



# Utica Teacher Center Newsletter

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## Mission Statement

The mission of the Utica Teacher Center is to assist teachers in meeting the unique challenges of our ever-changing educational environment. The Teacher Center will support our teachers through ongoing, sustained staff development activities, which enrich teaching and improve learning for all students. The Center will provide a vehicle for disseminating and sharing current educational practices and ideas.

## Policy Board Members

- Christopher Salatino
- Bruce Karam
- Steven Falchi, Chair
- Joshua Gifford
- David Katz
- Jennifer Bohrer
- Danielle Brain
- Cherie Grant
- Dennis Hahn
- Ann Marie Horan
- Jennifer Edick
- John Keady
- Paul McEnroe
- Lou Parrotta
- Barbara Washington
- David Struz
- Kelly Velardi

## Poverty Simulation

A Poverty Simulation is a unique opportunity to help the school community to understand what life is like with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. Using a Simulation kit, participants role play in the lives of low-income families.

Simulations have been scheduled for all Utica Schools as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>
Kernan	September 30
General Herkimer	October 6
Watson Williams	October 9
Conkling	October 19
Hughes	November 19
Donovan	December 1
J.F.Kennedy	December 8
Proctor	December 15
Albany	January 14
Jones	January 25
Jefferson	January 28
Proctor	February 4
M.L.King	February 10
Columbus	March 1



## Did You Know?

The [Common Core Task Force](#) is a diverse and highly qualified group of education officials, teachers, parents, and state representatives convened by Governor Cuomo to perform a comprehensive review of learning standards, instructional guidance and curricula, and tests to improve implementation and reduce testing anxiety.

With that in mind, the Governor has charged the Task Force to: Review and reform the Common Core State Standards; Review New York State's curriculum guidance and resources; Develop a process to ensure tests fit curricula and standards; Examine the impact of the current moratorium on recording Common Core test scores on student records, and make a recommendation as to whether it should be extended; Examine how the State and local districts can reduce both the quantity and duration of student tests, and develop a plan whereby districts include parents in reviewing local tests being administered to analyze those tests' purpose and usefulness; and, Review the quality of the tests to ensure competence and professionalism from the private company creating and supplying the tests.

## Upcoming Professional Development

- ⇒ New Teacher Workshops through NYSUT Education & Learning Trust and the UTA: Effective Parent Conferencing (October) and Classroom Management (November)
- ⇒ Beyond the Magic Treehouse Series facilitated by Mark Turnpenny
- ⇒ Teach Like a Pirate Book Study facilitated by Christine Golden

**Have an idea for facilitating a professional development workshop? Contact Sharon Diliberto for a [Teacher Center Workshop Proposal Form](#).**

## Featured—Helpful Website for Teachers

### [ReadWorks.org](#)

The non-profit ReadWorks is committed to solving the nation's reading comprehension crisis by giving teachers the research-proven tools and support they need to improve the academic achievement of their students.

ReadWorks provides research-based units, lessons, and authentic, leveled non-fiction and literary passages directly to educators online, **for free**, to be shared broadly.

The ReadWorks curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and the standards of all 50 states. Most importantly, ReadWorks is faithful to the most effective research-proven instructional practices in reading comprehension.

