



Holiday Cheer

Happy Holidays from all of us at Student Achievement Partners! Although this time of year can be busy with shopping, cooking, parties, family gatherings and indulgences of all kinds, we hope you'll find peace, joy, and love this holiday season. As always, we are grateful for all you do on behalf of students and look forward to partnering with you in 2017!

Jump to December 2016 Highlights

[Released PARCC Items](#)

[Register now for the January webinar, *Make the Work, Work!*](#)

[Strategies for Supporting Struggling Learners](#)

Resources

Classroom Connections

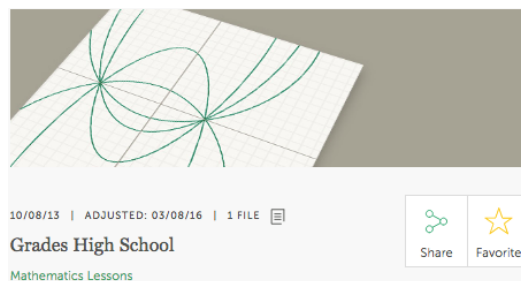
Fluency in reading

Need to know more about reading fluency? [This three-part series](#) on *Aligned*, authored by experts David Liben and David Paige, highlights what reading fluency is, how teachers can support students to build reading fluency, and precisely how determine a student's individual fluency needs. Improve your students' fluency by checking it out now!

Math Lessons

Did you know that [Achieve the Core](#) houses sample mathematics lessons for

all grade levels? You'll find teacher notes, student handouts, and commentary about each lesson [here](#). All lessons are aligned to the [Major Work of the Grade](#). Be sure to bookmark this great resource!



Released PARCC items

Looking for realistic examples of Standards-aligned assessment items? The [PARCC](#) assessment consortium recently released items from the 2015–2016 assessment (enough for approximately one full test per grade in grades 3–8). The items (in PDF format) are accompanied by a scoring rubric and an explanation of what standards are being test in each item. Check them out [here](#).

Looking for Lunar Ice Mini-Assessment

Did you know that December 11, 1972 was the last time men landed on the moon? Find out what has happened in lunar exploration since, and see how your students are doing in accessing and responding to grade-level text in this [grade 5 ELA mini-assessment](#).

Your Own Learning

Webinars

January Webinar

Join us on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm EST to consider ways to "Make the Work, Work" in your upcoming instructional advocacy efforts. We'll feature actions that Core Advocates have taken this year around instructional practice, materials, and assessments, and will provide specific ideas for how you can take action in your setting. Register today by clicking [here](#), and invite your colleagues to join as well.

[Register](#)

Math Mini-Course – Instructional Practice Toolkit

The math team at Student Achievement Partners is excited to offer its second mini-course: Practicing with the Instructional Practice Toolkit (IPT). Course participants will take a deep dive into a video taped math lesson with an exploration of the IPC: Coaching Tool and Beyond the Lesson Guide, as well as an analysis of the lesson plan and student work attributed to that lesson. The course begins on January 30th and lasts six weeks. Apply to participate [here](#).

In the News

Core Advocates at NCTE

Tricia Ebner and Char Shryock led a half-day workshop at the 2016 National Council of Teachers of English annual convention. Their presentation focused on leading literacy coaching with the [Instructional Practice Guides](#). The ELA coordinator for the Arizona Department of Education attended and says he intends to take this information back to his department. Thanks for sharing your expertise, Tricia and Char!



We need YOU to write for Aligned

Do you use one of the textbooks reviewed by [EdReports](#)? If so, we want to hear YOUR perspective! We're looking for teachers to write short (~500 words) blog posts about their experience working with and adapting these materials to align to college- and career- ready standards. To see an example, read [Everyday Math: Small Routines Build Bigger Understanding](#) by Core Advocate Bethany Lockhart and watch for future posts from Bethany on the [Aligned blog](#). If you're interested in writing a post on your textbook, please [email Claire Rivero](#) for more details.

Bulletin Board

Share your proud moments

The holidays are a time to celebrate. We want to take time this holiday season to congratulate everyone on the awesome things they've accomplished with their students in 2016. We need to know what to celebrate though! [Send us](#) things you're proud of (for example: "My students love independent reading now" or "All of my students knew their addition facts by the end of the year") and we'll be sharing them on social media throughout the holiday season on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Watch for yours! Email submissions to crivero@studentsachieve.net.

Core Advocates at NCTM 2017

Are you attending the national [NCTM conference](#) in San Antonio this April? We would love for you to join us for a Core Advocate social gathering or Happy Hour! Share your information with us [here](#) and we'll be in touch with more information in the upcoming months.

Fishman Prize nominations open

Great teachers deserve recognition. TNTP's [Fishman Prize](#) honors 100 inspiring public school teachers each year for their ability to create challenging and engaging classrooms for all of their students. Four winners receive \$25,000 and six finalists receive \$1,000. Please nominate a great teacher by clicking [here](#) today!

Upcoming Events

January 7–8, 2017
Connecticut Core Advocate Catalysts
Convening
Hartford, CT

January 21–22, 2017
Ohio Core Advocate Catalysts Convening
Columbus, OH

February 11–12, 2017
Colorado Core Advocate Catalysts
Convening
Location TBD

May 6–7, 2017
May Core Advocates Convening
Denver, CO



Showcasing Our Network

Question of the Month

This Month

Which of your teachers inspired you most and why?

Submit for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card

Last Month

Question: What resources do you find helpful in supporting writing instruction?

Winning Answer: "I am using Graff and Birkenstein's *They Say/I Say* models and am seeing a big improvement in how students incorporate and comment on evidence from sources. I highly recommend this resource!"

–Carina Stillman

Other Noteworthy Answers:

"[LearnZillion's WriteAlong!](#) Though I might be biased since some of my lessons are on there."

–Jeremy Thompson

"*Nonfiction Mentor Texts: Teaching Informational Writing Through Children's Literature, K–8* by Lynne R. Dorfman and Rose Cappelli, because it helps me integrate mentor texts into my reading, writing, social studies, and science lessons through writing lessons and

projects."
-Beth Maloney

Showcasing Instructional Advocacy

Meet the Ohio State Captain

Char Shryock is the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Bay Village City Schools. She has also served as the state lead for the Ohio PARCC Educator Leader Cadre, and was the OWG Chair for the PARCC Non-Summative Speaking and Listening Tools project. This past year, she was awarded the Golden Oak Award for advocacy by the Ohio PTA for her work advocating for high standards and quality assessments for all children. Char acts as a field supervisor for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's summer archaeological field school. She likes spending time with her family on the beaches of Lake Erie and Isle of Palms, South Carolina.



Supporting Students Who Struggle

Core Advocate Bryan Drost recently wrote a [post for the Aligned blog](#) with ideas for supporting students who haven't been positioned to be successful with grade-level mathematics and complex texts. Bryan shares specific strategies that you can use in your classroom this week. Thanks for the helpful information, Bryan!

Share what you're doing

Social Media Spotlight



Hannah Campbell @JCS_Campbell · Nov 6

Today's conversation around the literacy shifts: Don't tailor the text, tailor the instruction. [#coreadvocates](#)



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NV Core Advocates @NVCoreAdvocates · Nov 19

Expert educators + hundreds of hours reviewing instructional materials = reviews worth paying attention to! @EdReports #coreadvocates



achievethecore.org @achievethecore
 Planning on adapting your instructional materials? Use @EdReports' reviews to inform your modifications!
bit.ly/1RbyydD

← ↻ 6 ❤️ 5 ⋮

🔄 Jana Bryant, NBCT and 1 other Retweeted



Amy Deslattes @amy_deslattes · Dec 3

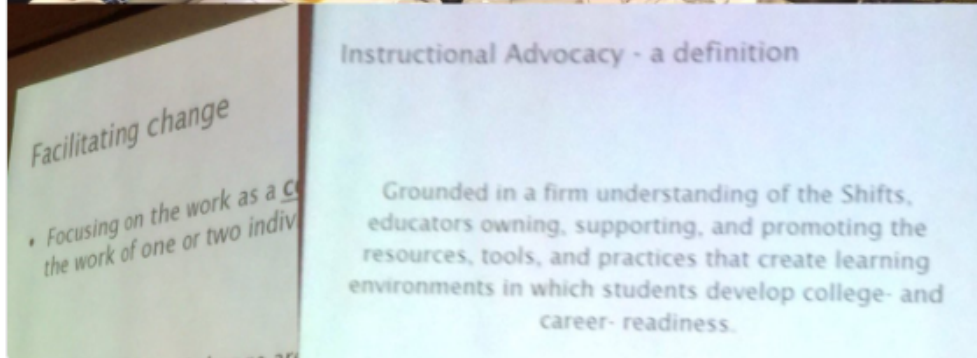
Until we get scripted kids, scripted curriculum never works @salberti #coreadvocates

← ↻ 10 ❤️ 19 ⋮



Angie Miller @mrsmillerg1 · Dec 4

So inspired by CO instructional advocates leading change! Love working w/ this team! @JJCuthy #coreadvocates



← ↻ 4 ❤️ 11 ⋮



Bev Davis @BevDavis6 · Dec 2

3rd grade at BCS loves learning about different topics. #coreadvocates



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