

## BCI

Florida Department  
of Education

**Teresa D. Sweet**  
Bureau Chief

Office of  
Healthy Schools  
Director

**Penny Detscher**  
Ksena Zipperer  
Nichole Wilder  
Michelle Gaines

Office of  
Humanities  
Director,

**Ann Whitney**  
Carol Bailey  
John LeTellier  
Susan Watt  
Connie Wildeman

Office of  
Instructional  
Materials  
Director

**David Sikes**  
Ritu Badaya

Office of  
Math and Science  
Director

**Karol Yeatts**  
Jackie Speake

Office of  
School Libraries &  
Information Services  
Director

**Katrina Figgett**  
Kelsey Terhune  
Lakeesha Parker  
Patricia Sailor

Pupil Progression &  
Guidance Services  
Specialist

**Helen Lancashire**

Standards & Course  
Development  
Manager,

**Nakia Brady**

# Bureau of Curriculum & Instruction

## New Year Edition

### Florida Sunshine State Scholars Program

The Sunshine State Scholars program recognizes Florida's top STEM students and introduces them to the vast postsecondary and career opportunities available right here in their home state. The 2-day program is scheduled for Feb 21 - Feb 22, 2013 at the Doubletree Hotel at the Entrance to Universal Orlando. For more information on the Sunshine State Scholar Program go to:

<http://www.floridaeducationfoundation.org/meetings/2013-sunshine-state-scholars-program>.

### State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida

The 58<sup>th</sup> State Science and Engineering fair is March 26-27, 2013 at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, Florida. The exhibit hall opens to the public on March 27 from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM. For more information go to: <http://www.floridassef.net/>.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) will be in Phoenix, Arizona, May 12-17, 2013. For more information on Intel ISEF go to:

<http://www.societyforscience.org/isef>.

### Safety in the Science Classroom (Posted to the OMS Webpage)

[Florida DEP School Chemical Cleanout Campaign \(SC3\)](#): includes Inventory Procedures, Chemical Inventory Spreadsheet, Table of Excessive Risk Chemicals, Disposal Guidelines for School Facilities, Identifying Unknown Chemicals in Science Labs, SC3 Basic Training Notebook, and SC3 Instructional Video.

[NSTA Safety in the Science Classroom](#): access to the *OSHA Training Requirements and Guidelines for K-14 School Personnel*, Tips for the Safer Handling of Microorganisms in the School Science Laboratory, Science Demonstration Videos, and Safety Resources List.

[NIOSH School Chemistry Laboratory Safety Guide](#): access to the safety guide *School Science Laboratories: A Guide to Some Hazardous Substances* developed by the Council of State Science Supervisors, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The document provides teachers with information to take the appropriate precautionary actions and prevent or minimize hazards, harmful exposures, and injuries in the laboratory.

### **Websites for STEM Lesson Ideas (Posted to the OMS Webpage)**

**OCEARCH**: OCEARCH facilitates research to attain data on the biology and health of sharks, in conjunction with basic research on shark life history and migration. OCEARCH also has a *Global Shark Tracker* where you can observe the navigational pattern of sharks that have been tagged with satellite tracking technology for the purpose of shark conservation.

**PBS Teachers STEM Education Resource Center**: PBS offers the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning through television and online content.

**NASA STEM Program**: As the United States begins the second century of flight, the Nation must maintain its commitment to excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education to ensure that the next generation of Americans can accept the full measure of their roles and responsibilities in shaping the future.

**The STEM Education News**: The STEM Education News (previously the TCEB or Triangle Coalition Electronic Bulletin) is an e-newsletter featuring articles on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. Articles highlight the latest programs, resources, reports, and other news related to STEM education.

**A Framework for K-12 Science Education (National Academies Press)**: *The Framework for K-12 Science Education* was released by the National Research Council (NRC) in July 2011. The framework identifies the key scientific ideas and practices all students should learn by the end of high school. The framework is also designed to be useful for curriculum and assessment designers, teacher educators, and others who work in K-12 science education.

### **STEM Competitions**

- American Mathematics Contest sponsored by University of West Florida
- Dropping In a Microgravity Environment (DIME) sponsored by NASA
- Emerald Coast BEST Robotics sponsored by University of West Florida
- Envirothon
- ExploraVision competition sponsored by Toshiba and NSTA
- FAU Internet High School Mathematics Competition
- International Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by Intel and Society for Science & the Public
- Math League sponsored by Stanford University
- MATHCOUNTS State Competition sponsored by the Florida Engineering Society
- National Science Bowl (NSB) sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy
- National STEM Video Game Challenge
- Science Olympiad
- Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology sponsored by the Siemens Foundation
- South Florida FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition
- State Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by Florida Foundation for Future Scientists (FFFS)

### **Music in our Schools Month, Theatre in our Schools Month, Youth Art Month**

March is a busy time for the arts. Schools across Florida and indeed the nation will be celebrating the arts during the entire month of March. Some schools and districts divide the month into special weeks with titles such as “Music History Week” or “American Composers Week”. Other schools and districts take this opportunity to take students on arts-related field trips.

To help celebrate Music in our Schools Month, the National Association for Music Education has posted information about the *2013 Concert for Music on Our Schools Month*. The concert music and audio tracks are available online for free. Teachers are encouraged to participate by having their children sing any number of the posted songs at any time during the month of March. For more information please visit their website at: <http://musiced.nafme.org/concert/>

Suggestions and ideas for Theatre in our Schools Month can be found on the American Alliance for Theatre and Education website: <http://www.aate.com/?page=tios>

The National Art Education Association sponsors a national competition to celebrate Youth Art Month. More information about this can be found on their website at: <http://www.arteducators.org/news/yam>

There are a wide range of activities and lesson plans that can take place in celebration of the arts. During the month of February we would like to encourage districts, schools and teachers to plan engaging activities for March that will help students to celebrate and understand the value of the arts.

### **Public Input on General Knowledge Competencies and Skills**

The Bureau of Postsecondary Assessment has posted a survey in order to give stakeholders the opportunity to provide the Department of Education with your feedback on the recently revised General Knowledge competencies and skills. These competencies and skills will be presented to the State Board of Education (SBE) for review in March, 2013. The online surveys for the four General Knowledge subtests are available at the following links:

[Subtest 1: English Language Skills](#)

[Subtest 2: Essay](#)

[Subtest 3: Mathematics](#)

[Subtest 4: Reading](#)

We value your feedback on the appropriateness of the draft competencies and skills to the beginning effective teacher candidate (BETC). Survey responses will be compiled for the SBE’s consideration. Please take a few moments to provide your feedback, and feel free to distribute to interested colleagues. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Swanson at [david.swanson@fldoe.org](mailto:david.swanson@fldoe.org).

### **Free Online Algebra Study Prep System**

The University of Florida, in consultation with the Florida Department of Education, has teamed up with some of Florida's best algebra teachers and education technology innovator Study Edge to create Algebra Nation. The online study prep system is designed to help students succeed on their Algebra End-of-Course exam (EOC). Algebra Nation is free for all students and their teachers in the state.

Algebra Nation:

- Offers effective, engaging videos aligned to current standards and featuring renowned Study Experts – energetic pros – and dynamic algebra teachers from throughout Florida.
- Study Experts monitor the interactions in real time, answering questions and reading every posting to ensure prompt and accurate replies.
- Provides students with a quick assessment system that guides them to the videos and other supports to help them master specific algebra concepts.
- Gives teachers data and other ways to track the progress of their students and to target their lesson plans.
- Allows teachers and students to download, print and view review sheets that parallel and reinforce the videos.
- Is accessible through all desktops, laptops, tablets and smartphones.

Teachers can enroll their students in this free resource by logging onto [www.algebranation.com](http://www.algebranation.com).

Contact [help@AlgebraNation.com](mailto:help@AlgebraNation.com) or call 1-888-97-STUDY for more information.