - FREE Programs and Chrome Apps
Edward J. Davis, Teacher, West Warwick Public Schools
- Technology/Computer Science, K-12
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required

This workshop will focus on many of the free programs that are available to teachers, students, and Chromebooks. Included in the workshop will be the many options available for educators.

Making a Story Awesome: Teaching Story Structure
Adam Gidwitz, author
- All Audiences

This interactive workshop is for anyone interested in writing, or the teaching of writing. You will learn about Adam’s own process, and how he equips students (of all ages) to tell stories of their own.

Delivering Vocabulary through Classroom Discourse
Mira Canion, Author, Speaker, Educator, Photographer
- ELA, Reading, World Languages, 5-12
- Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session

Keeping classroom communication lively and meaningful makes learning language enjoyable. Connecting classroom discourse is key. Storytelling provides a consistent framework to organize and maintain comprehensible input that leads to proficiency gains. Participants will gain the tools of creating basic stories and personalized questions.
Self-Pacing with Playlists in the Secondary Classroom
Jason Appel, Math Teacher, Barrington Public Schools
- Math, 5-12
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, or laptop) are recommended but not required for this session

In this session Jason will outline how effective use of technology transformed his classroom from a traditional, teacher-centered environment to one where individual student needs are met. Students in Jason’s high school Geometry classes work through playlists at their own pace, receiving real-time targeted intervention from their teacher and instant feedback from a variety of sources including: Formative, EDPuzzle, Khan Academy, Quizizz, and Kahoot. While Jason will showcase how the model works in a mathematics classroom, audience members will leave understanding how to adapt it to fit just about any subject or grade level.

"I am Not a Math Person": Identity and Its Impact on Math Success
Nicole T. Bridge, Math Coach/Consultant, Bridge-Fernando Consulting, Inc.
- Math, K-12

What is math identity and why does it matter? This session will help teachers think about their own identity around mathematics and the identities of their students. Leave with a deeper understanding of how to examine your instructional practices, and an introduction to strategies to help students create a positive math identity.

Writing Mentorship, Beyond Mentor Texts
Melissa Guerrette, Grade 5 Humanities Teacher, Oxford Elementary School, MSAD 17
- ELA, 3-8

How do we support students in developing as writers while also raising the quality of their writing? We need to live our writing lives out loud. When experienced writers share their writerly lives with transparency, students identify and envision themselves as capable, empowered writers. They discover writing mentors, a role shared by authors and teacher-writers alike. This session will highlight examples of transferable practices from writing lives of published authors and the teacher-writer, as well as instructional strategies and evidence of the importance of mentorship beyond the published text in nurturing the writing lives of student writers.

Creating a Questioning Culture
Erica DeVoe, Secondary English Teacher/Department Chair, Westerly Public Schools
Amanda Murphy, Social Studies Teacher/Senior Project Coordinator, Westerly Public Schools
- All Audiences
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required

Education has typically been an answer oriented institution. Students have traditionally been asked to seek and provide answers, while teachers are evaluated on their ability to ask deep, thought provoking questions. Where the conflict arises is when teachers are asked to inspire questioning from students, but students struggle to break out of the "receive and respond" cycle into more proactive cycle of "question and explore". Amanda and Erica will present a strategy to help teachers at all levels, across all content areas, with students and colleagues.

Connecting Horses, Students, and Programs (Part 2*)
Elizabeth Santilli, Program Director, Gaits of Harmony Therapeutic Riding, Inc.
- Special Educators, Administrators, K-12
- *This is a two-part session; participation in Part 2 of this session on August 9 requires registration for and attendance at Part 1 on August 8

This workshop is an onsite visit to Gaits of Harmony Therapeutic Riding center (about a 10 minute ride from Narragansett High School) and it builds on the informational session from Day 1. Participants will be able to watch a therapeutic riding lesson and see what it is all about first hand. If interested, some participants will be able to get on the horse to experience what the students would feel and/or participate as a volunteer sidewalk in this mock lesson.

Please wear appropriate clothes for the barn.

*This is a two-part session; participation in Part 2 of this session on August 9 requires registration for and attendance at Part 1 on August 8
The Power of the Pause: Self-care and Resilience in Teaching
Vanessa CL Weiner, Executive Director, Center for Resilience
- Health & Wellness, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
This session will focus on strategies teachers can use to manage their stress in healthy ways by finding moments to pause and infuse mindfulness into each day. We know that how we “show up” affects the tone of the classroom, and is the basis for our relationships with students and colleagues. Together we will learn how to take care of ourselves in order to better take care of those around us.
At the same time, we know educators want effective tools to use with students ways to share the Power of the Pause with kids of all ages.

Introduction to Restorative Practices / Justice
Julia Steiny, Founder and Director, Youth Restoration Project
- Health & Wellness, Community-building, Repairing Harm, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
Mastering these simple, internationally-proven techniques build relationships and a shared sense of justice. Easy to learn, hard to master. But these skills help people grow closer, develop great teams, de-escalate conflict, and repair interpersonal harm. The Restoration mindset and interpersonal tools help everyone manage feelings responsibly in a community context. We’ll practice the practices, while learning about them.

Shifting States: Mindful Self-Regulation for Teachers and Students
Susan J. Littlefield, LMHC, Counselor / Parenting Coach / Yoga Instructor, East Greenwich
- Health & Wellness, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
In this experiential workshop we will learn about our Autonomic Nervous System (ANS) and play with practices to mindfully bring us (and our student back to our Calm Center, the state of mind we are best able to listen, learn create and relate. You will be able to recognize and name the 3 ANS states explained by the Polyvagal Theory, experience shifting states and receive handouts with practices you can do in the classroom.

Maker Centered Learning--Why Not!
Chris Gross, Coach, FabNewport
Steve Heath, Executive Director, FabNewport
Josie Michaud, Director of Instructional Design, FabNewport
- All Audiences
We will create a makerspace setting giving participants the opportunity to create and discuss what it feels like to integrate Maker Centered Learning in a K-12 in or out of school setting. We will provide resources and give participant the opportunity to explore our Apprentice Model for Learning.

Using GSuite & Digital Response Tools to Increase the 5Cs
Theresa M. DeRiso, K-12 Curriculum & Technology Integration Specialist, North Providence Public Schools
- Blended Learning, 3-12, Teachers, Administrators
- Participants are required to bring a Chromebook or laptop for this session
The road to a blended classroom can be daunting, but it doesn’t have to be! In this session, participants will learn about what blended learning is, and how, with a few simple tools, you can get your classroom communicating and collaborating with digital tools.
Rhode Island has become a champion of best practices regarding blended learning, and this session will provide you with an entry point that can be used throughout the year and beyond. Participants will get a chance to experience Padlet, TodaysMeet, and Answergarden for dynamic student feedback, organize their Google Drive for maximum efficiency, and be introduced to the GSuite of tools. Beginners - this one is designed for you!

Creative Computing with Scratch
Kristen Beatty, Advisor & Creative Computing with Scratch Facilitator, The Met High School and Copernicus STEAM Lab
- Technology/Computer Science, 3-10
- Participants are required to bring a laptop for this session--no tablets or iPads
This session will include an informative beginning in which the presenter will introduce Scratch and its benefits to the participants. Towards the end of the session, the participants will be given time to experiment with Scratch, with guidance from the presenter. Scratch not only entertaining for students but enables them to represent their ideas in a creative way. It’s a digital tool that can be used in any subject matter, encouraging collaboration amongst teachers of all content areas.
Transforming Your Teaching: Tips and Tricks to a Blended and Personalized Learning Classroom
Mary Ann Mello, Second Grade Teacher, CHARIHO Regional School District

- All Audiences, K-4
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required

This session will provide an overview of how Mary Ann transformed her classroom from traditional learning to a more personalized approach. She will share many of the tips and tricks she learned along the way and what she still struggles with. The majority of the session will be a working time for teachers to explore apps and programs to help them move their teaching forward. Programs such as Symbaloo, Doink, See Saw, Show Me, Edicte, Edpuzzle, and Google Classroom will be explored.

Expanded Learning Opportunities: Student Voice and Choice
Ayana Crichton, Program Director for 21st Century Expanded Learning, Cranston Public Schools

- All Audiences
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, or laptop) are recommended but not required for this session

During this session participants will learn ways to engage students using 21st Century Skills and how to use student voice and choice in the classroom. There will be an exploration of work style personalities and how to engage individuals in group and team work using a communication tool. The facilitator will demonstrate how the extended day programs engage students after hours with rigorous academics while still allowing for student voice and choice without compromising the integrity of the project or projects.

I Wrote a Novel and Got It Published, and You Can Too -- Adventures and Mis-Adventures on the Path to Publication
George R. Fehling, author of the novel DARK PEAK

- ELA, 7-12

Many people have a story they dream of telling through the novel format, and today, there are many ways to make that dream a reality. First-time novelist George R. Fehling persevered over five years to complete the polished manuscript of his novel DARK PEAK, which was eventually published by Founders House in October 2015. In his light-hearted presentation, George will share the ups and downs of the experience to help aspiring teacher and student novelists find their own way to publication.

Tips and Tools for Blended Learning
Melanie Martino, Grade 5 Teacher, Johnston Public Schools

- Technology/Computer Science, K-6
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required

Our tips and tools session will support and elevate the teaching and learning in Rhode Island classrooms through a more personalized approach to instruction. Share, learn, and connect with Lighthouse Classroom teachers utilizing the blended approach to engage their students.

Working with Wind
Cynthia Morissette, Environmental Education Coordinator, Narragansett Bay Commission

- All Audiences, 3-6

This session will provide educators with a great way to incorporate wind energy into their science or STEM programs. An activity will be demonstrated to show teachers how to get students interested in wind energy. In addition, Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC) staff will provide information on its own 1.5MW wind turbines and provide teachers with resources they may use in the classroom.

The NBC offers free tours of its facilities so that students may get a closer look at the machines in action. The Narragansett Bay Commission owns and operates the two largest wastewater facilities in Rhode Island and as an organization it has invested millions of dollars in wind energy to help offset some of the impact that high energy costs can have on its ratepayers.

Classroom Tech Tools: The Latest and Greatest!
Christina Broomfield, 4th Grade Teacher, North Kingstown School Dept.
Kimberly Ramos, Technology Instructional Coach, North Kingstown School Dept.

- Technology/Computer Science, K-12, Teachers, Administrators
- Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required

Is your school or district diving into blended learning? Are you overwhelmed by the number of resources? Learn about the Latest and Greatest of our favorite apps and extensions. Haven’t “gone Google” yet? No worries...there’s something here for you! Your laptop/tablet and share a few favorites of your own!
Fact? False? Or "Fake News"?
Rosanne B. Trissler, Head Librarian, La Salle Academy
- Information Literacy, 9-12
Staying afloat in our present day "Fake News" world can be fun, humorous, agonizing, and sometimes downright scary. We will chat about the beginnings of the "fake news" movement (film clip from Wag the Dog) and move from there to Melissa Zimdar's detailed study of biased, clickbait-y, hate, unreliable, and satirical news sources. Discussion will include identifying personal bias as well as the root of others' bias (the "bias continuum"), how to "verify" reports for factual content, and tips for quickly eliminating extremely distorted news reporting. Participants will evaluate 2-3 fake news sites and share them with the group. Content covered can be adapted to work with classes and levels across the curriculum.

Running Family Book Clubs in Your Schools
Melanie Roy, Library Teacher, Barrington Public Schools
Gino Sangiuliano, Assistant Principal, Barrington Public Schools
- ELA, Library, K-6
This session will provide educators with tips and strategies to create a strong home-school connection and build a greater appreciation of literature through the family book club format.

Passive Programming in the School Library: Sneaky Ways to Draw Kids In
Stephanie Mills, Library Media Specialist, Cranston Public Schools
- Information Literacy, 3-12
Passive programming engages learners both young and old(er). These types of activities draw students into the library and require minimal work up front. Programs can run for weeks on end so students can play and engage on their own time frame. Elevate your program on a minimalist budget and get kids involved. Be a sneaky library ninja and lead them into the library with your creative curriculum connections.

Your Journey to a Blended Classroom
Deb Ramm, Instructional Technology Coordinator, Johnston Public Schools
- Technology/Computer Science, K-12
Participants are required to bring the device of their choice (tablet, iPad, or laptop) for this session
All students should be engaged in 21st century applied learning opportunities and as educators, we must develop the skills of communication, collaboration, creativity, problem solving, and persistence. Personalization through blended learning offers opportunities for that are critical in developing and promoting the careers of the future. Leveraging technology to increase the quality of teaching and learning for all students is necessary and supported by blended learning experiences.

Engineering in the Classroom - Let the Kids Do the Work!
Jim Kaczynski, Grades 7/8 Science Teacher, Jamestown Public Schools
- Science, 5-8
The presenter will discuss the three dimensions of the NGSS and how enginee student involvement and understanding. Teachers will learn about three mods middle school classroom that they will be able to use or adapt to use in their cl

QR What? Implementing QR Codes into Everyday Lessons
Dr. Dayne M. Achilli, Teacher, Bristol-Warren Regional School District
- ELA, Technology, 5-8
Participant devices (tablet, iPad, laptop) are recommended for this session but not required
The session will begin with a brief explanation of QR codes, websites that can create QR codes, and apps that read these black and white squares. The presenter will then share examples of how she has used these in her ELA classroom (these ideas can be used in different subjects and grades). The final segment of the session will be for teachers to brainstorm and share how QR codes can be implemented into already existing lessons or used to create a new learning activity.