

**MONDAY**

**9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/19**

- **BTRC and CLRI Book Study: Cultivating Genius**



- (Deborah Bertlesman) 5:00–6:00 Virtual
- This book study explores strategies for recognizing and nurturing intellectual potential in all students, with a focus on supporting gifted learners from underrepresented populations. Participants learn to challenge deficit thinking and create inclusive environments where diverse students can thrive.

- **BTRC Book Study: The ELL Teacher Toolbox**



- (Elizabeth Bell and Jamie Jones) 5:00–6:00/ Virtual
- This course equips educators with evidence-based instructional strategies and assessment tools for English Language Learners. Participants gain practical resources for scaffolding language development, differentiating instruction, and creating welcoming environments where multilingual students develop academic English proficiency.

- **BTRC and NAMI present: Mental Health Literacy, Resilience, and Suicide Prevention**



- (Molly Eldridge) 4:30–6:30/ **In person at the BTRC**
- This in-person course builds educators' knowledge of mental health conditions and equips them with practical tools to support student resilience, recognize at-risk students, and foster a school culture that prioritizes mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

- **BTRC Book Study: Supporting Students with Sensory Differences**



- (Melanie Flynn and Anita Martell) 6:00–7:00/ Virtual
- Based on Michael P. Soria's framework, this book study examines how sensory processing differences affect learning. Educators explore strategies for designing inclusive, sensory-aware classrooms that accommodate diverse sensory needs and help all students access learning more effectively.

- **BTRC: The Complete Guide to Educational Field Trips in BPS**

- (Amy Luraschi) 6:00–7:00/ Virtual
- This five-session course, led by Buffalo Public Schools' field trip expert, provides educators with a comprehensive framework for planning and executing successful educational field trips from start to finish. Participants will learn essential procedures including curriculum alignment, logistics, transportation, safety protocols, family communication, and post-trip assessment strategies.

**TUESDAY**

**9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13**

• **BTRC: iPads for Creativity**

- (Brian Meyer) 5:00–6:00/ Virtual
- iPads for Creativity is a professional development course designed to help elementary teachers integrate iPad technology into their classrooms to foster student creativity. Teachers learn practical strategies for using creative apps and tools—such as drawing, music, video, and design applications—to engage students in hands-on, imaginative learning projects. The course equips educators with classroom-ready ideas and techniques to support creative expression across subjects like art, writing, and storytelling.

• **BTRC: The Art of the Socratic Seminar & Literature Circles**

- (Jen Nielsen) 5:00–6:00/ Virtual
- This course explores facilitation techniques for leading student-centered discussions through Socratic seminars and literature circles. Participants learn to ask powerful questions, create inclusive dialogue spaces, and develop critical thinking and collaboration skills through peer-led literary exploration.

• **BTRC Book Study: Connections over Compliance**

- (Monica Capozzi and Kristina Jackson) 6:00–7:00/ Virtual
- This course emphasizes relationship-building and student agency as alternatives to traditional behavior management. Educators learn to foster meaningful connections with students, understand root causes of behavior, and create classroom cultures that prioritize trust and intrinsic motivation over compliance.



• **BTRC: Civics in Action**

- (Ryan Barrett and Rich Pyszczyk) 6:00–7:00/ Virtual
- This course engages educators in civics instruction that moves beyond textbooks to real-world civic engagement. Participants explore strategies for helping students understand their role as active citizens and develop the knowledge and skills to participate meaningfully in democratic processes.



- **BTRC: Castle Learning for NYS Assessment Prep for 3rd – 8th Grade ELA, Math, and 5th Science Teachers**
  - (Pam Littere) 5:00–6:00/ Virtual
  - This course introduces educators to the Castle Learning platform as a tool for preparing students for New York State assessments. Participants learn to use the platform's features for practice, data tracking, and targeted test preparation across ELA, Math, and Science for grades 3–8 and 5th grade science.
- **BTRC: Effective Data Collection and Progress Monitoring in Special Education**
  - (Gina O’Kussick) 5:00–6:00/ Virtual
  - This course teaches special educators how to systematically collect and analyze student data to monitor progress toward IEP goals. Participants learn practical assessment tools, data tracking methods, and strategies for using data to inform instruction and document student growth.
- **BTRC Book Study Differentiated Instruction Made Practical**
  - (Annette Miller) 6:00–7:00/ Virtual
  - This course provides educators with practical frameworks and strategies for tailoring instruction to meet diverse student needs. Participants learn to assess student readiness and learning styles, design flexible learning tasks, and implement differentiation across content, process, and product in the classroom.
- **BTRC: Engagement with Class Dojo**
  - (Andrea Christian) 6:00–7:00/ Virtual
    - This professional development course teaches educators how to use Class Dojo for classroom management and engagement. Teachers will learn to track behavior, provide real-time feedback, communicate with families, and build a positive classroom culture.
- **BTRC: BPS's LMS and Other Tools for Teachers**
  - (Kristen Harrington and Mike Linneball) 5:00–6:00/ Virtual
    - This course introduces newer teachers to Buffalo Public Schools' learning management system (Schoology) and other instructional technology tools. This is also a great refresher for veteran teachers that want to sharpen their digital skills. Participants learn to navigate the platform, manage assignments, communicate with students and families, and effectively use technology to support classroom instruction.

**NEW**

## THURSDAY

9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15

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



- (Mackenzie Pascucci) 6:00–7:00/ 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. It also includes short stories and poetic reflections that offer readers a window into Naoki's experiences and inner life.

- **BTRC Presents: The Science of Reading for Multilingual Learners**



- (Kim Kehoe and Caitlin Wohlhueter) 6:00–7:00/ Virtual
  - This course applies evidence-based reading science to support English Language Learners. Participants explore structured literacy approaches, phonemic awareness, decoding strategies, and vocabulary development tailored to multilingual students, helping educators close achievement gaps and build strong foundational reading skills.
- **Prerequisites: Participants must have completed Science of Reading (Course #35551).**

- **BTRC: The Refugee Experience in Buffalo**

- (Kelly Cooper) 6:00–7:00/ Virtual
  - This professional development course provides educators with knowledge and resources to teach about the refugee experience in Buffalo. Teachers will learn about the local refugee communities, their histories, challenges, and contributions to the region.

- **BTRC Buffalo Waterfront History– Progress Realized**



- (Rich Pyszczyk) 4:30–6:30/ In-person
  - This course engages educators in teaching local Buffalo waterfront history as a vehicle for civic engagement and community connection. Participants learn to incorporate regional history into instruction, help students understand their community's heritage, and develop projects that connect classroom learning to real-world local contexts.

## SATURDAYS

9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/17

- **BTRC and the Buffalo Museum of Science present STEAM in the Schoolyard**
  - (Anthony Eberle) 10:00–12:00/ In-person
    - This five-part indoor and outdoor workshop is appropriate for anyone interested in western New York ecology and in implementing your school outdoor space once or regularly throughout your school year for grades K to high school.
  - Location: [Tifft Nature Preserve](#) Scan QR code or click link for directions.
- **BTRC Math centers Part 1 class: PreK Weeks 1–15**
  - (Hitzges, Melissa A) 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.**



**NEW**

- **BTRC Seminar Series: Class Dojo for Elementary Teachers**



- (Molly Eldridge) 9/9 5:00–7:00

- This seminar teaches elementary educators how to use Class Dojo for classroom management, communication, and engagement. Participants learn to set up the platform, track positive behaviors, communicate with families, and use data to build a positive classroom culture.

- **BTRC Seminar Series: Class Dojo for High School Teachers**



- (Molly Eldridge) 9/10 5:00–7:00

- This seminar introduces high school educators to Class Dojo's features for secondary classrooms. Participants explore behavior tracking, family engagement tools, and data analysis strategies tailored to older students, helping create accountability and strengthen home-school communication.

- **BTRC Seminar Series: Social Studies Schoology Group**

- (Rich Pyszcsek) 9/10 5:00–7:00

- This three-hour seminar introduces participants to the resources available in the Social Studies Schoology Group. Attendees will learn how to navigate and utilize the materials and tools provided within the group to support their social studies instruction.

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

- (Tricia Andrzejewski & Tiniqueka Jackson) 10/20 5:00–8:00

- This seminar introduces educators to the concept of implicit bias and how unconscious stereotypes affect student interactions, discipline, and academic opportunities. Participants explore the neuroscience behind bias, examine personal biases, and learn foundational strategies for recognizing and mitigating bias in classroom decision-making.

- **BTRC and NYSUT present: Safe Spaces**

- (Olga Camacho & Norm Duttweiler) 10/21 5:00–8:00

- This seminar equips educators with strategies for creating physically, emotionally, and psychologically safe learning environments for all students. Participants explore trauma-informed practices, inclusive classroom norms, and techniques for building trust, belonging, and community so every student feels welcomed and supported.

**IN-PERSON SEMINARS**

- **BTRC and Just Buffalo Present: Teachers ARE Writers with Annette Daniels Taylor**
  - (Carla Stumpo) 9/10 5:30–6:30 (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.



- **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.**



## **BTRC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS REGISTRATION DETAILS**

- Registration will take place on September 2.
  - Registration forms can be submitted after 8:00 p.m. on September 2.
  - 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.
  - If you have any questions, you can email [meldridge@buffaloschools.org](mailto:meldridge@buffaloschools.org) or jump into the [BTRC Teams Help Desk](#) which will be open from 9:00–3:00 on September 2.
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- 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.