

A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teaching Association President's Newsletter

January 2024



A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!

As we step into a new year, I am delighted to reflect on the remarkable strides we have made in advancing science education throughout 2023. Your dedication and passion for fostering scientific curiosity in our students have truly made a difference.

Throughout the past year, Idaho has been abuzz with exciting science events, from engaging classroom experiments to statewide initiatives that have sparked a love for learning. The collaborative efforts of our members have contributed to making science education in Idaho dynamic and impactful.

Looking back, I am particularly proud of the innovative projects undertaken by our members, as well as the success of the various workshops and conferences that have enriched our

professional community. Your commitment to excellence has not gone unnoticed, and I am confident that we will continue to build on this momentum in the coming year.

I am excited to announce that the ISTA board will be convening in Boise at the Discovery Center on January 20th. This meeting will be a pivotal opportunity for us to strategize, train, and prepare for the upcoming year. Your input and insights are invaluable, and I encourage you to share your ideas as we collectively shape the future of science education in Idaho.

Looking forward, mark your calendars for the ISTA/ICTM/IdEEA conference scheduled to take place in northern Idaho later this fall. This collaborative event promises to be a gathering of minds, fostering the exchange of ideas and best practices among educators. Stay tuned for more details, as we are eager to make this conference a highlight of our professional calendar.

I extend my gratitude to each member for your dedication to advancing science education in Idaho. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the future of our students and the broader community.

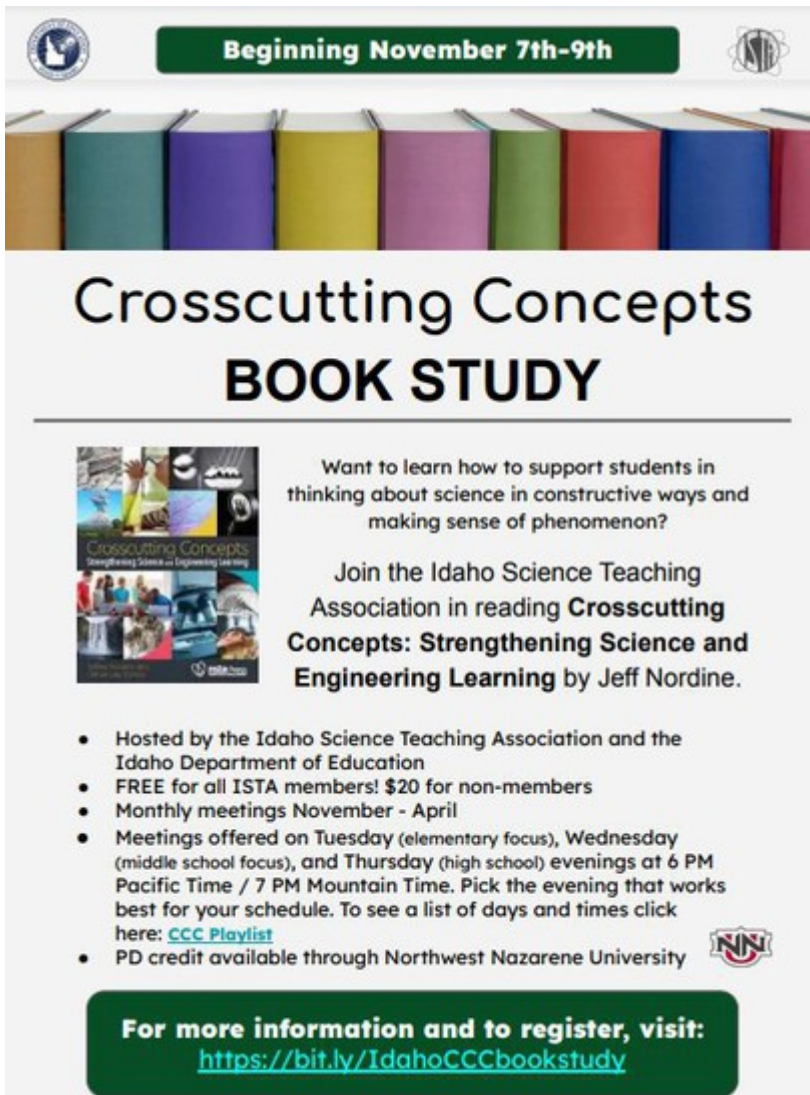
Wishing you a year filled with continued success and inspiration.

Warm regards,

Tanya Elmer

President

Idaho Science Teachers Association




The graphic features a row of colorful books at the top. Below them, the title 'Crosscutting Concepts BOOK STUDY' is prominently displayed. To the left is a small image of the book cover. To the right, there is a short paragraph of text, a list of bullet points, and a logo for Northwest Nazarene University. At the bottom, a green button contains a call to action and a URL.

Beginning November 7th-9th

Crosscutting Concepts BOOK STUDY

Want to learn how to support students in thinking about science in constructive ways and making sense of phenomenon?

Join the Idaho Science Teaching Association in reading **Crosscutting Concepts: Strengthening Science and Engineering Learning** by Jeff Nordine.

- Hosted by the Idaho Science Teaching Association and the Idaho Department of Education
- FREE for all ISTA members! \$20 for non-members
- Monthly meetings November - April
- Meetings offered on Tuesday (elementary focus), Wednesday (middle school focus), and Thursday (high school) evenings at 6 PM Pacific Time / 7 PM Mountain Time. Pick the evening that works best for your schedule. To see a list of days and times click here: [CCC Playlist](#)
- PD credit available through Northwest Nazarene University 

For more information and to register, visit:
<https://bit.ly/IdahoCCCbookstudy>

Cross Cutting Concepts: A Book Study

One of our goals in our strategic plan involves increasing our professional development opportunities for members in our state. We have formed a partnership with the State Department of Education to provide a free book from the NSTA Press on how to use cross cutting concepts and sense making to increase student understanding in a science classroom to our members. All of you who attended our fall conference have already received your copy of the book. Consider joining us this fall for a book study and earn some PD credit from CSI for being a part of conversations with other science educators from our state!

For more information on the book study Playlist, click [HERE](#).

To register for the book study, click [HERE](#).




Inspiring Science Teachers

By Chris Stoker

Bite-sized PD from classroom teachers. We interview awesome science teachers and try to capture some of their best lessons and strategies in addition to insights they've learned along the way. We hope to share some of their passion and expertise in a way that motivates, encourages and inspires you to try new things and get better at the art of teaching science....

[See more](#)

 Listen on Spotify



Available on



Inspiring Science Teachers Podcast

Hey ISTA members! A [brand new episode](#) of ISTA president-elect Chris Stoker's podcast called Inspiring Science Teachers just dropped on Spotify and Apple Podcast. This episode focuses on one of our recent Dr. Becca Wills Outstanding Educator Award winners, Emily Sarha from Post Falls in northern Idaho. Emily is a master of phenomenon-based learning with ideas that are practical and centered around helping her students find their own passions. Check it out today!



Nominate an Elementary (K-6) teacher!

PAEMST

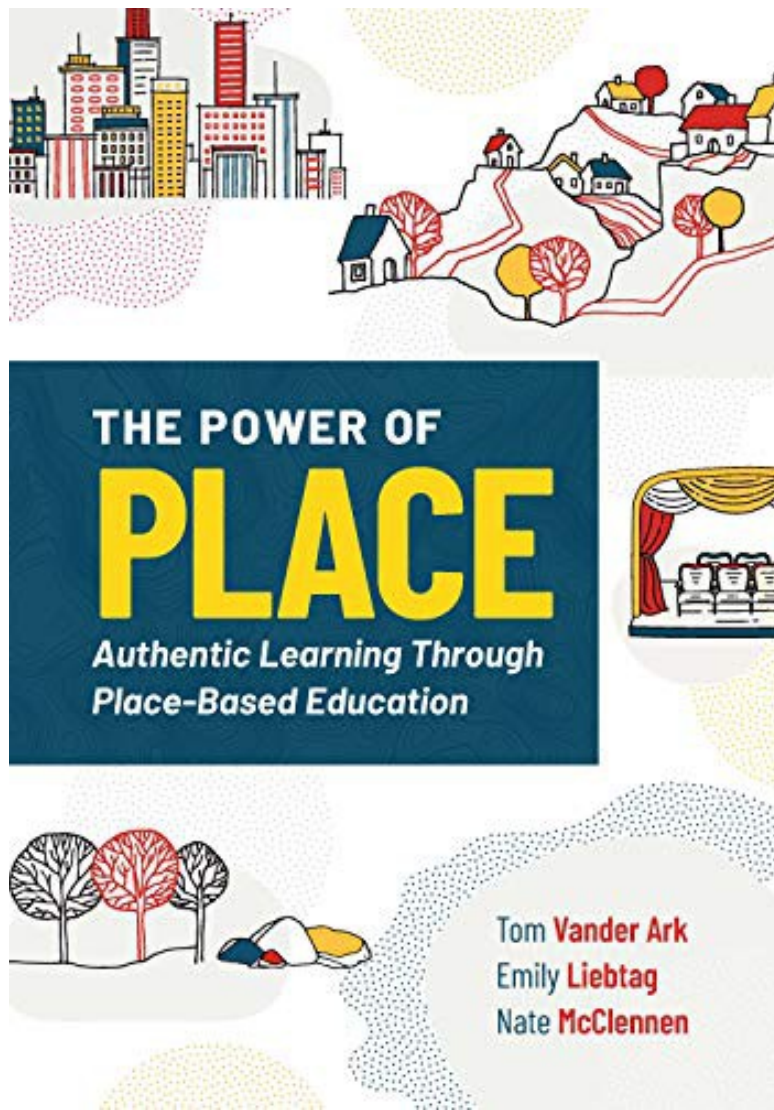
PAEMST Nominations are Open - K-6 Cycle

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teaching.

Anyone—principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public—may nominate exceptional STEM teachers who are currently teaching grades [K-6] for the 2023-2024 award year. Teachers may also apply directly.

The nomination deadline is January 6, 2024, and the application deadline is February 6, 2024, for ELEMENTARY (K-6).

[Nominate a K-6 teacher today!](#)



Idaho Environmental Educators Association (IdEEA) Book Study

This fall at the ISTA/IDEEA conference some of you received a book called *The Power of Place*.

Starting in January, the Idaho Environmental Educators Association is hosting a one credit PD for this text. If you are interested please sign up via the attached link. It will be 100% Google Meets so teachers from all over the Northwest can join in! The book is geared for science teachers, but really, it is applicable to any teacher. They will only meet five times on Thursday evenings.

1 credit, \$60

Taught by: Jamie Brunmeier (ISTA member)

January 4-February 1, 2024

Register online at pdlearn.nnu.edu

Final registration date: January 3, 2024

2023-2024

Science ISAT Guide



NEW! Science ISAT Guide

There is [a new resource available](#) from the State Department for the Science ISAT! Be sure to check out the ISAT Item Specifications links found on page 3. You will find breakdowns of each dimension of the Idaho standards accessed, along with phenomena suggestions, task demands, and vocabulary!!

Science Project Pathways Guided Walkthrough

www.sciencebuddies.org



Try the Science Project Pathways Tool!

Science Project Pathways for Google Classroom

[Science Project Pathways for Google Classroom](#) is a free project scheduling tool that simplifies the process of assigning and managing student science projects.

The Pathways tool helps you easily create a custom schedule of assignments for students doing science projects:

Enter the start date

Pick and choose assignments from Science Buddies' resources

Set individual due dates

Add assignments to Google Classroom

Optional: Share the schedule with parents and educators

It's that easy!



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

STEM TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

Recruiting now for a community-based cohort of Master's in Teaching candidates dedicated to high quality STEM teaching in Idaho's rural-serving schools.

**Fully Paid Tuition +
Salary Supplement**

Eligibility Requirements

- » Primary residence in southwest Idaho (Regions 3 & 4)
- » STEM-related bachelor's degree
- » Not previously certified to teach in Idaho
- » Desire to teach in Grades 6-12 rural-serving schools
- » Commitment to pursue the program full-time

STEM Teaching Fellowship

Boise State University is offering a STEM Teaching Fellowship for a community-based cohort of Master's in Teaching candidates.

Candidates must be dedicated to high-quality STEM teaching in Idaho's rural-serving schools.

Program features:

- » Initial teacher certificate & Master in Teaching degree
- » FULLY paid tuition and fees -AND- a stipend for living expenses
- » \$10,000/year salary supplement for first 4 years teaching
- » and more!

Interested in participating? Complete this form: <https://ow.ly/hQbX50Q0CE9>

Cohort starts May 2024.

Please share this opportunity with STEM-focused candidates in your district!

Save the date for SheTech!



SheTech with Women Innovators

Tuesday, January 30, College of Idaho

SheTech is a FREE discovery day for high school girls to:

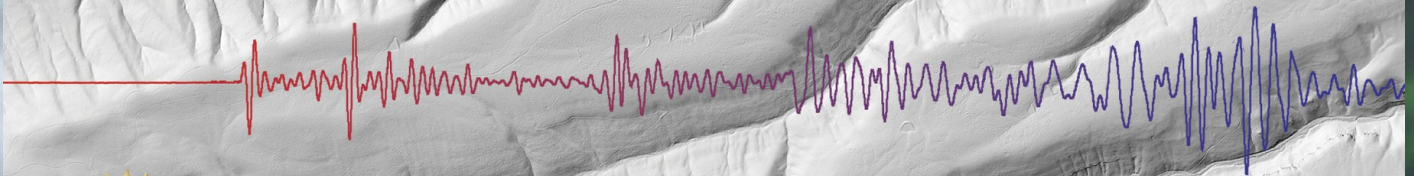
- Explore STEM careers in hands-on workshops taught by STEM role models
- Get innovative with a real-world STEM problem solving challenge – including prizes!
- Meet dozens of real people and organizations working in STEM

Volunteer opportunities:

- Host a 45-minute workshop
- Showcase your organization in the TechZone
- Support event planning
- General day-of volunteering

Save the date by filling out [this Google Form!](#)

2023 TOP EDUCATIONAL SEISMOLOGY LESSONS



Top 3 Most Downloaded Educational Seismology Lessons of 2023

As the year comes to a close, EarthScope Consortium is sharing their top three most downloaded educational seismology lessons of 2023! These lessons are a great way for grades 6-12 to learn

about earthquakes and plate tectonics.

- Exploring Patterns of Global & Regional Seismicity (<https://loom.ly/-rX9Ym8>)
- Locating an Earthquake with Seismic Data (<https://loom.ly/GZGDtRc>)
- Arguing Causes of Faults & Folds—Sponge Fault Model (https://loom.ly/1V_L6fE)



AI In The Classroom - A New Resource from the National Science Foundation (NSF)

An online game teaching high-schoolers computational thinking. A virtual human AI avatar engaging young children in learning AI concepts. Middle-schoolers interacting with an AI bird feeder before diving into projects about puffins.

These are just a few of the ways that NSF investments in AI education – and education in AI – are making a difference.

NSF's "Science Matters" explores how AI is transforming the way students learn to engage with the world around them and create solutions to real problems.

[Check out their blog!](#)

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2023-2025

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Melyssa Ferro

Melyssa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters