You've probably been hearing a lot about PBS LearningMedia lately. We know that some of this information might be confusing, so we wanted to assure you that VITAL NY is not going away. In fact, VITAL, which has been hosted on the Teacher's Domain platform, is moving to a new, improved and much larger home - PBS LearningMedia.

In the coming weeks, you will be receiving information from PBS LearningMedia to introduce you to the features of the new service. We want to make sure you understand that VITAL is now the NY edition of the PBS LearningMedia service. As a result of this move to the PBS LearningMedia platform, VITAL will have all of the features and resources currently available, plus a lot more!

Although most existing VITAL resources are now available on the PBS LearningMedia platform, we encourage you and your students to continue using VITAL on the Teacher's Domain platform through the end of this school year. That way, you can explore the new PBS LearningMedia platform at your own pace over the next few months, with no disruption to your teaching. After June 30, VITAL will only be available on the PBS LearningMedia platform.
Big News

Registering for your workshops with BOCES ISS just got a little easier. We now have My Learning Plan. When you login be sure to look for the Oneida BOCES trainings. If you do not see our trainings please have your My Learning Plan administrator contact us. If your district does not have My Learning Plan, no problem—just login and create an account and you can still register. We still have openings for some of our current workshops. Click below to register.

New ISS Trainings

- 4/18 Google PowerSearch—Westmoreland Elementary Library
- 4/23 Google Docs & Forms—Training Lab @ Instructional Support Services
- 5/1 Web Tools for Professionals—Westmoreland Elementary Library
- 5/8 Search for Success—Westmoreland Elementary Library
- 5/15 Twitter (via WebEx)
- 5/16 EVERNOTE—Conference Room @ Instructional Support Services
- 5/21 Tools For Engaging Young Readers (via WebEx)

Top 10 Streaming Titles in Learn360

1. Continents and Oceans of Our World from Academic Media Network
2. Real World Science: Matter from Mazzarella Media
3. The Roaring Twenties from Media Rich
4. Ruth Law Thrills a Nation from Reading Rainbow
5. Barack Obama from A&E Television Networks
6. Fractions and All Their Parts: Part 1 from Allied Video Corporation
8. Berenstain Bears - Bears for All Seasons from Nelvana
9. Jean Fritz: Six Revolutionary War Figures from Weston Woods

COMING SOON

A New Look for BrainPOP Educators

Be on the lookout for some exciting changes on BrainPOP Educators. In the next few weeks, our free professional community will debut a shiny new homepage with significantly improved navigation. Our goal is to refine the BrainPOP Educators experience for you while providing a continually growing breadth of support resources. As always, we welcome your thoughts. Send us an Email and tell us what you think.

ISS Training Workshops

Top 10 Streaming Titles in Learn360

1. Continents and Oceans of Our World from Academic Media Network
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3. The Roaring Twenties from Media Rich
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6. Fractions and All Their Parts: Part 1 from Allied Video Corporation
8. Berenstain Bears - Bears for All Seasons from Nelvana
9. Jean Fritz: Six Revolutionary War Figures from Weston Woods
10. History’s Secrets: The Real George Washington from National Geographic

Be sure to look on Learn360’s full 2013 webinar schedule to find all training sessions.

Login to SNAP to view these resources!
Media Literacy Project Grant

Purpose of the grant:
• Support educators who provide resources and services that correlate to state and national learning standards for instructional excellence promoting media literacy.
• To provide funds for research projects or demonstration projects that can be replicated in other areas across the state and nation.

Amount of Grant: This grant is for $1,000 for a period of one year.

Examples include:
• A media literacy course held after school
• Learning about the effective creation and use of media in student work
• Using video effectively in your lesson plans

Qualifications:
Working with K-12 students
New York State Educator

Application Process:
The application process shall include submission of the application by May 24, 2013. A committee will select a recipient by June 14, 2013, and the project will be completed between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. Seventy-five percent of the award will be presented at the time of notification of the award. A written report will be submitted and a presentation of the project will be given at the EMTA Spring 2014 conference prior to receiving the final 25 percent of the award. Recipients are required to attend the EMTA Spring 2014 meeting. Recipients are encouraged to present a poster session about their project at the 2013 NYSCATE conference.

Visit the following link to check out the application: [http://www.edmediatech.org/grant.cfm](http://www.edmediatech.org/grant.cfm)

Log On and Learn

Join us this month for one of our free webinars, offering something for everyone. Our friends at netTrekker Search/Knovation join us on the 10th for an exploration of multiple intelligences and the development of corresponding learning paths. POPstar Lisa Parisi is with us on the 17th for the second of her three-part series. She’ll share tips and tricks for integrating technology while still meeting curricular demands. Don’t miss Drs. Karen Trujillo and Barbara Chamberlin, of New Mexico State University, on the 24th. They’ll introduce Math Snacks, a collection of games and animations designed to address math learning gaps in grades 5-7. [Click the link below](http://www.brainpop.com/educators/webinars/) to get the details and RSVP; space is limited.

Questions or comments about our webinar series? Get in touch.
Contact Theresa VanHatten (tvanhatten@oneida-boces.org).
noodle news

The School Library System purchased a consortium-wide subscription to NoodleTools for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year and for the 2013-2014 school year. If you are not familiar with NoodleTools, it is a web-based research platform designed for use with students from grades four and up. This is a product that students will be able to use through their college years. It provides citation tools, paperless note-taking and outlining, and a collaborative platform for students working on teams and for student/teacher feedback.

We have organized training sessions, so that you can get to know NoodleTools if you are not already using it, or become more adept with the product and share your experiences.

On July 15 we will host a full day (five hour) workshop, “Collaborating with your School Librarian: Prepare your Students for College Level Research Projects.” We are encouraging teachers and librarians to come in teams; however this is not a requirement for registration and participation in the class. Emily Gibson will explore NoodleTools in depth during that workshop, so that participants will be able to integrate it into their teaching. Register early for these workshops! NoodleTools can be found through your SEARCH for Success log in. If you have any questions, contact Mary McCormick for more information.

Alternative Titles for ELA Units

If I don’t have access to the titles listed in the NYS ELA units (gr. 3-5) what can I use instead? Is this really the best book for this unit? I like this book better...can I use it? Librarians across the state are fielding questions like these on a daily basis. In an effort to assist librarians with these questions and to keep everyone from reinventing the wheel, The School Library System Association of NY (SLSA) is setting up teams of school librarians across the state to create lists of alternative titles.

Each SLS that agrees to take part in this project will be assigned a specific module. That SLS Director will gather a team of librarians from their service to pull the module apart and create a list of alternate titles that will work just as well - or better than - the titles listed in the unit. These lists will be compiled in one location and shared across the state. More information will be forthcoming as the project moves forward. If you are interested in working on the module 3a, Perspectives - Simple Machines, with the O/H SLS group, please contact Mary McCormick.

Interlibrary Loan News

The Ilion Junior Senior High School is under renovation, and is closed for out of district lending. The library will continue to make requests of other districts. Please support Steve Inzer and the students at Ilion during the renovation!
My Learning Plan

All Instructional Support Services (Media Services, School Library System and Science Center) classes and workshop registrations are now being done through the My Learning Plan program. Our classes are listed in the OHM BOCES Catalog. We will continue to create flyers for all of our classes, so that you can consider the workshops yourself and share the information with your staff in a pleasant, visual manner. When you view the flyers online, there is a hyperlink included (“My Learning Plan”) that will take you directly to the catalog, so that you can register easily.

If your district already purchases My Learning Plan you are certainly familiar with the product, and with the registration process. However, if you are in a district that is not using My Learning Plan, you may need to register as a user. There is no cost to you or your district to do this. If you are a first time user, you can register for a class and create an account at the same time. Simply click on the class title, scroll to the “I’m a New User” option, complete the form, and then logout. This will register you for the class and create your account in MLP.

NY 3Rs

You may have heard of the 3Rs – the library system that serves all kinds of libraries – academic, specialty, public, and school. There are nine in the state. We (Oneida/Herkimer SLS) belong to the Central New York Library Resource Council (CLRC). About a year ago, members of the 3Rs banded together and formed the NY 3Rs Association in order to better leverage and organize state-wide efforts. They are working on better pricing and more equitable services for libraries and their patrons throughout the state.

NY 3Rs Association, Inc. comprises nine Reference and Research Library Resources multi-type systems in New York state. Members of the nine NY 3Rs include both individual libraries – academic, special, hospital libraries, and public libraries – and other library systems. Additionally, all the public and school library systems in the state are members of their regional NY 3Rs. The mission of NY 3Rs Association, Inc. is to ensure and support interlibrary sharing of resources – print and electronic – among all kinds of libraries and to ensure equal access to information for all New Yorkers. NY 3Rs Association, Inc. provides a range of support services to our members – continuing education, access to electronic resources, services to the health care community, consulting, digitizing, information technologies, and advocacy. NY 3Rs Association, Inc. does collectively what their constituent libraries and library systems cannot do individually, or what can be done better together. By identifying resources and developing structure and mechanisms for sharing those resources among users of all types of libraries, NY 3Rs Association, Inc. opens worlds of knowledge and information to millions of students, teachers, researchers, and citizens from all walks of life and economic backgrounds. NY 3Rs is governed by a locally elected Board of Trustees and has substantial input from member libraries through a robust committee structure; and each receives operating and special program aid from the State of New York, along with locally generated funds. Be on the lookout for their logo on certain items forwarded to you by the O/H SLS from professional development events to the Ask 24/7 virtual reference service.
The science center is continuing to add titles to the SNAP catalogue. Please take advantage of the titles that may support class or small group reads related to your content. If you do not see a title, please send an Email: sciencecenter@oneida-boces.org or call the science center at 315.793.8590 to see if we have any inventory to make available. We are working on providing a stronger correlation between the books included in the kits and the kit content. Your feedback is welcomed on titles to retain, omit, or order new. The updated titles can be found within your BrainHoney account. Check on the specific kit you are interested in reviewing and the book titles can be found in the folder titled “Order Multiple Books.” You can also look for a direct link by accessing SNAP. Thank you!

Animal Characteristics: Guinea Pigs

The OHM BOCES Science Center is re-evaluating the Animal Characteristics: Guinea Pig kit. Please provide feedback as to your current usage of the kit to the science center as we continue to make final decisions for the 2013-2014 schedule.

Ordering Kits for the 2013-2014 School Year

The OHM BOCES Science Center is finalizing the 2013-2014 schedule as the newsletter is being published. Orders will commence Wednesday May 1. In the meantime, if you are a new teacher or new to the science kits, you may register to order your kits at any time; however, if you received kits in the 2012-2013 school year YOU DO NOT NEED TO RE-REGISTER. Please be assured that you are in the system. If you’ve changed schools or grade levels, please be in touch with the science center at 793.8590. In the event you can’t remember your password, please don’t reregister – just contact the science center. You may also Email jdangler@oneida-boces.org and we can help you out.
Standard and Curriculum Development

This has been a busy year for the implementation of new standards for the entire state. As in English and math, there are new national standards being formulated for science. The Next Generation Science Standards are currently in an evaluation period before a final draft of the Standards is published. New York, a lead state partner in the development of the Next Generation Science Standards, will “give serious consideration to adopting the resulting Next Generation Science Standards as presented.” As the OHM BOCES Science Center works towards a program revamp we are committed to making staged improvement to kit content and dissemination to provide a seamless and supported transition to the new content. When the standards are formalized, we will create a realigned scope and sequence that will reflect the changing standards to best support our kit subscribers. We strive to meet the local, state, and national standards for science, as well as ELA, math, and social studies to provide meaningful curricular connection points.

This endeavor will require support from our kit users. We welcome your input in the process. Please be in touch if you would like to be part of the teams that redefine our curriculums.

Potting Soil

We listen! Many teachers have commented that the potting soil currently in the kits is too dry. We now have a new supplier of potting soil, and hopefully you will find it easier to work with. If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please contact the science center at 793.8590. There are 15 distinct types of seeds in the science kits. This winter, we tested all 15 varieties in the new soil with full germination.