



**Office of
English as a New Language,
World Languages and
Bilingual Education**

Central Office, Room 215
725 Harrison Street
Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 435-4927

SPRING 2018

Message from Director Jacqueline LeRoy

Dear ENL, World Language and Bilingual Education teachers,

Despite the winter weather and a major Nor'easter storm the day before our much-anticipated March Symposium, we had only a few vendor cancellations with more than 200 SCS D participants who braved the many inches of snow to attend the event. In addition to having two very well-known national experts in the field of language learning present, our department teachers shared their expertise, talents and perspectives on a variety of topics that focused on language learning and promoting multilingualism. It is with much pride that I say, a sincere thank you to our many department members who made our first symposium an exciting and successful opportunity for all educators who value and promote language learning.

As we move into springtime, we now have the opportunity to gauge how our students are acquiring the new language (L2) with the administration of LAS Links, the NYSESLAT and LOTE Checkpoint A and Checkpoint B assessments. LAS Links is completed by April 20th, the speaking components for the NYSESLAT begins April 9th and the LOTE Speaking component begins May 1st. The Speaking assessment is a one-to-one administration with the other modalities tested on designated test dates determined by the New York State Education Department.

As language specialists, we know that some of our students may be anxious about the Speaking test and how they will be evaluated on speaking in L2. Preparing them in advance by familiarizing them with the expectations may help to lower their level of anxiety. In addition, providing a physical space for administering the Speaking component that is conducive to a testing environment and in a location separate from other students may help them to do their best.

It is always important to take a moment to celebrate our department teachers and students and I invite you to take a look at our celebrations page and read about what's happening in our department. Please continue to submit your celebrations so we can highlight them!

Thank you for all you do, every day, to promote language learning!

HELLO
Spring

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Department of Bilingual Education

Dr. Kate Menken



Kate Menken, a Professor of Linguistics at Queens College of the City University of New York (CUNY), and a Research Fellow at the Research Institute for the Study of Language in an Urban Society of the CUNY Graduate Center, spoke at the March Symposium on March 3, 2018. Her presentation showed that decisions about whether schools will adopt monolingual or multilingual approaches are typically ideological rather than research-based. The presentation explored this tension, and highlighted the recent expansion of dual language bilingual education, driven by families and communities seeking opportunities for all children to be multilingual. The presentation offered recommendations to harness this growing interest in bilingual education in ways that hold true to its original social justice aims.

Personalized Learning Through the Lens of Dual Language



Gloria Kimmich, Lillian Zayas, and Ilianatcha Rosa presenting at the March Symposium on March 3, 2018.

At both the SCSD March Symposium and the 2018 NYSABE Conference Seymour Dual Language educators Lillian Zayas, Ilianatcha Rosa and Gloria Kimmich presented on the topic of personalized learning through the lens of dual language. This session details a co-teaching model used in a kindergarten Spanish/English dual language setting. This co-teaching model allows students to enhance their learning by becoming biliterate, bilingual and bi-cultural. The session focuses on how teachers can co-plan and implement theme based lessons using the common core standards, as well as adaptive instructional materials and strategies that help increase oral language.

New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE)

NYSABE is a multilingual and multicultural association that represents multiple language groups and educational sectors throughout the state. The Association unites educators, parents, school administrators, college professors, researchers, community and business leaders, elected officials, the media and policy makers with a common interest in excellence and equity for ELLs/bilingual learners.

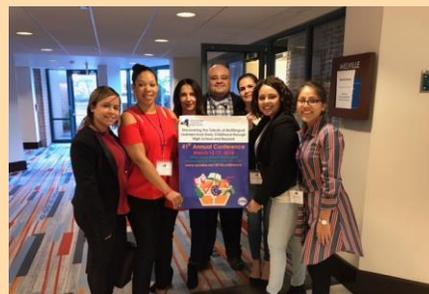
NYSABE encourages the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of quality bilingual educational programs. It also promotes bilingual education as a process by which students achieve success through instruction in their home language while learning English. NYSABE supports the belief that language pluralism and bilingual competence in English and other languages benefit the nation and all its citizens, and that bilingualism and biliteracy are critical components of contemporary education in the United States.

SCSD is located in the geographical NYSABE Region IV and currently is represented by NYSABE Delegates Jacqueline LeRoy and Lyda Ragonese, as well as Language Delegates Abdulilah Al-Dubai and Eli Hernandez.

If you are interested in joining NYSABE, visit the following link to apply. <https://www.nysabe.net/membership/>

NYSABE Conference

From March 15 - March 17, 2018 several members of the Department of Bilingual Education attended the 41st annual NYSABE conference, *Uncovering the Talents of Multilingual Learners from Early Childhood through High School and Beyond*. The conference sessions focused on providing meaningful resources and inspiring direction for educators, researchers, parents, students and other stakeholders. A broad range of innovative topics, ideas and strategies for learners, families and educators were presented.



From left to right, Ilianatcha Rosa, Gloria Kimmich, Lillian Zayas, Eli Hernandez, Drioni Vergara, Lisa Sherman, Michelle Caceres

Department of English as a New Language

March Symposium

On March 3, 2018, many ENL teachers shared their expertise and experience through leading professional development sessions at the March Symposium. Thank you to the following teachers:

- **Angela Alessandro & Meredith Green**, Learning and Living in a New Language, A Student Panel
- **Lauren Cirulli**, Translanguaging in the Classroom
- **Michaela Clark**, The Difference Between Scaffolding and Differentiating, How to Set High Expectations for Language Learners
- **Erica Daniels & Lauren Fahey**, Creating Culturally Conscious Instruction for Language Learners
- **Tiffany Duquette**, Meeting the Needs of Language Learners through Personalized Learning
- **Melissa Leo & Emily Voegler**, Creating a Welcoming Environment for Language Learners
- **Lyda Ragonese & Jaye Tubolino**, Cultural Etiquette and Greetings
- **Kerry Read & Kristin Smith**, Promoting Parent Participation, Piecing Together the Puzzle
- **Amanda Steves**, Experiencing the Needs and Challenges of Language Learners



Angela Alessandro and Meredith Green with Henninger ENL students who participated in the student panel at the March Symposium.



Attendees engaged in a presentation by ENL teacher Lauren Cirulli.

NYSESLAT Information and Important Dates

The window to administer NYSESLAT will begin soon. Dates specific to Syracuse City School District administration are listed below:

Speaking: April 9th – May 18th

Reading, Writing, Listening Day 1: May 7th

Reading, Writing, Listening Day 2: May 10th

Reading, Writing, Listening Day 3: May 15th

All new teachers and all teachers who have not been previously trained to administer the NYSESLAT should attend one of the training sessions listed below. Any teacher who would like a refresher on administration is welcome to attend.

April 4, 4:30-6:00 pm, Professional Development Center

April 5, 3:30-5:00 pm, Professional Development Center

PD Opportunities

In addition to NYSESLAT training PLCs, the next PLC scheduled is a Personalized Learning PLC on April 19th at PDC from 3:30-5:00 pm. All ENL and World Language teachers are welcome to attend. There will be opportunities to attend PLCs throughout the end of the school year and over the summer. E-mail correspondence will be shared about opportunities as they become available.

Cultural Etiquette and Greetings



SCSD Nationality Worker Koko Lwin presenting to staff.

The Nationality Workers have developed and facilitated a presentation focused on culture. Participants have the ability to learn key phrases and cultural etiquette in Arabic, Somali, Nepali, and Karen. They are provided with tools to make their classrooms more welcoming. If you are interested in bringing this PD to your school, contact Kristina Crehan at kcrehan@scsd.us to request an available date.

Department of World Languages

March Symposium

On March 3, 2018 two world language teachers provided professional development to colleagues at the March Symposium. More information about each presentation is shared below.



Experiencing the Needs and Challenges of Language Learners, Abdulilah Al-Dubai

This workshop is an Arabic language immersion experience that simulates what it may be like to be a language learner and highlights the strategies that can help support these students.



Tips and Tricks to Engage Students: Novice to Advanced, Brenda Buckley

Participants learned new activities that will build a community, and challenge and engage students in a language learning environment.

Upcoming PD Opportunity

Join Bill Heller and/or Dr. Jennifer Eddy for a no-cost professional learning experience for World Language/LOTE Teachers and Administrators on April 16 and/or April 17 at OCM BOCES, sponsored by RBERN.

Topics to be discussed include:

- ACTFL Core Proficiency Practices and Standards
- Teaching for Proficiency
- Development of performance-based assessment tasks with the three communicative modes: Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational
- “Can Do” self-assessment statements for each mode to be readily implemented into your lesson plans

World Language PLC Updates

Through work in professional learning communities it is the goal that teachers will collaborate with one another to enhance their instruction and develop meaningful tools. Recent PLCs have focused on support with digital tools on the Realize platform, and sharing of strategies and materials among teachers of similar grade levels. World Language PLCs meet at the Professional Development Center and are scheduled on the following upcoming dates this school year:

April 11, 2018

May 9, 2018



Checkpoint A and B LOTE Formal Speaking Assessment

Administration of the 8th grade Level 1 and high school Level 3 LOTE Formal Speaking Assessment is from May 1st - May 31st.

All LOTE Teachers will receive the Formal Speaking Guides, the Sourcebooks and the Reporting Sheets electronically prior to the administration date. At the completion of the Speaking component, teachers submit **Part 1 of the Formal Speaking Test Reporting Sheet, completed in ink, to the principal** for a signature and then to be secured. The Reporting Sheets are later submitted to the Scoring Center with the Level 1 and Level 3 exams, Parts 2, 3, and 4, after administration on June 18th.



Department Celebrations

Abdulla Alzokari, 4th grade English Language Learner at Seymour Dual Language Academy, was nominated by his teachers for the Dermody, Burke, & Brown Award for Academics in Math in honor of his hard work and persistence. He was awarded a \$500.00 scholarship for college. Abdulla was the youngest of nine local students to receive an award. Madelyn Hornstein presented Abdulla with this award during the CNY Young & Amazing Awards at the Everson Museum of Art on Thursday March 1, 2018.



Madelyn Hornstein and Abdulla Alzokari at the CNY Young & Amazing Awards.

“The Pulsera Project” at Nottingham High School

World Language students at Nottingham High School sold bracelets to support a good cause and fair trade through participation in “The Pulsera Project.” They sold almost \$500 worth of bracelets! Below are pictures of students in action. To learn more about “The Pulsera Project” visit the following link: <http://www.pulseraproject.org/>



Roberts ENL students celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday and helped design and decorate an ENL classroom door for the Dr. Seuss Door Decorating Contest. It won for “Best Theme!”



Congratulations to the following teachers in our department who were awarded a 2017-2018 SCSD Educational Foundation Grant:



- **Michaela Clark**, Sparking Creativity and Student Engagement in Writing through Flexible Seating
- **Tiffany Duquette**, Essential Skill Development and Team Building
- **Emily Voegler**, Building Biliteracy at Franklin Elementary

“The Importance of Being Multilingual” Writing Showcase

The department invited teachers to help share their students’ experiences becoming multilingual, through allowing language learners the opportunity to participate in a writing showcase. Students in grades K-12 responded to writing prompts and illustrated the benefits of learning languages. Thank you to all the teachers that provided students time to share their stories. We had over 300 responses to the project! If you were unable to view student responses at the March Symposium, many student pieces are currently highlighted in the hallway outside the department office, room 215, at Central Office.





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The Syracuse City School District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it is committed to providing equal access to all categories of employment, programs and educational opportunities, including career and technical education opportunities, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, Native American ancestry/ethnicity, creed or religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or expression, disability or any other legally protected category under federal, state or local law.

Inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies should be directed to:

Civil Rights Compliance Officer
Syracuse City School District
725 Harrison Street • Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 435-4131
Email: CivilRightsCompliance@scsd.us