

MONDAY**11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7****• BTRC Book Study: Story Stitch**◦ (*Kelly Cooper*) **5:00–6:00/ In person at the BTRC, Room 317**

- This BTRC Book Study explores *Story Stitch* from Green Card Voices, a publication that amplifies the authentic narratives of immigrants and refugees through first-person storytelling.

• BTRC: AI Literacy for Educators, Understanding AI and Its Impact on Teaching and Learning◦ (*Kristen Harrington and Molly Eldridge*) **5:00–6:00/ Virtual**

- Artificial Intelligence is rapidly changing how people learn, work, create, and communicate. This course helps educators build a foundational understanding of AI and its implications for K-12 education. Participants will explore how AI works, common misconceptions, ethical and privacy considerations, instructional applications, prompting strategies, and district-approved resources.

• BTRC Book Study: The Anxious Generation◦ (*Anna Kleyman*) **5:00–6:00/ Virtual**

- This book study, *BTRC Book Study: The Anxious Generation*, invites educators to explore the complex factors contributing to rising anxiety among today's youth. Through thoughtful examination of the book's research and insights.

• BTRC Book Study: Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain◦ (*Lisa Ried and Ann Marie Hernandez*) **5:00–6:00/ Virtual**

- This book study will provide strategies and tools for classroom teachers on how to promote authentic engagement and rigor among culturally and linguistically diverse students. The course is designed to provide teachers with tools and strategies to engage all students.

• BTRC Book Study: The IEP from A–Z◦ (*Elizabeth Bell and Jamie Kain*) **5:00–6:00/ Virtual**

- This book study explores *The IEP from A to Z*, a comprehensive guide to understanding and developing effective Individualized Education Programs for students with disabilities. Participants will examine best practices for writing legally compliant, educationally meaningful IEPs.

• BTRC: Understanding Holocaust and Genocide Studies◦ (*Naomi Haefner and Rich Pyszczyk*) **6:00–7:00/ Virtual**

- This professional development course equips Buffalo Public Schools teachers across all grade levels (K–12) with comprehensive resources and curriculum materials for teaching Holocaust and genocide studies. Over five sessions, participants explore multiple educational frameworks—including HERO Buffalo, NYSED's *Consider the Source*, *Echoes* and *Reflections*.

TUESDAY

11/10, 11/17, 11/24, 12/1, 12/8

- **BTRC Book Study: Start Here, Start Now**

- (*Yuliya Yarmolenko-Nixon*) **5:00–6:00/ Virtual**

- This guide offers educators a practical, action-oriented roadmap for beginning antibias and antiracist work within their school communities, centering reflection, relationship-building, and structural change. It outlines concrete steps for assessing school culture and policies, facilitating courageous conversations.

- **BTRC Book Study: The Peace Method, A Holistic Anxiety Fix**

- (*Cheryl Banko*) **5:00–6:00/ Virtual**



- This book study examines *The Peace Method: The Holistic Anxiety Fix*, exploring practical, research-based strategies for managing anxiety through a holistic approach to mental wellness. Participants will learn how to integrate mindfulness, body-based techniques, and lifestyle practices that support emotional regulation and stress reduction in educational settings.

- **BTRC: Scaffolding Content for ELLs: Considerations and Strategies**

- (*Michelle Reese*) **6:00–7:00/ Virtual**

- This is a practical course designed to help educators effectively support English Language Learners (ELLs) in mastering academic content. The class focuses on understanding the unique challenges ELLs face and explores research-based scaffolding techniques that make complex material more accessible.

- **BTRC: Co-Pilot Academy: AI as Your Teaching Partner**

- (*Ryan Barrett and Brian Meyer*) **6:00–7:00/ Virtual**



- Co-Pilot Academy: AI as Your Teaching Partner introduces educators to Microsoft Co-Pilot and explores how AI tools can streamline lesson planning, content creation, and daily teaching tasks. Participants will learn practical strategies for integrating AI assistance into their workflow while maintaining their unique teaching voice and professional judgment. **This is a beginner level class!**

- **BTRC: Introducing WeVideo for Engaging Student Projects**

- (*Mike Linneball*) **6:00–7:00/ Virtual**

- Teachers will learn how to edit video that can be exported into PlayPosit for interactive presentation purposes, assign engaging video projects to students (which may be done individually or in groups and allow the students to use robust video editing software).

- **BTRC Book Study: The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism**

- (*Mackenzie Pascucci*) **6:30–7:30/ Virtual**

- This professional development book study explores *The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism*, written by Naoki Higashida when he was thirteen years old. Presented in a question-and-answer format, the book addresses common questions about autism, including communication, sensory experiences, repetitive movements, emotions, relationships, and social interaction.

WEDNESDAY

11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16



- **BTRC: Thrillshare and BPS Webpages**
 - (*Mike Strangio*) **4:30–6:30/ In-person at the BTRC, Room 317**
 - Training on the new Content Management System that the BPS website operates on includes methods for creating and maintaining pages that are functional, aesthetically pleasing, and compliant.
- **BTRC: Supporting Social Emotional Learning**
 - (*Monica Capozzi and Kristina Jackson*) **5:00–6:00/ Virtual**
 - Participants will utilize the CASEL framework to foster knowledge, skills, and attitudes across five areas of social emotional competencies. The course is designed to teach and apply knowledge and skills for adults and students to develop healthy identities.
- **BTRC: Excel-lent Educators: Mastering Excel for Teachers**
 - (*Gina O’Kussick*) **5:00–6:00/ Virtual**
 - In this course, teachers will learn how to harness the power of Excel to streamline lesson planning, track student progress, and create engaging educational materials. From creating interactive spreadsheets to analyzing data effectively, this course will empower educators to excel in their teaching practices. Join us and become an Excel-lent Educator!
- **BTRC and NYSUT present Science of Reading**
 - (*Molly Eldridge*) **6:00–8:00/ Virtual *2 District Credits**
 - This class provides educators with the latest research-backed strategies to enhance literacy instruction. This comprehensive course, designed for elementary teachers, literacy coaches, and administrators, uses the best methods from various reading philosophies to ensure your students succeed in reading—and beyond.
- **BTRC and the Buffalo Science Museum present: The World Around Us: The Natural History of WNY**
 - (*Anthony Eberle*) **5:00–7:00/ In-person at the Buffalo Museum of Science**
 - BTRC and the Buffalo Science Museum proudly present "The World Around Us: The Natural History of WNY," an engaging class that explores the rich and diverse natural heritage of Western New York. Students will discover the fascinating ecosystems, wildlife, geological formations, and environmental changes that have shaped the region over time.

THURSDAY

11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3, 12/10)

- **BTRC and CLRI Book study: Textured Teaching**

- (*Deborah Bertlesman*) **5:00–6:00/ Virtual**

- This professional development course guides educators through a collaborative book study of Textured Teaching. Teachers will explore key concepts and strategies from the text, engage in reflective discussions, and apply learning to their classroom practice. Participants will develop skills for creating rich, multisensory learning experiences that engage diverse learners and deepen student understanding.

- **BTRC Hot Topics in Health & Wellness of Educators**

- (*Heather DiGiacomo*) **5:00–6:00/ Virtual**

- This course is designed to help teacher's grow their awareness on some hot topics in health that impact teachers and teaching longevity. Each class will address a different topic that teacher's can build awareness, skills and practice applying. We will be building a healthy community throughout the course that continue to develop into camaraderie within buildings and among colleagues.

- **BTRC Adobe and Canva Tools Part 2**

- (*Andrea Kochczynski*) **6:00–7:00/ Virtual**

- This class should be taken in sequence following Course #32209. This class will focus on updates to Canva and Adobe. In 2024 Canva completely redesigned the editing experience, created a new enterprise offering, and offered a range of new products for every part of the workplace and upgrades to the features you already know and love.

- **BTRC: Advanced Pedagogical Applications of AI**

- (*Greg Conley*) **6:00–7:00/ Virtual**



- This course is for experienced AI users ready to move beyond foundational tools and explore sophisticated pedagogical applications. You'll examine how artificial intelligence can transform instructional design, deepen student engagement, and solve complex teaching challenges that basic AI use cannot address. This is an advanced level class!

SATURDAYS

11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 12/5, 12/12

- **BTRC Math centers Part 1 class: PreK Weeks 1–15, Room 321**



- *(Melissa Hitzges)* **10:00–12:00/ In-person at the BTRC**

- This course provides PreK educators with practical, research-based math center activities for the first half of the school year. Participants explore developmentally appropriate hands-on activities that build foundational numeracy, counting, number recognition, and early mathematical thinking through engaging, play-based learning experiences.

- **The Buffalo Teacher Resource Center (BTRC) is excited to offer Saturday professional development classes to ensure all educators have access to high-quality learning opportunities, regardless of their weekday commitments. We recognize that teachers have demanding schedules filled with classroom instruction, meetings, and student support responsibilities that can make it challenging to attend professional development during the week. By offering Saturday sessions, we aim to provide flexible options that accommodate your busy schedule while supporting your continued growth and excellence in the classroom. These weekend courses feature the same expert-led instruction and valuable content as our weekday offerings, allowing you to choose the format that works best for your professional learning needs.**

- **BTRC and NYSUT present: Sticks and Stones Implicit Bias Part 2**

- *(Chris Salamone & TBA)* **12/15 and 1/12 5:00–8:00**

- This session continues the conversation on the impacts of implicit bias, microaggressions, and stereotypes. Participants will explore more strategies to challenge and confront microaggressions and stereotypes in ways that will allow them to amplify their voice and conviction. In this session, participants will continue to explore more ways to create the space to talk about the impact of problematic language and/or behavior. As educator leaders, we must be ready and able to engage in the necessary conversations to advance racial justice in our schools, communities, and Association.

- **BTRC and NYSUT present: Sticks and Stones Implicit Bias Part 1**

- *(Tricia Andrzejewski & Tiniqueka Jackson)* **1/5 5:00–8:00**

- The free, three-hour workshop strengthens team unity by teaching participants to look at the world from a unique perspective, one that takes into consideration how someone's ethnicity, race, ability and socio-economic background can impact how they experience our society.

- **BTRC and NYSUT present: Reversing Runaway Inequality**

- *(Eve Shippens & Ellen Malone)* **12/14 and 1/13 5:00–8:00**

- This session is rooted in unionism and organizing our members to build an economy that works for all of us. We live in the richest state, in the richest country in the world, and yet, we are fighting our neighbors for crumbs when we deserve the whole pie. We will discuss what this runaway inequality looks like, how we got here, and then create a strategy to fight against runaway inequality while we build a stronger union.

- **BTRC and NYSUT present Safe Zones: Creating Belonging for LGBTQ+ Students**

- *(Olga Camacho & Norm Duttweiler)* **1/6 5:00–8:00**

- The Safe Zone training program aims to increase the awareness, knowledge, and skills of individuals who wish to learn more about, and to advocate for, the LGBTQ+ community. Through this training, participants will learn about LGBTQ+ identities, gender, and sexuality, and examine prejudice, assumptions, and privilege. Participants will develop skills that will enable them to create safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals and to challenge homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism. Upon completion of the training, participants can choose to display the Safe Zone sticker as a visible symbol of their support and an affirmation of their commitment to ensuring that their communities are respectful, inclusive, and safe

- **BTRC Seminar Series: Celebrating ELL's in the Classroom**
 - *(Ashley Kowal and Amanda Jordan)* **1/7/2027 5:00–8:00**
 - This seminar helps educators create inclusive, affirming classrooms that celebrate English Language Learners. Teachers will explore strategies for recognizing and valuing students' linguistic and cultural assets, building on their strengths, and fostering a sense of belonging. Participants will discover ways to incorporate students' home languages and cultures into instruction and build positive relationships with ELL families.
- **BTRC Seminar Series Cultural Series: Understanding Swahili Culture and Language in Buffalo Schools**
 - *(Kim Kehoe and Caitlin Wohlhueter)* **1/12/2027 5:00–8:00**
 - This comprehensive professional development course is designed to equip educators in Buffalo Public Schools with essential cultural understanding of their Swahili student population. Over three hours, teachers will explore the rich tapestry of Swahili culture, including traditional customs, educational values, family dynamics, and communication styles specific to Swahili communities. Participants will gain insights into the linguistic features of the Swahili language, common challenges Burmese students face in English-language classrooms, and effective strategies for creating inclusive learning environments.
- **BTRC Seminar Series: Starting an Ethics Bowl Team: A Guide for Teachers**
 - *(Rich Pyszczek)* **1/12/2027 5:00–8:00**
 - Join us for this hands-on seminar designed to equip educators with the knowledge and tools needed to launch and coach an Ethics Bowl team at their school. Drawing on UB's successful Ethics Bowl program, participants will explore the competition format, learn strategies for recruiting and preparing students, and discover how Ethics Bowl develops critical thinking, collaborative reasoning, and civil discourse skills.
- **BTRC Seminar Series Cultural Series: Understanding Dari Culture and Language in Buffalo Schools**
 - *(Kim Kehoe and Caitlin Wohlhueter)* **1/14/2027 5:00–8:00**
 - Participants will explore basic Dari vocabulary, pronunciation, and common phrases, while gaining insight into the rich traditions, customs, and history of Dari-speaking communities. The class combines interactive language practice with engaging cultural discussions, providing a meaningful experience for learners interested in connecting with Dari culture on both a linguistic and social level.

IN-PERSON SEMINARS

- **BTRC Seminar Series: Ballet for Mobility and Mindfulness**

- *(Isabelle Bateson-Smith)* **1/11 4:30–6:30 (In-person at the BTRC, Room 317)**
 - Connect to our bodies for healthy mobility and mindfulness Notice the different structure of a ballet class and how that affects our experience

- **BTRC Seminar Series: Blackout Poetry Seminar**

- *(Jennifer Nielsen)* **1/13/2027 5:00–8:00 (In-person at the BTRC, Room 317)**
 - The goal of this seminar will be to share with teachers the art of Blackout Poetry that they can implement into any subject unit plan, not just ELA. Blackout Poetry is a way to engage students in a text through a different strategy. The purpose of Blackout Poetry is to connect the ideas of a text (or lesson/unit) to another text. Blackout Poetry is a way for students to complete a hands-on poetry activity that will allow them to create their own poem, while also creating a picture with their words. Teachers will learn what Blackout Poetry is, view examples of Blackout Poetry, and create their own Blackout Poetry. Teachers will then present their Blackout Poetry and take their Blackout Poetry with them to display/use in their classrooms.

- **BTRC Seminar Series Gelli Printing**

- *(Michelle Schroeder and Kelly Horsmon)* **1/13 4:30–6:30 (In-Person at the BTRC, Room 318)**
 - The BTRC Seminar Series on Gelli Printing offers a hands-on introduction to monoprinting using Gelli plates, guiding participants through materials, basic techniques (such as layering, stenciling, and mark-making), and methods for creating repeatable textures and expressive, painterly prints. Attendees will learn how to prepare plates, experiment with color mixing and composition, and adapt prints for mixed-media projects, cards, or fabric. The session emphasizes playful experimentation, troubleshooting common issues (like adhesion and cleanup), and providing creative prompts to spark individual exploration, making it suitable for beginners and artists seeking fresh approaches to surface design.

- **BTRC and Just Buffalo Present: Teachers ARE Writers with Ariel Aberg-Riger**

- *(Carla Stumpo)* **1/14 5:00–6:30 (In-Person at Just Buffalo Writing Center)**
 - This seminar empowers educators to embrace their identities as writers and bring authentic writing experiences into their classrooms. Participants engage in writing activities, explore their own writing processes, and discover strategies for fostering a writing community and inspiring student writers through teacher modeling and enthusiasm.



BTRC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS REGISTRATION DETAILS

- Registration will take place on October 28.
- Registration forms can be submitted after 8:00 p.m. on October 28.
- All classes will consist of 15 hours of work, though the breakdown of those hours are different for individual classes. Shorter synchronous classes will have more work on Schoology to ensure teachers are completing fifteen hours of work to earn a district credit. Seminars consist of three hours of work; however just as with classes the breakdown of synchronous and asynchronous time is up to individual instructors.
- If you would like to know more about a class or schedule, check out the new feature of the website. [Click here and search the list to learn more about a particular class or seminar.](#) There are a lot of offerings, so it may be easier to use the CTRL F feature. Simply hit CTRL F and enter the course or seminar name you are looking for.
- Participants are allowed to miss only one session per class. Teachers who miss a class must complete a make-up assignment. If teachers miss more than one class, they cannot earn district credit. They may earn CTLE hours for the sessions attended.
- Seminars are NOT FOR DISTRICT CREDIT. However, five PGS badges from the BTRC can be submitted for one (1) district credit. Successful completion of each seminar results in a badge on PGS. When you have completed FIVE seminars, please email Molly Eldridge and you will be placed in a District Credit class.
- There are currently five District Credit classes (Part I, II, III, IV and V), teachers can currently take up to twenty-five seminars towards these District Credit classes.
- All seminars are designed to count for THREE CTLE hours. To effectively achieve this time requirement, each seminar will include an asynchronous component.
- **Language Acquisition classes are shown in red.**
- **All classes count for ONE (1) District Credit.**
- **All classes start with BTRC (Buffalo Teacher Resource Center) in PGS. Classes that do not start with BTRC will not result in District Credit.**