
2-2021

Education on Boyer 4th Newsletter - Feb 2021

Education Department

Follow this and additional works at: https://mosaic.messiah.edu/edu_st



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Permanent URL: https://mosaic.messiah.edu/edu_st/13

Sharpening Intellect | Deepening Christian Faith | Inspiring Action

Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

EDUCATION ON Boyer 4th

The campus newsletter of the Messiah University Education Department

Issue 6 | February 2021



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

New Certificate Available to
Juniors and Seniors

DR. DORMER'S NEW BOOK

"Language Learning in
Ministry"

MATH ANXIETY

Zach Andrews' PAMLE
Presentation

In Every Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT, TECHNOLOGY CORNER, PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD, PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT, ALUMNI ADVICE, DEVOTIONAL, UPCOMING EVENTS



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DR. TINA KELLER

Puppy Love

February 2021

It all began with an essay entitled 'Why I should get a dog by Eme Keller.' My daughter crafted a masterpiece filled with persuasion, emotion and a factual basis that was irresistible. She provided examples, appealed to her skeptical readers and tugged at the heart strings. I don't know what they are doing in the 5th grade writing curriculum at Cumberland Valley, but it's working!

Behold the power of the word to melt even the coldest of hearts.

My husband agreed and here we are; a puppy in the Keller house! I honestly never believed that we would have a family dog, let alone a puppy that sits on our couch and sleeps in our beds (and has accidents on our floors.)

So my friends, as we journey together this semester and as you approach your writing tasks, think of the mighty 5th grader that won the battle and got her dog. May her victory give you hope that you too can accomplish anything with a well written essay!

All the best,

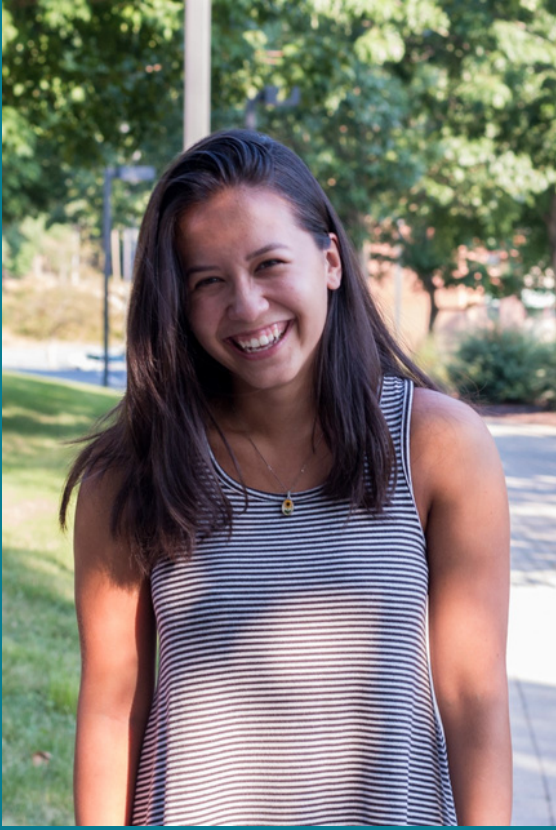
Dr. Keller



On the Cover:

Taylor Derham teaching first grade in Bermudian Springs. (and loving every minute of it!)

Congratulations to Julianna Chen who was recently awarded the Anita Voelker Literacy Award!



"The Anita Voelker Literacy Award helped me work towards enacting change by introducing other teachers to the issue of lack of representation in text and inspiring others on the journey of empowering our students through literacy. Diverse groupings of books were distributed to local classrooms in different grade levels. My hope was that these texts would be used in the classroom as not only a mirror for kids to see themselves, but also a lens through which others could understand the narratives around them."

These were the books purchased with the award. See the breakdown of how they were used below.



Middle School/High School Art: Harrisburg Christian School, Mr. Dean Velez

Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines, Harvey, Jeanne Walker
Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, Steptoe, Javaka

7th grade: Mechanicsburg Middle School, Mrs. Chloe George

Merci Suárez Changes Gears, Medina, Meg
The Parker Inheritance (Scholastic Gold), Johnson, Varian

2nd Grade: Upper Allen Elementary School, Mrs. Megan King

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family, Muhammad, Ibtihaj
The Day You Begin, Woodson, Jacqueline
You Matter, Robinson, Christian

After School Program in Harrisburg: through the Journey Church, contact Ms. Christie Miller

The Lorax (Classic Seuss), Dr. Seuss
Rock Star #1 (Jada Jones), Lyons, Kelly Starling

Scholarships

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE 12:00 NOON ON THE LAST THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY

Ethel Brandt Bigham Endowed Education Award

All PK-4 and Grades 4-8 juniors with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60 and a desire to teach in an urban or rural setting are encouraged to apply for this approximately \$1200 award.

Ernest L. Boyer, Sr. Teacher Scholarship

All current Teacher Education Program students (all certification programs) in their junior year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60 and an outstanding record of community service and leadership are invited to apply for this \$3000 award.

Suzanne Joy Johnson Endowed Scholarship Award

All current Teacher Education Program students (preference given to PK-4 and Grades 4-8 majors) in their junior year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60 and demonstrated dynamic interpersonal skills are invited to apply for this award (approximately \$1300).

Terry L. Stoudnour Endowed Education Award

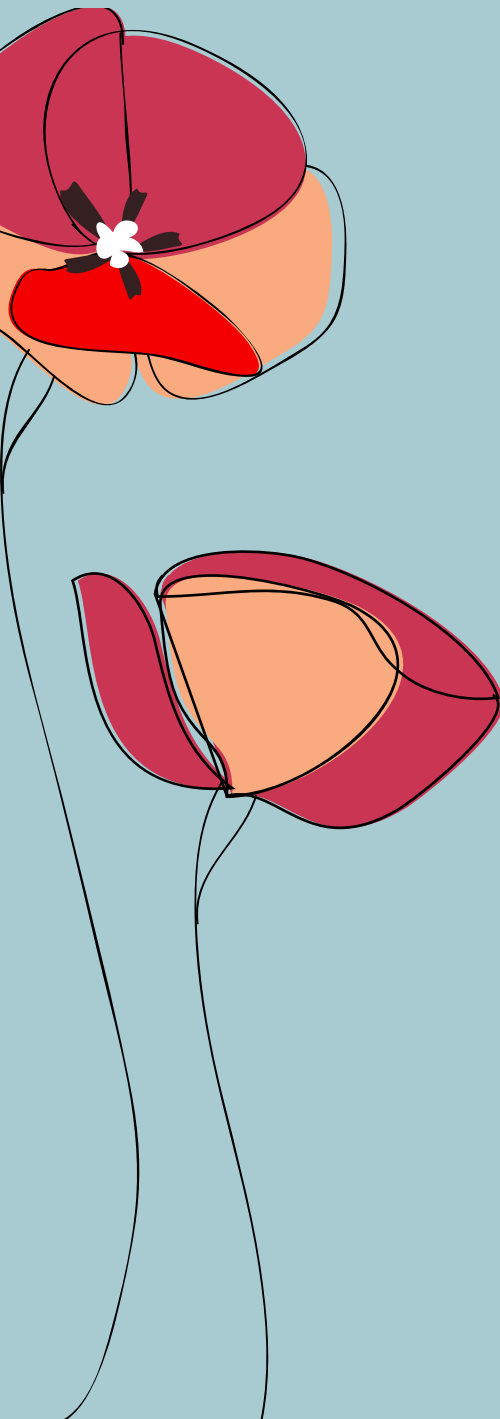
All current Teacher Education Program students (all certification programs) in their junior year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60, an exemplary record of leadership, service, ethical standards, and academic achievement are invited to apply for this approximately \$1400 award.

Murk-Hayes Endowed Education Award

The award is open to candidates of any Messiah University teacher certification program and seeks to recognize a teacher certification candidate who has a demonstrated interest and capacity for serving K-12 educators in urban contexts (approximately \$1000).

[Click Here for the applications](#)

All of these awards are add-on awards. They will be added to, not substituted for, any financial aid the recipient already receives. Award amounts may vary slightly, based on market performance.





Youth Mental Health First Aid Opportunity

by Dr. Jennifer Fisler

Messiah's Teacher Education juniors and seniors will have an important opportunity this spring and in future semesters. They will be able to earn a certificate as a Youth Mental Health First Aider.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders. (<https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/population-focused-modules/youth/>)

Dr. Fisler and Mrs. McGill completed a three-day training workshop to certify them to train students and others in youth mental health first aid. This topic is of critical importance for our students as they prepare for future roles as teachers, parents, and community members interacting with youth. Many will likely find immediate application of the training as they interact with peers and engage in service to youth in church and other community settings. We look forward to sharing what we have learned with our students in order to better equip them to serve the children and adolescents in their spheres of influence. The first training will be offered at a date to be determined later this semester.

Pictured is Algee the Koala. ALGEE is an acronym for the critical aspects of youth mental health first aid: Approach/Assess, Listen Non-judgmentally, Give Information and Support, Encourage Appropriate Professional Help, Encourage Self-Help and other Support Strategies.

DEVOTIONAL

A MONTHLY DEVOTION WRITTEN BY MESSIAH
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION SENIORS



Love

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. - 1 John 4:16

I pick up my Bible. I run my fingers over its smooth leather cover. A smile creeps its way onto my lips. This Bible was bought for me when I was baptized in my church six years ago. A woman named Melissa Hintze, a mom, bought it for me. She drove me to Seminary classes every morning in High School. On mornings when I had an attitude, she reminded me of how she was proud of me for being there. She baked me something sweet and homemade every time I came to her house. She hugged me tight and told me how much she loved me every time I saw her. She was one of the first people to show me God's love. I thumb through my Bible's thin white pages, letting the gentle swish of each page fill my small bedroom. I find myself at the index, looking for a four letter word. I trace my finger down the L column until I find it.

L-O-V-E.

Line upon line of references and scriptures fill the rest of the column. A quick Google search leads me to learn that love is mentioned over 300 times in the Bible.

And when I think more about it, the Bible is a story of Love. It is a written testament of God's love going forth and changing the hearts of the world along with miracles and acts that were rooted in deep love to affect all later generations.

No act shows greater love than our Heavenly Father sending His Son to die on the cross for us. For future generations who could never repay Him for his ultimate sacrifice - a testament of unconditional and matchless love.

The more I learn about God, I cannot separate the word 'love' from my thoughts about Him. It tastes like sweet honey when I speak about His kindness, His devotion, His unwillingness to let me flounder in the face of trial.

Love.

He is the reason for the word. He is the author and origin of its meaning.

Written by Kellie Drobenak
Early Childhood Education (PreK-4)





Dr. Anita Voelker
Professor Emerita of Education

ANITA VOELKER

Literacy Research Award

**OPEN TO ALL EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT STUDENTS**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PRESENTING
AT A CONFERENCE, COMPLETING
HONORS RESEARCH, OR CONDUCTING
A SERVICE ORIENTED LITERACY
PROJECT?

Funding is Available

Applications can be
found here

Or Talk with Dr. Keller

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We can't wait to see you there!

ACCEPTED STUDENT PREVIEW DAY

Welcome

MARCH 8TH

PARTICIPATE ONLINE OR ON CAMPUS

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Special Education Choices

at Messiah University

Serving the Least of These Matthew 25:40

There are **THREE** ways to pursue Special Education at Messiah University! For full details please see the webpages for each option.



To earn teaching certification in BOTH Special Education and Early Childhood Education, choose the major in

Education with Dual Certification in PreK-4th and Special Education PreK-12th

Field placements across grade ranges, regular, and special education

Student teach in Special Education, Special Education Internship

<https://www.messiah.edu/education-major-with-dual-teaching-certification-in-grades-prek-4-and-special-education-prek-8-pennsylvania>

Good option for flexible choices in teaching career, preparing to serve children with disabilities in regular or special education settings.



To earn teaching certification in ONLY Special Education choose the major in

Special Education N-12 with Teaching Certification PreK-12th

Field placements across grade ranges, regular, and special education

Student teach in Special Education, Special Education Internship

<https://www.messiah.edu/special-education-grades-n-12-with-teaching-certification-in-grades-prek-12>

Good option for teaching specializing in high school special education, or more severe disabilities, or for careers in agencies or hospital early intervention, etc.



If interested in serving individuals with disabilities without teaching certification in special education, you might enjoy the

Minor in Special Education

Develop expertise from 18-21 credits of study, with no field placement requirements

<https://www.messiah.edu/special-education-minor-pennsylvania>

Good option for preparing to teach regular education with expertise in serving children with disabilities, or for disability-related work through agencies or government.

Messiah University also offers a minor in **Speech and Language Pathology**.



Messiah University also offers a minor in **Disability and Family Wellness**.



Declaring a major or minor at Messiah University is easy! Complete an on-line form at:

https://www.messiah.edu/info/23421/forms_f_or_current_students/4140/update_majormin_orconcert

Who can help me decide?

See Dr. Melinda Burchard, Coordinator of Special Education, mburchard@messiah.edu, your academic advisor, or anyone in the Career and Professional Development Center.

HEARD IN THE CLASSROOM

What are we talking about this month?



KARI LARSEN

In Middle Level Methods, we are diving into not only how to be great teachers of our specific content area but how to constantly make sure that we are being great and passionate teachers who are always putting our students first. Since students in this age group are going through so many significant changes, we are learning how to adapt our classrooms and teaching styles in order to meet all the needs of young adolescents.



MOLLY FRIED

In Sociocultural Perspectives in Education I am gaining new insights on how to promote pluralism in classrooms and in the community. I really enjoy learning under Professor Mfum-Mensah as we study the influences things like race, class, ethnicity, religion, and others have on learning.

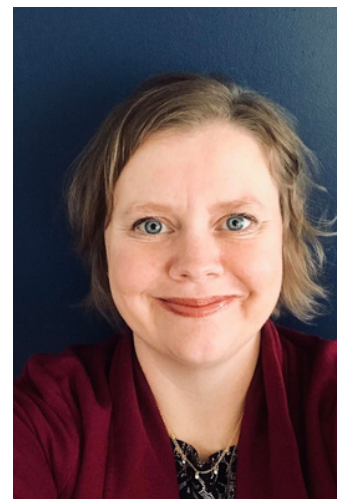


MEGAN LOOMIS

"In my Math Methods class Dr. Buckley is teaching us about activities we can use one day in our classrooms. I believe we're going to have to teach both online and in person and Dr. Buckley is helping to prepare us for that. She will present us topics or activities for the classroom and then ask us how we would change them to work virtually which I have really enjoyed."

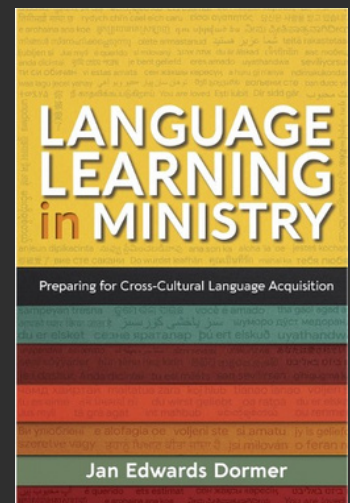
TRENDS IN THE FIELD

The Biden-Harris Administration has proposed Miguel Cardona to lead the U.S. Department of Education. The TESOL organization stated, "A former teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent, Cardona's first language was Spanish. His background as a bilingual speaker will be an invaluable asset to English language teachers and learners across the United States" Dr. Cardona wrote his dissertation entitled, "Sharpening the Focus of Political Will to Address Achievement Disparities, studied the gaps between English-language learners and their classmates." I for one, am excited to see how he uses his experience to shape policy and in turn, the lives of all children, including English Learners!



Check Out this New Book!

Congratulations to Dr. Dormer on the release of her new book: "Language Learning in Ministry"



Dr. Dormer experienced language learning growing up as an MK and then being a missionary in her adult life. If you have any plans to be a missionary or go to work in another country, but are afraid to learn a new language, you should definitely check this book out!

In this book she gives special attention to language development of children and the needs of the family, including schooling options and opportunities for MKs, personal application that walks the reader through

decision-making processes to chart a path for success in language learning, rich resources such as language proficiency scales, language learning methodologies, and online resources, and a complete task-based language learning curriculum that can be adapted to any language.

Click on one of the links below to purchase this wonderful book!



Language Learning in Ministry
"Chart a Path for Language Success
Are you excited to minister in another country?
shoptheword.com



Language Learning in Ministry
[DESCRIPTION] Chart a Path for
Language Success Are you excited to...
missionbooks.org

Are you looking to find a community of educators committed to serving Christ and sharing His goodness? Then you should definitely check out this virtual conference!

it's called... CELT!

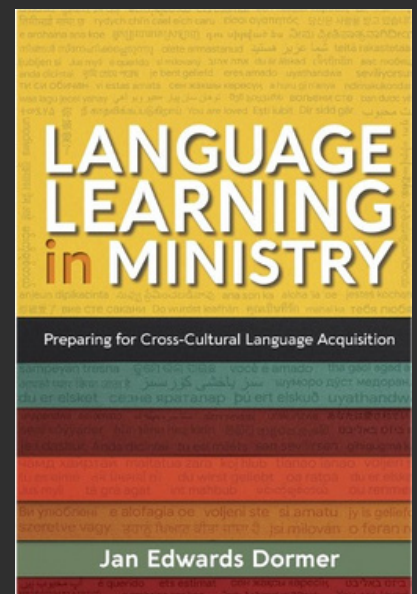
The Christians in English Language Teaching Conference is happening virtually for the 2021 year. It will be held on March 5-6 2021 from 1:00-5:00 pm PST (4:00-8:00 EST)

The Christian English Language Educators Association (CELEA) says the theme of the conference this year is, "Imago Dei: Celebrating the Beauty and Benefits of Diversity. Every human being has been created in the image of God, wonderfully created to think rationally, to create, and to fulfill personal potential. At the same time, each human being on earth is beautifully unique, contributing to the world in a way no one else can. This year at the CELT Virtual Conference, let's reflect on how diversity, in all its facets, including culture, perspectives, geographic locations, ages, identities, and language teaching contexts, all contribute to bring us so much beauty and so many benefits." Membership in CELEA is free for students and registration for the conference is only \$15!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celt-christians-in-english-language-teaching-conference-2021-tickets-129102943379>

and...

Dr. Jan Dormer will be giving a plenary talk on the topic of her book (featured above) on the second day of the conference, March 6th!





DR. SARAH FISCHER

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Office: Boyer 407

Email: sfischer@messiah.edu

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE VERSE AND WHY

One of my favorite verses is Jeremiah 29:7:

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (ESV)

I love this verse, because it really represents the way I personally connect faith and teaching. I really believe in place-based pedagogies and it's because God has taught me about His desire for His people to generously share His love and hope with our local communities rather than just focusing on our own personal success and gain. Place-based teaching is about the same thing! It prioritizes learning experiences that give students opportunities to better appreciate and serve their communities.

IF I WASN'T A PROFESSOR I WOULD BE...

This is an easy one for me! If I wasn't a professor, I would be a park ranger at a National Park. In fact, I spent a summer while I was teaching working as a park ranger at Fort Necessity National Battlefield in southwestern Pennsylvania. My husband and I aspire to this as our retirement dream job!

HIDDEN TALENT

Few people know that I was a legend at the summer camp I went to as a kid for knowing a song that went with practically every Bible verse. Don't try to test me on this, though, because I refuse to sing in public. :)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Penn State University, Ph.D.
Penn State University, M.Ed.
Penn State University, B.A.

CLASSES I TEACH

Children's Literature

Literacy- Climate, Curriculum & Instruction I

Literacy- Climate, Curriculum & Instruction II

Instructional Design and Assessment

SERVICE

At Messiah, I currently serve on the Education Department Place and Belonging Committee and Student Recruitment Committee.

In the community I volunteer at Craighead House in Carlisle and teach the 3rd grade class at my church.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Theories of Place and Reader Identity

Marginalia in Early Childhood

EAMU



Each semester EAMU creates goodie bags for the seniors student teaching. Pre-COVID, members would decorate and fill the bags. Now, the officers do this. We still want to get EAMU members involved by having them write short notes of encouragement to place in the bags. Please email your words of encouragement to eamu@messiah.edu by Feb 10th! Thank you for your participation.



STUDENT TEACHER BAGS



Check Out Zach Andrews' PAMLE Presentation!

Topic 2: Math Anxiety

Zach Andrews – Pre-service teacher, Messiah College

Targeted Audience – Administrators, Counselors, Pre-service Teachers, Teachers, Team Leaders

Math Anxiety is prevalent in the lives of students of all ages and proves to be a significant barrier to learning. This presentation covers Math anxiety, both what it is, as well as strategies that teachers, aides, parents, and students themselves can use to combat its effect on student learning.

Here's what Zach had to say about the project:

"I learned valuable information about what "Math Anxiety" is, as well as how it can be combatted both at home and in the classroom. This phenomenon can manifest itself in many ways and has a negative correlation to academic achievement. What is interesting about math anxiety is that one of the causes appears to be an underlying belief that a person either is or is not a "math person."

The research I looked at argued that this view should not be promoted as reality, as it can cause a student to give up on math even if he or she is very capable of learning the material. Though I agree wholeheartedly that some people have a natural ability to understand math concepts more easily than others, I also think that the negative self-concepts of many people, including adults, have limited their ability to perform at a proficient, or even a high level in the math classroom. As teachers, no matter the content area, it is important to not speak negatively about math or talk about "not being a math person," as this can cause an increase in the anxiety towards the subject that the student is already facing. This is not to say that all anxious situations in the math classroom should be avoided (productive struggle is good and necessary, and hard work and perseverance is actually one strategy used to overcome the anxiety!), but what it does mean is that we as teachers should take steps to combat this in our schools. If you're interested in more strategies to combat math anxiety, feel free to check out my presentation!

Here's the Link!

https://livemessiah-my.sharepoint.com/personal/za1157_messiah_edu/Documents/Attachments/zoom_0.mp4

Here is some of what his professor, Dr. Hazen, had to say about the project:

Zach completed this presentation as part of his EDUC 305 Middle-Level Methods course. This year, the conference focused on high-performing school characteristics, creating a culture that makes a difference, and high impact strategies. Zach's project focusing on Math Anxiety hit on the last two aspects perfectly as using high impact strategies certainly makes a difference for students who have math anxiety. While Zach presents this year at the virtual conference, my sincere hope that future presenters will give it in person at the annual meeting in State College. The PAMLE Conference is an excellent opportunity for students to network with other teachers and administrators throughout the state. Also, there are many great presentations on a variety of topics that would benefit future middle-level teachers. I am so very proud of Zach's willingness to take this opportunity to represent Messiah University and the Education Department at the annual PAMLE conference. I know he is going to do great!



TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Our Favorite Online Resources and Tools



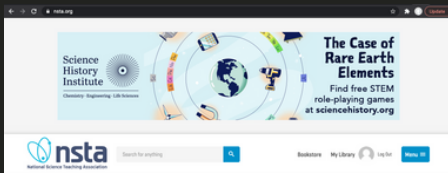
SCIENCE EDUCATION

Professor Ariela Vader

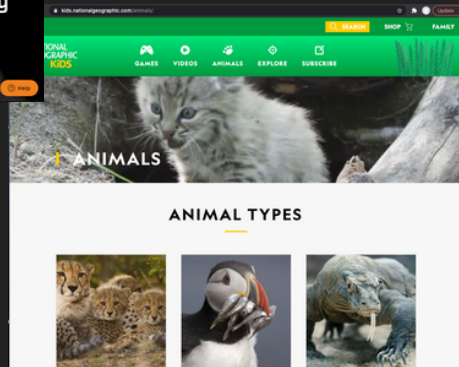


o Manh

So many resources...so many possibilities for science teaching and learning!



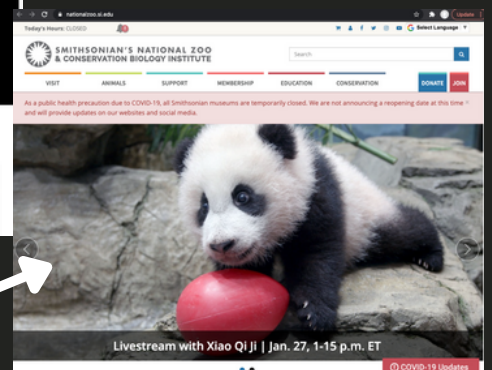
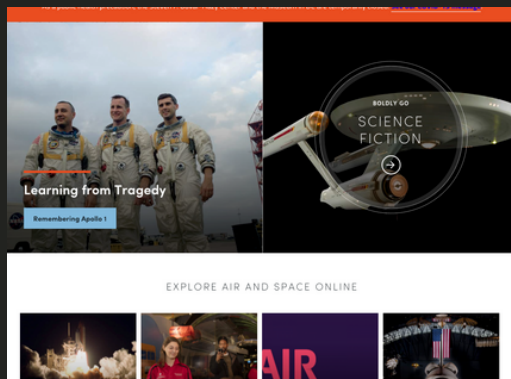
nsta.org - National Science Teaching Association
Find links to articles, lessons, and great science books. All NSTA journals may be accessed through Murray Library.



kids.nationalgeographic.com
Want to look into a particular animal? How about play a game to learn about recycling or the popular "gross out" game? You can also find information on different world countries and even each state in the US.

airandspace.si.edu & nationalzoo.si.edu

My favorite museums have educational websites! Many museums are rolling out helpful, interactive sites during this time of limited contact. Here are a couple to check out.



new baby panda!!



ALUMNI ADVICE

LESSONS FROM MESSIAH ALUMNI



ALUMNI PROFILE

*Courtney
Wuertz*

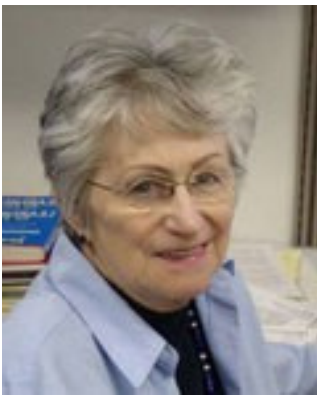
CLASS OF 2018

New Bloomfield Elementary ,
Perry County, Pa

2nd and 3rd Grade Teacher
Virtual Academy

ADVICE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

My biggest piece of advice for future teachers is to never stop pursuing learning. Being in the unique position of moving positions every single year I have gotten the chance to learn a lot. In my first year of teaching there was a lot of teachers that I looked up to. I quickly found that there was a common quality in all of them, and that was their continual desire to learn and improve no matter how long they had been teaching. There will always be opportunities to keep learning, you just have to take them!



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

DOROTHY GISH

The Dorothy J. Gish Women in Leadership Award is named in honor of Dr. Dorothy Gish, Academic Dean Emeritus and former Professor of Early Childhood and Family Education at Messiah University. This award is used to support worthy leadership opportunities for full-time, undergraduate women students at Messiah University. This award opportunity is offered both fall and spring semesters.

For spring 2021 consideration, complete the online application by NOON February 28th.

[Application Link](#)

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEBRUARY

Co-Teaching Training for Current Student Teachers

Certification Meeting February 9

Scholarship Applications Due February 25th

Dorothy Gish Women in Leadership Award Application Due February 28th

Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education (PAMLE) State Convention February 28-March 2nd

EAMU's Black History Month: Teacher Edition

MARCH

Humanities Symposium, On Campus March 1-6

Read Across America with EAMU

Mock Interviews for Seniors TBD

CELT (Christian English Language Teachers) conference on March 6

CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) Conference March 8-13

Capital Area Chapter of PennAEYC Early Childhood Conference, March 13, 2021, On Campus

Migrant Education and ESL Conference, March 16-18

Would you like to contribute to our newsletter? Do you have an idea for an article?

We would love to hear from current students or Messiah Alumni!

Email ideas to tkeller@messiah.edu



FOLLOW US

