



A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teaching Association President's
Newsletter

September 2024



A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!

As summer comes to a close, how do you prepare for the upcoming school year? Do you go full STEAM ahead? Over 200 ISTA/ICTM/IDEEA members spent time in Coeur d'Alene at our annual conference on August 1st and 2nd, collaborating with fellow educators, engaging in dynamic discourse, and building connections to foster future-ready minds. Dr. Stephen Pruitt shared his phenomenal expertise in 3D instruction, and the conference featured many exciting field trips that helped teachers light a spark for this school year.

To keep that spark alive and support 3D teaching, ISTA is offering a book study on Science and Engineering Practices (SEP's), featuring guest speakers, including the authors and Dr. Pruitt. Additionally, ISTA will sponsor regional events to help you continue to ignite your passion for teaching throughout the year. For more details, please visit our website and Sched.

As your president, my spark and continued passion for teaching are fueled by supporting other educators through ISTA. Together, we can build opportunities for teachers to learn, connect, and strengthen our network to become the best science teachers we can be for our students. Please share this message with your colleagues: we are stronger together, and ISTA is here to help teachers engage in meaningful discourse, build connections that ignite, and foster future-ready minds.

Warm regards,
Tanya Elmer

President

Idaho Science Teachers Association



Helping Students Make Sense of the World Using the Next Generation Science and Engineering Practices

Book Study

If you want to collaborate with other teachers to help students work together to generate and revise knowledge— not just receive and repeat information— this book study is for you.

The six-part book study will meet once a month,
online September - February



Details:

- FREE for all K-12 Idaho teachers
- Meetings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, choose the night that works best for you.
- Six meetings September - February at 7pm MST / 6pm PST
- One PD credit available through NNU

Hosted by Idaho Science Teaching Association and the Idaho State Department of Education

Interested? Follow
this QR code to
register. Or go to:
<https://forms.gle/8efmKQCMFMKXjxnF9>



ISTA Book Study Opportunity

Check out this fantastic opportunity that is available to ISTA members this fall! If you attended our Full STEAM Ahead conference last week in Coeur d'Alene, you should have received a copy of the book as part of your conference swag thanks to our great partners at the [Idaho Department of Education](https://www.idaho.gov/education)!

If you are an ISTA member who did not attend the conference OR you would like to visit our website and join our organization, we have extra copies of the book available for you!

Rumor is that the authors of the book will be joining one night of the book study to chat about the science and engineering practices that help turn science from a noun into a verb. Get registered today!

Learning Blade Catalog

Missions and Modules to Discover
Students Career Interests

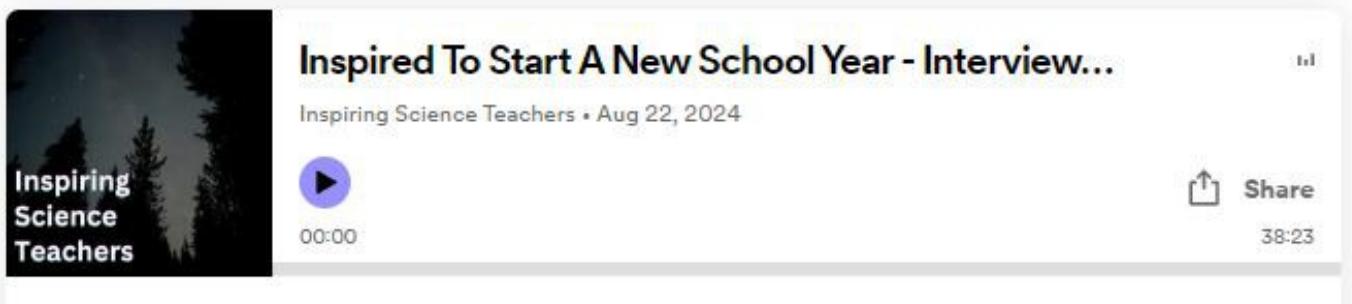


Learning Blade's Fall Catalog is Here!

Exciting news! Learning Blade's new mission catalogs are here with a fresh design to inspire even more STEM learning in your classroom. Don't miss out on the chance to explore these resources—plus, sign up for their back to school PD sessions to kickstart the year strong!

Sign up for your free professional development here: <https://calendly.com/d/3xc-4s3-99n>

Forgot your login or need an account? Sign up here: www.LearningBlade.com/States

A YouTube video player interface. The video title is "Inspired To Start A New School Year - Interview...". The channel name is "Inspiring Science Teachers" and the upload date is "Aug 22, 2024". The video duration is "00:00". There is a "Share" button with a share icon and the text "Share" and "38:23". The video thumbnail shows a person in a dark setting with trees in the background and the text "Inspiring Science Teachers".

Inspiring Science Teachers Podcast - New Episode!

Check out [the latest episode](#) of our ISTA vice president's fantastic podcast about Idaho teachers doing incredible things! In this episode, Chris Stoker interviews 4 different educators who attended the ISTA conference in Coeur d'Alene earlier this month to find out what inspires them as they head back into the classroom this fall.

CALLING ALL IDAHO 2025 SPACE SCHOLARS!

- ➔ Applications for the Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars Program opens August 21st
- ➔ If you are an incoming high school junior & live in Idaho, then don't miss this incredible opportunity to be apart of a life changing experience!

➔ Visit the Idaho Department of Education's website, & apply today
<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/isas/>

Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars (ISAS) Registration is Open

CALLING ALL ISAS ENTHUSIASTS!

The Idaho science and Aerospace Scholars Applications for 2025 are NOW OPEN!

You don't want to miss this incredible opportunity to expand your knowledge on the world of space, robotics, chemistry, and much more!

Visit [sde.idaho.gov/academic/isas](https://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/isas) for more information on getting a high school junior in your educational space registered to participate in this fantastic program!

**ARES
LEARNING**



SPACE EDUCATION SUMMIT

An Online event that is

OUT OF THIS WORLD

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

By: [Space Education Events \(squarespace.com\)](https://spaceeducation.squarespace.com/)

Space Education Summit

The Space Education Summit is Happening!

What an AMAZING event to hear from; Space Educators, Enthusiasts, and Aerospace Professionals to discuss, present and share about the wonderful industry that is all things science and space travel!

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

This FREE event is open to all! Register for the Virtual event:

<https://spaceeducation.squarespace.com/>

Boise State Physics First Friday Astronomy

FALL 2024

	<p>Dr. Franck Marchis, Senior Astronomer and Director of Citizen Science at the SETI Institute and Chief Science Officer and co-founder at Unistellar <i>Stargazing and Beyond: A Global Network of Citizen Astronomers</i> franckmarchis.com</p>	Sept 6
	<p>Dr. Lindsay DeMarchi, Astrophysicist and Policy Fellow <i>Thrifed Causes: Satellite Constellations and the Public that Sees Them</i> lindsaydemarchi.com</p>	Oct 4
	<p>THIS LECTURE WILL BE HELD IN THE BOISE STATE STUDENT UNION BUILDING, JORDAN BALLROOM Dr. John Mather, Recipient of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics, Senior Astrophysicist, NASA GSFC, and former JWST Senior Project Scientist <i>Opening the Infrared Treasure Chest with JWST</i> boi.st/FFAmather (or scan QR code)</p>	Nov 1
	<p>Dr. Lori Pigue, Physical Scientist, U.S. Geological Survey, Astrogeology Science <i>Rocks to Rocket Fuel: Orbital Spectroscopic Investigations of the Lunar Surface from the Visible to Thermal Infrared</i> www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/lori-pigue</p>	Dec 6

Donate at
boi.st/Astronomy
Live-stream at
boi.st/astrobroncoslive



Scan QR for more details

Lectures start 7:30p MT in the
**Liberal Arts Building (LART),
room 106**
(<https://maps.boisestate.edu/?id=715#tm/89064>)

Events are open to the public and
donation-supported.



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

Boise State Physics Presents First Friday Astronomy

There is a full slate of awesome speakers coming to BSU this fall as the Physics Department sponsors First Friday Astronomy. Attend in person or by livestream and check out 4 really exciting talks by award-winning scientists from across the United States!



Data Puzzles

Making Sense With Science



Data Puzzles for Science Classrooms

In an effort to connect students to the scientists featured in Data Puzzles resources (<https://datapuzzles.org/data-puzzles-collections>), the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) will be facilitating monthly webinars (for teachers) and scientist calls (for students) throughout the 2024/2025 school year. Register for their September events!!!

Wildfire, Drought, and the Future of Forests for teachers

Wednesday, September 4th from 4 pm - 5 pm MT

Overview: Join curriculum developer Jon Griffith as he walks you through the Wildfire, Drought, and the Future of Forests Data Puzzle, a 2-day MS/HS lesson in which students analyze post-fire tree regeneration datasets from the US Rocky Mountains to explore/explain how changing climate

conditions are impacting post-fire succession patterns. This lesson includes games and online data visualizations! <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/yjvaaga>

Science Show and Share with fire ecologist Dr. Camille Stevens-Rumann for students
Tuesday, September 24th from 10:30-11:15 am MT

Overview: Hear from Dr. Camille Stevens-Rumann, a fire ecologist whose research focuses on how forests recover after a wildfire. Dr. Stevens-Rumann will discuss her past and present work in the US Rocky Mountains, including how climate change is making it harder for fires to grow back after wildfires. Note that students are encouraged to ask questions throughout the webinar!

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/r39drwh>



FREE AI Lesson Plan Workshop for Idaho K-12 Educator


Join us for a free workshop on the STEM Forged AI Lesson Plan Platform, brought to you in collaboration with the Idaho STEM Ecosystem and Workforce Development Council.

This opportunity includes a free 1-year license and features an integrated, all-in-one interface with state-standard aligned, high-quality, customizable lesson plans. It includes interactive game-based assessments, facilitates collaboration and cross-curricular integration, and offers privacy-focused reporting.

Workshops are scheduled or can be arranged for custom dates.

STEMForged is dedicated to bridging the educational gap through esports, game design, and gamified learning. They empower under-resourced schools with comprehensive programs that engage and inspire students, believing that every student deserves access to cutting-edge educational experiences. Their tailored programs leverage the power of gaming to cultivate valuable skills and knowledge. They combine learning with fun to unlock limitless potential.

<https://www.stemforged.com/ai-workshops>



IDAHO STEM ACTION CENTER

IDAHO ECOSYSTEM ISEE STEM

NO FEAR CODING


Book Study

Join us for a year long book study exploring concepts laid out in No Fear Coding: Computational Thinking Across the K-5 Curriculum by Heidi Williams.

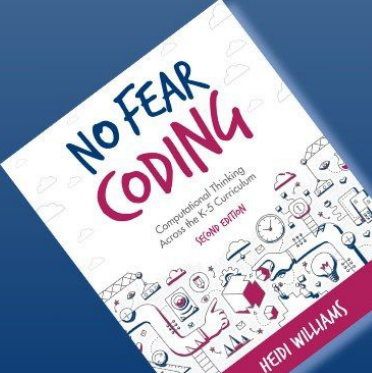

Along with the book, participants will receive a Bee Bot to practice out what they learn, as well as be eligible to sign up for 1 professional development credit.

Registration closes:
September 6, 2024

Register here:



bit.ly/3YrHGoa




No Fear Coding Book Study

Calling all elementary educators!

Join ISEE STEM Regional Hub Coordinator Ashley Schaffner and Idaho STEM Action Center's Katie Bosch-Wilson as they explore the concepts discussed in "No Fear Coding: Computational Thinking Across the K-5 Curriculum" by Heidi Williams.

Educators who register and are selected to be a part of this year long book study will receive a free copy of the book as well as a free Bee Bot to practice what they learn in their classroom or organizations. Educators will also have the opportunity to sign up for 1 PD credit.

Registration closes on September 6, 2024 and space is limited.



20 NATIONAL 25 STEM FESTIVAL

presented by EXPLN

National STEM Festival

Attention U.S. students in grades 7-12: this challenge is designed for you!

Embark on a mission to create a project that addresses a real-world problem, aligning with one of our six festival themes. Utilize the scientific method or engineering design process to develop your solution.

Top projects from every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories will be selected as Challenge Finalists. These finalists will move forward to the second round by submitting a video explanation of their project.

Aug. 21

Submissions Open

Oct. 20

Submissions Close

Nov. 13

Finalists Announced

Dec. 18

Champions Announced

Mar. 19

Festival in D.C.

<https://www.nationalstemfestival.com/>

Announcing WILD! Teaching climate change through wildlife

**NASA's Earth To Sky
Partnership
November 12-15, 2024**

**Grand Teton National
Park**

Join us for 4 days of training with formal and informal educators from across Idaho!

This workshop will expose participants to innovative pedagogy and techniques for framing climate change. We will focus on how local and global environmental change is impacting wildlife. Joined by wildlife professionals, scientists, and others, we will explore:

- Effective communication techniques for climate change
- Climate change's Impact on Idaho's Wildlife
- Tested techniques for delivering place-based education and outdoor learning experiences
- The importance of fostering wonder and empathy for the natural world

Included

- ✓ Lodging & food
- ✓ Stipends for eligible informal educators
- ✓ 2 PD Credits through NNU, BSU, or UofI
- ✓ Travel support



Apply today!



Teaching Climate Change with NASA's Earth to Sky Partnership

Check out this upcoming activity from our partners at [The WaterShed!](#)

<https://www.boisewatershed.org/.../nasas-earth-to-sky-idaho/>

FREE RESOURCES

Lesson Plans • Science Films • Case Studies
Journal Articles • Book Chapters • Freebies



Find your new favorite book to transform your teaching
www.nsta.org/free



NSTA Free Resources

Check out our incredible free resources as you gear up for the school year. Explore exciting lesson plans, engaging case studies, and other featured resources to elevate your STEM teaching and bring your classroom to the next level! Discover freebies at <https://hubs.la/Q02K3JtD0!>

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Tanya Elmer

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2023-2025

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Melyssa Ferro

Melyssa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters