



Hello Science Educators and Collaborators,

It's official (from [Supt Underly](#) and [Gov Evers](#)) **Happy Wisconsin Science Week!** I hope you're doing well and looking forward to some Halloween fun this month. I always enjoyed supporting my students in experimenting (safely!) with dry ice on Halloween.

On that note, please share any stories of your students doing interesting science learning, such as community-connected work. I'd love to highlight it in a future newsletter.

Based on feedback from science educators like you (maybe including you), on September 25th I made an evidence-based case to the State Superintendent's Standards Review Council to keep our current science standards for another cycle. They unanimously agreed. Because our Wisconsin standards are basically the NGSS and all (almost all?) new instructional resources are being aligned to the NGSS, it makes sense to keep them. Superintendent Underly, however, will make the final decision on keeping or changing the science standards.

Below are a few resources I've heard about. If you have announcements to share about science or STEM-related professional learning and resources, please send them my way for the next edition. A record of these emails can be found on my website:

[dpi.wi.gov/science/social-media](http://dpi.wi.gov/science/social-media).

Cheers,

Kevin

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### Learning Opportunities

- [WSST/DPI Storylines and Ambitious Science Teaching Book Study](#)
  - [WSST Elementary Educator Book Study](#) - starts Nov 12
  - [AP Science Summit](#) - Dec 12
  - [WSST Conference is accepting session proposals](#) - Apr 3-5
  - [PAEMST nominations are open!](#)
  - [Trust in Science](#) - a live talk from UW-Madison on Oct 21
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## Resources

- [WSELA notes and slides](#) - Oct 15
- [Spotting Fake News](#) - classroom story and resources from Finland
- [Grants from Space Grant](#) - teacher/student grants- due Feb 3
- [How are you teaching reading?](#) Dropping the "find the main idea" strategy."
- [New Forestry Curriculum](#) from the WI Forestry Center

## Student Opportunities

- [Lake Sturgeon Bowl](#) - Jan 31 and Feb 1 in Milwaukee
  - [Junior Science and Humanities Symposium](#) (JSHS) - deadline Jan 31
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## Details

### Learning Opportunities

- WSST/DPI Storylines and Ambitious Science Teaching Book Study

<https://forms.gle/QyCaUwjwEsZzDgs76> - WSST and DPI are supporting our annual book study this year on understanding and using "[storyline](#)" approaches to science learning. This learning framework is used in most new instructional materials coming out currently, such as OpenSciEd. The first 20 people to sign up who are WSST members or applying for [PAEMST](#) will get a free [Ambitious Science Teaching](#) book. The book study is intended for people new to relatively new to storylines, though we welcome seasoned users and will also discuss pertinent implementation challenges. We plan to meet from 6:30 to 7:30pm on the third Mondays of each month (except Jan) - Nov 18, Dec 16, Jan 27, Feb 17, and Mar 17. We will also meet in-person at the WSST conference on April 4.

- WSST Elementary Educator Book Study - starts Nov 12

<https://www.wsst.org/book-study-elementary> - specifically tailored to elementary educators, this virtual book study will focus on science and literacy connections with the book, [Sharing Books, Talking Science](#). Meetings are at 7pm on the second Monday of the month - Nov 12, Jan 7, Feb 4, and at the WSST conference. WSST members receive a free copy of the book (membership is free for new members for a year!).

- AP Science Summit - Dec 12

<https://wsst.wildapricot.org/event-5870689/Registration> - The [WSST](#) and DPI AP Science Summit will take place at the Glacier Canyon Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells on Dec 12th from 8:30 to 3pm (it's behind the Wilderness Lodge). Here is a [DRAFT agenda](#) for reference, though the specific breakout topics are still being finalized. Registration is only \$50 and includes a light breakfast at 8:30 and lunch at 12. There will be lots of time for

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resource and idea sharing, and we'll also be joined by Dr. Serena Magrogan, the head of AP Science at the College Board.

- WSST Conference - Session Proposals are Open - Apr 3-5

<https://www.wsst.org/2025-conference> - I hope to see you at the 2025 WSST conference in Oshkosh in April! It's a great opportunity to share, learn, network, and re-energize. I am particularly working on elementary and equity-focused components for the sessions. You can submit your own session and workshop ideas now too.

- PAEMST nominations are open!

<https://paemst.nsf.gov/> - Perhaps you are a grades 7-12 science or STEM teacher, or you know several. You can now nominate yourself or another educator for the 2025 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. It's a top honor from the White House for STEM subject teachers, with a \$10k award to two educators from Wisconsin. Yes, you are an amazing educator deserving of this award!

- Trust in Science - a live talk from UW-Madison on Oct 21

<https://morgridge.org/event/earning-trust-how-can-we-navigate-public-skepticism-and-science-misinformation/> - Science talk on trust in science w/ livestream from Morgridge Institute/UW-Madison on Oct 21 from 7 - 9pm. How do we face the next pandemic, mitigate the effects of severe weather, and develop cures for disease? Many look to science for answers to these challenges, but fewer are willing to accept the solutions that scientists provide. Join Morgridge Institute Investigators Pilar Ossorio, Dietram Scheufele, and Brad Schwartz for a free discussion on this important topic for society (and science classes!).

## Resources

- WSELA notes and slides - Oct 15

We held our fall Wisconsin Science Education Leadership Association meeting this last Tuesday and discussed a wide range of current topics, from AI to instructional coaching and change. [Here are the notes](#). Let me know if you have any questions or want to join the next meeting in February (all are welcome).

- Spotting Fake News – classroom story and resources from Finland

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/in-finland-classes-in-recognizing-fake-news-disinformation/> - This CBS news story shares video clips and details on how Finnish students learn to evaluate news sources. This is a critical skill for our students to learn. There's also [a useful resource](#) from Purdue for supporting this evaluation of ideas in science. I also like this [Ted Talk on Battling Bad Science](#), as there is a lot of well-intentioned sharing of misinformation.

- Grants from Space Grant - due Feb 3

[Grant Details](#) - Looking to engage students in space or aeronautics projects? Grants of up to \$5k are available from Wisconsin Space Grant, including for both K-12 teacher and student

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learning. Applications open Nov 1 and are due on February 3 for next school year. Reach out to Christine Bolz, Assistant Director, Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium, for further details - [cbolz@carthage.edu](mailto:cbolz@carthage.edu)

- How are you teaching reading? Dropping the "find the main idea" strategy?"

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/it-time-drop-finding-main-idea-and-teach-reading-new-way/> - Diving into cognitive science research on reading comprehension, a group from Baltimore determined that background knowledge about other subjects—like social studies, science, and the arts—played a much bigger part in reading comprehension than the literacy skills they had emphasized for years, like "finding the main idea."

- New Forestry Curriculum from the WI Forestry Center

<https://www.uwsp.edu/wfc/wisconsin-forestry-center/wfcc/high-school-curriculum/> - The Wisconsin Forestry Center at UW-Stevens Point coordinates the Wisconsin Forestry Careers Coalition (WFCC) to address the urgent need for skilled workers in the forestry industry. Applied high school curriculum developed as part of the WFCC prepares high school juniors and seniors with the knowledge and skills needed for forestry careers. Students who complete the curriculum will be better prepared to enter the workforce in entry-level forestry positions, enroll in WFCC immersion training programs in [mill technology](#) or [forest operations](#), or continue their education at technical schools or UW-Stevens Point. The WFCC is seeking high schools to pilot the curriculum during the 2024-25 school year. Contact [Jared Schroeder](#) for access to the curriculum and/or more information.

### **Student Opportunities**

- Lake Sturgeon Bowl - Jan 31 and Feb 1 in Milwaukee

The Lake Sturgeon Bowl is an academic tournament that provides a forum for teams of five high school students who excel in math and science and who are interested in broadening their awareness and understanding of the oceans and Great Lakes. The competition begins on Friday, Jan 31st in the evening with an open house at the School of Freshwater Sciences to welcome all teams. The next day the competition continues with a rapid-fire question-and-answer format, timed critical thinking exercises known as team challenge questions, and again this year...a group problem solving challenge. A variety of prizes for teams and coaches are awarded. There is a \$100 registration fee for all teams. For More Information Contact: Liz Sutton [emsutton@uwm.edu](mailto:emsutton@uwm.edu)

- Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) - deadline Jan 31

<https://jshs.org/region/wisconsin-upper-peninsula-michigan/> - JSHS invites high school students to report on the results of their original research investigations in STEM and compete for scholarships and recognition. Students in grades 9-12 enrolled in public, private, or home schools are eligible to participate in the WI region symposium in Kenosha. There is no cost to participate. Any student who starts a research project and

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intends to submit their research at the regional JSHS competition is able to sign up for virtual mentoring. Applications are due Jan 31 and the symposium will be March 1.

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“Science is not a body of facts, [it] is a method for deciding whether what we choose to believe has a basis in the laws of nature or not.” – Marcia McNutt