

Educator's Voice

NYSUT'S JOURNAL OF BEST PRACTICES IN EDUCATION

VOLUME VIII, SPRING 2015

Included in this issue:

Welcome from Catalina R. Fortino

Inquiry-Based Learning: Preparing
Young Learners for the Demands
of the 21st Century

Developing Mathematical Thinking
in the 21st Century

How Modes of Expression
in the Arts Give Form
to 21st Century Skills

21st Century Real-World Robotics

"Caution, this will NOT be on
the test!" Expedition Earth Science
Prepares Students for
the 21st Century

Engaging Critical Thinking Skills with
Learners of the Special Populations

Music Performance Ensembles:
A Platform for Teaching
the 21st Century Learner

What is L.I.T.T.O.?
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Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving for the 21st Century Learner

In this issue ...

Authors go beyond teaching the three R's. Critical thinking and problem-solving for the 21st century learner means preparing students for a global society that has become defined by high speed communications, complex and rapid change, and increasing diversity. It means engaging students to use multiple strategies when solving a problem, to consider differing points of view, and to explore with many modalities.

This issue showcases eight different classrooms teaching critical thinking through inquiry and expedition, poetry and music. Authors investigate ways to make teaching and learning authentic, collaborative and hands-on. Students learn to problem solve by building working robots and go beyond rote memorization in math through gamification. Early learners use art to generate their own haiku, or journals to document their experiences with nature, and high school students learn earth science through outdoor investigations. Students in these classrooms are engaged in learning through Socratic dialogue, project based explorations, in-depth observation, critique and self-directed learning. It is a collection that demonstrates best practices for all learners who, as future citizens, will play a critical role in defining the knowledge society.

A PUBLICATION IN SUPPORT OF NYSUT'S INITIATIVE TO END THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

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Dear Colleagues,

I am happy to announce that *Educator's Voice*, NYSUT's Journal of Best Practices in Education, is going digital. We are moving from our print publication to one that can be accessed through a variety of digital devices, so we can go wherever you go. Beginning with our first mailer that includes a QR code allowing readers to pull up the entire journal on a Smartphone or tablet, to our new interactive Web features, we are embracing 21st century technology.

While *Educator's Voice* will no longer be offered in print, we are expanding our online features to make the journal a more interactive and accessible experience for you, our readers. Our goal is to reach as many of you as possible, to make *Educator's Voice* available to all of our NYSUT members across the state. The use of multiple forms of technology will enable us to share these innovative classroom practices more broadly.

One of the new interactive functions "Educator to Educator" allows readers to post a comment to any of our authors. Tell them your reactions to the article or describe how you adapted the ideas in your own classroom. We are also introducing our featured author's video interviews. Learn more about an article of interest in a 3-4 minute video presentation from a selected author.

Please join us in celebrating these exciting changes. Share the link to our website, download the PDF's to your computer or mobile devices, and share your feedback with the authors. Help us to make *Educator's Voice* a true 21st century member-to-member experience.

Sincerely,

Catalina R. Fortino
Vice President, NYSUT

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