



August 2015

The Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support exists to maximize student achievement by enhancing student capacity to learn and teacher capacity to individualize learning.

## Back to School Edition

### New Bureau Chief

The Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support welcomes Dr. Kathy Nobles as our new Bureau Chief. Dr. Nobles has over twenty-five years experience in education as a teacher, media specialist, school principal, data captain and coach for Florida's Differentiated Accountability System and Director of Administration for the Liberty County School District. Dr. Nobles is also a recent graduate of the Commissioner's Leadership Academy. You may reach her at [Kathy.Nobles@fldoe.org](mailto:Kathy.Nobles@fldoe.org) or by phone at 850-245-7830.

### Social Studies

#### Council for Economic Education

The Council for Economic Education will hold their 54<sup>th</sup> annual conference October 7-10, 2015, in St. Petersburg, Florida. This is a great opportunity for educators to attend a national conference in their home state. Registration is now available. More information about the Council on Economic Education and the conference can be found on their website: [www.councilforeconed.org](http://www.councilforeconed.org).

#### Florida Council for the Social Studies

The Florida Council for the Social Studies (FCSS) will hold their 58<sup>th</sup> annual conference October 2-4, 2015, in Orlando, Florida. Conference events include over 70 sessions on all aspects of social sciences, plus exhibitors and pre-conference workshops. Registration is now available. For more information, please visit their website: [www.fcss.org](http://www.fcss.org).

#### 2015 Florida History Teacher of the Year

We would like to congratulate Brian Lassiter as the 2015 Florida History Teacher of the Year. This award is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and celebrates outstanding American history teachers at the state and national level.

Mr. Lassiter is very deserving of this award as evidenced by his commitment to making history come alive for his students through innovative activities. He creates exciting opportunities for his students at Astoria Park Elementary in Leon county.

**Bureau Chief**  
**Dr. Kathy Nobles**  
Chikevia Owens

**Healthy Schools Director**  
**Penny Taylor**  
Michelle Gaines  
Nichole Wilder  
Ksena Zipperer

**Standards Director**  
**Ann Whitney**  
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**Instructional Support Director**  
**Katrina Figgitt**  
LaKeesha Parker  
Petricia Sailor  
Cathy Seeds  
April Drennan

**Instructional Materials**  
Ritu Badaya  
Genevieve English-Charles

**STEM Director**  
**Dr. Jonathan Keener**  
Heidi Brennan  
Rashad Bennett  
Shelly Miedona

**School Counseling Consultant**  
Helen Lancashire

For more information,  
contact:  
850-245-0423



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As the 2015 Florida History Teacher of the Year, Mr. Lassiter will receive a \$1,000 award, a certificate of recognition, an archive of books and historical resources presented in his name to the Astoria Park library, an invitation to attend a 2016 Gilder Lehrman Teacher Seminar and recognition at the Florida Council for the Social Studies annual conference. Mr. Lassiter is also one of fifty-three finalists for the \$10,000 National History Teacher of the Year Award. The winner of the national competition will be announced in the fall.

## Health

### **SHAPE Florida Annual Convention**

Mark your calendars! Florida's Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE Florida) will be hosting their annual convention at the Tradewinds Island Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida on October 15-17, 2015. The theme for the 2015 SHAPE Florida convention is The Time is Now and will offer pre-conference and individual breakout sessions on a variety of health education and physical education topics.

Convention and hotel information is available at <http://www.shapefla.org>.

### **American School Health Association Conference**

The 2015 Annual School Health Conference will take place at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista on October 15-17, 2015. To keep attendees up-to-date on trends and evidence-based best practices in school health, the conference offers multiple continuing education opportunities for Certified Health Education Specialists (CECH and Adv. CECH), Nurses (CNE) and Registered Dietitians (CPEU). Sessions will cover the four key areas of Administration, Programs and Services, Research and Emerging Issues, and Teaching and Learning.

Conference and hotel information can be found at <http://www.ashaweb.org/news-events/2015-school-health-conference/>.

### **Florida Physical Education Teachers Recognized by SHAPE America Southern District**

Two Florida physical education teachers recently received awards at the SHAPE America Southern District Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Congratulations to both Barbara Berry and Tecca Kilmer for their well-deserved recognition and accomplishments. For a link to all of the SHAPE America Southern District Award recipients please click [here](#).

Barbara Berry, a teacher at Eau Gallie High School in Brevard County, was the recipient of the Southern District High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year award. Upon being named SHAPE Florida's 2014 High School Teacher of the Year in the fall, Barbara qualified as a nominee for the Southern District award, competing with recipients within the district's 13 southern states. Her 23 years of teaching experience along with serving as the school's athletic director, physical education and health department chair, coordinating the school's Health and Wellness Academy, and numerous community projects distinguish her as one of the best in her field.

Tecca Kilmer, a teacher at Turkey Creek Middle School in Hillsborough County, was the recipient of the Southern District prestigious Honor Award. This award signifies a person's professional involvement at the local, state and district level. Tecca has been, and continues to be, actively involved in various leadership roles within Florida and the Southern District. With her professional approach, Tecca has networked with teachers across the state of Florida as coordinator of Let's Move Active Schools (LMAS) and has given Florida the distinction of having the most schools registered with LMAS in the country.

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## **Child Human Trafficking in Florida**

Human trafficking, commonly referred to as “modern day slavery,” is a global epidemic that involves the use of **force, fraud or coercion** to exploit a person for labor or commercial sex. Victims of human trafficking include children, women and men who are subjected to sexual exploitation or forced labor. This year, there have been nearly 400 human trafficking calls resulting in 77 cases, and 29 of those cases involved school-aged minors.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is actively engaged in a variety of statewide anti-trafficking efforts. We strongly encourage all districts and schools to raise awareness in their schools and communities. Healthy Schools has created a child human trafficking document as a guide for educators and school personnel to educate and heighten the level of awareness on human trafficking in Florida. The document is available at: <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5411/urlt/HumanTraffickingToolkit.pdf>.

In 2014, the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking was created to support human trafficking victims. The council meets quarterly, and the next meeting is Tuesday, September 15, at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. All meetings are archived on the Florida Channel, [March 2, 2015](#), [May 21, 2015](#), [June 25, 2015](#) and [August 18, 2014](#). FREE resources and posters are available at the [Polaris Project](#).

## **The Arts**

### **2015-16 Florida Arts Education Professional Conferences**

The following arts education conferences will be held in Florida during the 2015-16 school year. For more information, please click on the respective link for each organization.

#### **Florida Art Education Association**

In Focus: Education through the Artist’s Lens

October 8-11, 2015

Naples Grande Beach Resort, Naples, FL

<http://www.faea.org/InnerPage.aspx?id=4&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

#### **Florida Association for Theatre Education (FATE)**

FATE Conference ‘15

October 15-17, 2015

Radisson Resort Orlando-Celebration, Kissimmee, FL

<http://www.fatefirst.com/Conference.html>

#### **Florida Dance Education Organization (FDEO)**

21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in Dance Education

October 22-24, 2015

School of Theatre & Dance-University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

[http://www.fdeo.org/fdeonew/fdeo\\_conference.html](http://www.fdeo.org/fdeonew/fdeo_conference.html)

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Florida Music Educators' Association (FMEA)

Diversity in Music Education: The Pathway to Lifelong Learning and Participation

January 13-16, 2016

Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL

<http://fmea.flmusiced.org/conference/>

**Gifted**



Hello! I would like to introduce myself. I am Kathleen Casper, the new gifted education program specialist for the department. I have had a warm welcome as I am settling into this position. I can already tell we have a great team here at FLDOE, and I look forward to collaborating widely to bring the gifted student perspective to every corner of the department!

My main goal will be to increase information about gifted issues so that we can all work together to identify and support all students who have exceptional education needs.

As you plan your activities this year, please consider our gifted students in your goals. Ask yourself:

- How will this project affect our students in Florida who are high achievers and excelling in this subject area?
- How can we improve cultural competencies and lessen biases in our classrooms so that we look at creative and nontraditional ways to reach students? and
- How will this goal/plan encourage underperforming kids to shine?

As for what I'm working on:

- A survey was recently sent out to all our districts to ask them about how they are following the Florida Gifted Plan, and looking for ways that we at FDOE can better support the districts as they improve their service and meet their goals.
- We are putting together work groups to review the Florida Gifted Plan to update it with new research-based edits, and to review the endorsement modules and gifted education frameworks that we use to provide training and support for our teachers and students. We will have monthly conference calls/trainings starting in September, and I'm already lining up nationally-known speakers to discuss important issues on the calls as volunteers who want to help with our goals for improving student achievement and gifted support services throughout the state. All are welcome to participate and I will advertise the dates soon.

Also please be aware that the Florida Association for the Gifted (FLAG) is having the annual conference in Tampa on September 25-16 this year. You can get more information at [www.flagifted.org](http://www.flagifted.org). Everyone is welcome to attend. Information about registration is on their website. It's a great way to learn a lot about gifted issues and obtain updates on research and best practices that are cross-curricular, as well as ideas for encouraging highest student achievement and social emotional skill building.

I appreciate the wonderful support I have received so far, and I look forward to having some interesting conversations and finding ways to collaborate to achieve amazing results for our students. Please get in touch with any questions, suggestions or requests.

I can be reached at [Kathleen.Casper@fldoe.org](mailto:Kathleen.Casper@fldoe.org) or 850-245-5094.

### **Gifted Education: Myth or Fact?**

Myths and misconceptions about gifted education and gifted students abound. You may have heard some of these misunderstandings in your own experiences. Here are some responses that may help when talking with parents and fellow educators.

**Myth:** All children are gifted.

**Fact:** It is true that all children have gifts, but research shows that giftedness is a different way of viewing the world. It brings with it many pros and cons, including social emotional responses that may make life much more difficult and complicated than people can see from the outside.

**Myth:** Gifted kids are smart; they'll be just fine.

**Fact:** Many will be fine, just as most people are fine, but some gifted people struggle with depression and other mental health issues that cause them to drop down, drop out and sometimes even choose to get involved with illegal and unhealthy activities.

**Myth:** Gifted students are high achievers.

**Fact:** Yes, many are high achievers, and many can be if they are motivated by teachers who understand and care about them. Yet there are many underachieving gifted students who don't ever get referred for program support due to behavioral issues that arise from their gifted characteristics and needs that mask their abilities.

**Myth:** It's easy to spot the gifted kids. They're the ones who shine.

**Fact:** Many gifted kids go unrecognized or are misdiagnosed and underserved, and they are found in every socio-economic range and every racial category. Many gifted students also have other exceptionalities such as learning disabilities or developmental delay that can hide their giftedness.

The field of gifted education is complex. It is a newer field, and with the whole new world of brain research, behavioral studies and best practices, it is quickly evolving. This isn't your parent's gifted education program!

### **CPALMS**

#### **Planning for the new school year?**

#### **Here's step one: Review your course descriptions!**

Did you know that Florida has revised course descriptions for 2015 and beyond? Go to [www.CPALMS.org](http://www.CPALMS.org) and find your courses. Be sure to click the 2015 tab and print out or download the course description, including all the aligned standards. You should keep these close by as you plan your instruction for the coming year.

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You will notice that in addition to standards for your disciplinary content, the course will include standards for math, literacy and English language development (ELD) and may also include other areas such as health and social studies.

This is because Florida recognizes that content does not exist in isolation. To be prepared for college and career, students must have an integrated understanding of how different content areas overlap, merge and support each other. Florida's courses have been revised to reflect this integration.

The added standards should be folded in as a natural part of content area instruction. In other words, the U.S. History teacher doesn't separately teach the ELA standards or mathematics standards but would integrate those standards as parts of U.S. History instruction. The focus should be on using writing and communicating, calculating, critical thinking, and language enrichment to support and deepen learning U.S. History.

As you plan your instruction, think about how you can help your students to see real world purposes for their learning and discover ways to apply it in authentic contexts.

For more information, please contact your curriculum specialist or your BSIS content specialist at 850-245-0423.

### **Florida Reading Association 53<sup>rd</sup> Conference**

This year's FRA conference, "Treasures from the Sea: Literacy Adventures," will be held October 8-11, 2015 at the Florida Hotel and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Please see the [2015 Conference Flyer](#) for more information. You can register for the conference at [Online Registration](#), or register onsite beginning Thursday, Oct 8 at 10AM.

### **Florida Council of Teachers of English 2015 Professional Development Institute**

The 2015 FTCE PD Institute, "Do Good & Do Well," offers conversations and presentations exploring EXCELLENCE and ETHICS in the English Language Arts classroom. From best practices in writing instruction to issues of morality in literary classics and YA fiction, our PDI will have something for everyone. The conference will be held Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 4:00 PM through Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 12:00 PM (EDT) at the International Palms Resort and Conference Center in Cocoa Beach, FL. For more information, and to register, visit the [conference website](#).

### **Free SAT Practice Available**

The College Board, in partnership with Khan Academy, is offering online practice for the redesigned SAT. Practice resources include thousands of interactive questions, four full-length tests, video lessons, hints and answer explanations. Students may access this resource at [www.FloridaStudents.org](http://www.FloridaStudents.org) by clicking on the SAT Practice Website link at the top of the page.

### **BSIS welcomes Cathy Seeds as the new FDOE Library Media and Instructional Materials Specialist**

Cathy is a graduate of Florida State University with a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and a Master's in Library and Information Studies. She has four years of experience working in Program Management and Grants while with the Department of Children and Families before coming to FDOE. Although originally from Maine and having spent several years in the central Florida area, Cathy has lived in Tallahassee for many years now and enjoys all the outdoor activities the city has to offer, and, of course, attending the Seminole football games whenever she can. Go Noles! J

Cathy is very much looking forward to working with all of the district library media supervisors and will be taking charge of the review process for instructional materials. She will be attending the FAME conference in October so hopefully many of you will get to meet her then.

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### **Seven Outstanding Schools Gain Florida Power--Library Schools Designation**

Launched in 2008 by the Florida Association of Supervisors of Media and the Florida Department of Education's Library Media Services, this statewide recognition is awarded to schools that involve their school faculty members in developing and implementing outstanding library media programs focused on student achievement. Teacher/librarian collaboration, supportive administrations and dynamic library media programs are hallmarks of the winning Florida Power-Library Schools (FPLS).

After a rigorous review, including site visits, Edgewood Jr/Sr High School, Meadowlane Primary, Quest Elementary School, Stone Magnet Middle School, Veterans Memorial Elementary School, North Grade Elementary School and Pedro Menendez H. S. were chosen as this year's winners of the prestigious FPLS award. These schools provide quality library media programs that encourage students to become lifelong readers and engage students in problem solving and inquiry-based activities.

The FPLS designation is awarded for three years. Of the schools that were awarded the designation in 2012 nine were successful in their reapplication. These schools were Apollo Elementary School, Audubon Elementary School, Herbert C. Hoover Middle School, McNair Magnet Middle School, Ralph Williams Elementary School, Timber Creek High School, Turner Elementary School, Viera High School and Holley Navarre Primary.

According to the statewide study conducted by Dr. Donna Baumbach, entitled *Making the Grade: The Status of School Library Media Centers in the Sunshine State and How They Contribute to Student Achievement*, results showed that in schools that had well-staffed, well-stocked, well-managed library media centers, student achievement improved and standardized test scores were higher. The FPLS winners are committed to the standards embodied in this study. They are staffed by professional library media specialists, have excellent resources, and represent the "best of the best."

For further information on the FPLS program please visit <http://www.fasmnet.org>.

### **Expert Reviewers for the 2015-2016 Adoption:**

The FDOE has received 160 bids for the 2015-2016 instructional materials adoption and will roll-out an Invitation for Expert Reviewers within these content areas in August:

- K-12 World Languages: Chinese, German Italian and Latin;
- Career and Technical Education: Architecture and Construction, Arts and Audio Visual, Business, Education and Training, Engineering and Technology, Finance, Health Science, Hospitality and Tourism, Human Services, Information Technology, Law and Public Safety, Manufacturing, Marketing, and Transportation;
- K-8 Physical and Health Education;
- K-12 Visual and Performing Arts (Music, Instrumental Music, Art, Art History, Ceramics, Digital Arts, Drawing and Theatre).

Reviewers will receive a stipend of \$330 dollars for each bid evaluated. Each bid must be completed within three weeks from the assignment date. All stipend checks will be mailed within 30 days upon the completion of the adoption. Evaluating instructional materials for the state adoption requires time and effort; it is an undertaking that is very important and will support our goal for all Florida students to receive a high quality education that will prepare them to be active citizens, critical thinkers and lifelong learners. All instructional materials reviewers must complete an affidavit before registering, training and evaluating the instructional materials. Please visit our Instructional Materials website for more information: <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/instructional-materials/>.

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## **STEM**

Shelly Miedona has joined the STEM team as the Elementary Mathematics Specialist. She comes to us from Indian River County where she was an Intermediate Project CHILD (Changing How Instruction for Learning is Delivered) Mathematics teacher for 6 years, mathematics coach at a Title I school for 3 years and the last 2 years in Indian River County, she worked in the Title I department at the district level. Shelly has her BA in Social Work and Psychology, MA in Education and Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership. She is originally from Tinley Park, IL, a suburb south of Chicago. There she taught for 7 years in grades K – 7. She was also a stay at home mom for 6 years. She is the mother of 17 year old twins, Kyle and Chris who are seniors at Vero Beach High School. Her 15 year old, Ryan, is a sophomore at Leon High.