



*Supporting IB World Schools in Alaska, Idaho,
Montana, Oregon and Washington since 1992.*

Northwest Association of IB World Schools

Fall NIBA Saturday Sessions, October 19, 2024, Tualatin High School, Tualatin, OR

All Programs

- **Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom with Dr. Shannon Thissen**
- **Agency, Action, and Engagement: Connect learning to relevant, real-world, community-based resources with Colin Pierce**

Primary Years Program

- **Teaching for Conceptual Understanding: This session is both Friday and Saturday, October 18 and 19 and is an official IB-approved training.**

Middle Years Program

- **Empowering Educators: Enriching Unit Plans to Drive Meaningful Learning and Community Impact with Mauricio Carabali**

Career Related Program

- **CP Roundtable with Joe Bento**

Diploma Program

- **Music Roundtable with Gillian Malacari**
- **Science Roundtable with Gretel von Bergen**
- **IB English for All Roundtable with Amy Green and Jamie Davis**
- **Global Politics Roundtable with Ben Ryan**
- **Computer Science Roundtable with Josh Eerkes**

Please see the descriptions and presenter biographies below.

All Programs

NBA Artificial Intelligence in the Classroom with Dr. Shannon Thissen

AI offers immense potential for educators to enhance teaching and learning. This session will equip you with the skills and knowledge to effectively harness AI through prompt engineering. We will explore a range of prompts, from simple to complex, and examine real-world examples to provide practical insights.

The integration of AI in schools presents both opportunities and challenges. While AI can be a powerful tool for student learning, concerns about academic integrity, including plagiarism and cheating, have arisen among educators, administrators, and parents. This session will reframe the discussion to focus on how AI can be leveraged to support student learning while addressing potential pitfalls. I aim to foster a collaborative environment that promotes sharing personal insights and supports ongoing learning by sharing valuable resources.

Shannon Thissen, Ph.D., Administrator Digital Innovation
Capital Region Educational Service District 113, Tumwater, WA.

Shannon is passionate about inspiring connections, innovations, and transformations. She offers broad knowledge of instructional pedagogies to integrate technology; change through Implementation Science; and provides educator training and support for using Artificial Intelligence. As a leader, she emulates visionary leadership, is an effective communicator, is a lifelong learner, and focuses on digital equity and inclusion. Shannon has served school districts in Washington State and provided guidance as the Computer Science Program Supervisor for OSPI (Dept. Ed). Her Ph.D. (2022) research examined increasing teacher efficacy of technology use in elementary education through Computational Thinking as a foundation.

NBA Agency, Action, and Engagement: Connect learning to relevant, real-world, community-based resources with Colin Pierce

This workshop will enable you to:

- Learn how to inspire and support learners to engage in purposeful, authentic, critical and mindful action, in its various forms in response to local and global challenges and opportunities.
- Learn to have deeper conversations with students about how to engage with local and global communities.
- Explore the concepts of agency and action and their manifestations across the programmes (action, service as action, creativity activity service, service learning).
- Evaluate approaches to learning and teaching that aim to support understanding of and engagement with complex issues in a way that honors personal and community needs and aspirations.
- Identify opportunities for institutional growth, enhanced curriculum design and deeper and responsive community engagement.

Colin Pierce, an experienced and dedicated educator with a passion for promoting equity in education. With a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Secondary Education and Teaching from Lewis and Clark College and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies from Sarah Lawrence College, Colin is well-equipped to educate, inspire and empower students from diverse backgrounds. Colin's career has been focused on providing access to high-quality teaching and learning for low-income students and students of color. He has worked at the levels of the classroom, teacher development, school leadership, and local and state policy. Notably, Colin is a Senior Advisor for K-12 School Programs at the Department of Education and Early Learning. He has also served as a Consultant for the Bridging the Equity Gap Project at The International Baccalaureate, as well as IB Diploma Program Coordinator/Teacher at Seattle Public Schools and Desert Academy in Santa Fe.



Primary Years Program: This is OFFICIAL IB Training.

Learning and Teaching for Conceptual Understanding

- This session is both Friday and Saturday. Because IB training is typically 2.5 days, participants will have an assignment to complete and submit within seven days to receive their certificate of completion.

RECOMMENDED FOR: PYP educators, coordinators, librarians/media specialists and specialist teachers, who wish to learn more about designing and teaching for conceptual understanding in a transdisciplinary and inquiry-based learning environment.

How might we intentionally design and teach for conceptual understanding within a transdisciplinary and inquiry-based context? Developing conceptual understanding enables learners to access many kinds of knowledge and develop understanding from multiple sources and diverse perspectives. In this workshop, participants will explore how: Conceptual understanding is central to the aims of an IB education. Conceptual understanding is developed through the pedagogical approaches to teaching to support transdisciplinary learning within, across and beyond subjects. The programme of inquiry and the PYP collaborative planning process frame opportunities that enable designing and teaching for conceptual understanding that connects meaningfully to the learner and the learning community. Concepts play a critical role in organizing, designing and planning curriculum and learning. Together, this creates opportunities for learners to make connections, transfer and apply skills, knowledge, and understandings to new and different contexts in creative, generative, agentic and dynamic ways. This workshop provides tools and strategies that enhance conceptual understanding leading to depth and rigor in thinking within, between and across subjects both inside and outside the programme of inquiry.

Middle Years Program



Empowering Educators: Enriching Unit Plans to Drive Meaningful Learning and Community Impact with Mauricio Carabali

This dynamic workshop will empower educators to enhance their unit plans, making classes more meaningful and creating valuable projects for students and their communities. Participants will learn practical strategies to integrate DARE principles (Discover, Assemble Ideas, Realize Solutions, Evaluate Outcomes) into their curriculum, engage students in hands-on learning, and develop projects that address real-world issues.

Mauricio Carabali has worked for 20 years in IB schools worldwide and has been an IBEN member for 13 years, visiting schools across America and Europe. He has also conducted workshops on both continents and is currently an advisor for two schools in the USA in the MYP program. Mauricio's workshops have included MYP subjects such as Mathematics, Design, Projects MYP, and Business in DP. Regarding transversal themes, Creating authentic units in the MYP, Service-Learning in the MYP, and developing concepts for both MYP and DP.

Career Related Program

NBA CP Roundtable with Joe Bento

This roundtable is designed to bring together Career Program (CP) Coordinators and Teachers (Including CTE Teachers). This session will be a collaborative space for educators to explore strategies for integrating CP Core Principles into their Career Related Study (CRS) Courses. Participants will have the opportunity to share best practices, discuss challenges, and exchange ideas about their own unique CP Programs. We want this roundtable to be interactive, so bring things to share! We encourage open dialogue, asking questions, seeking advice from your peers, and learning from this experience. Whether you're looking to enhance your existing CP Program or get a fresh perspective, we want you to be able to take things back to your school to try out!

Joseph (Joe) Bento is an experienced IB Psychology and Personal and Professional Skills (PPS) teacher based in Renton, WA, where he also serves as the IB Career Program Coordinator. In addition to his teaching roles, Joe has been deeply involved in safe schools training for the past 20 years. He has served as a National Education Association (NEA) trainer on Social Justice and LGBTQ issues for the last 15 years, demonstrating his commitment to fostering inclusive and equitable educational environments. Joe's leadership extends beyond the classroom; he is currently the President of the Rainier UniServ Council and has previously served on the Kent School Board. Outside of his professional life, Joe enjoys traveling, gardening, and spending quality time with his family.

Diploma Program

NBA Music Roundtable with Gillian Malacari

Bring your questions to the IB Music Roundtable. Our discussion and work time will include topics such as: preparing and setting students up for the IB music course before their Junior year starts, course pacing, the power of vocabulary and focused music analysis, developing excellent journal entries and the type of assignments you can set up to develop strong portfolio submissions. We can also discuss repertoire selections (ensembles and solo) as well as essential tools such as notation software and DAWS.

Gillian Malacari is currently the Orchestra Director and IB Music Teacher at Edmonds-Woodway HS has been working with the IB Curriculum as a music educator for over 20 years. She has experience developing PYP and MYP curriculum in new International schools in Asia. She has taught both the old and new versions of the IB Music courses (SL and HL) and has examined IB Music Music on and off since 2006. She has also supervised several Music EE students.

NBA Science Roundtable with Gretel von Barga

This roundtable provides an opportunity for Group 4 teachers to work with outstanding colleagues, to problem solve, share ideas, and find inspiration. Group 4 Teachers will discuss approaches to teaching and learning, changes to the internal assessment criteria and the collaborative sciences project. We will have discipline group breakout sessions to discuss syllabus sequencing, lesson ideas, and teaching of subject specific skills.

For over twenty years, Ms. von Barga has been a dedicated and passionate International Baccalaureate Biology teacher, who aims to motivate students with engaging lessons and an infectious curiosity for the study of life. Her classes are infused with multiple interactive instructional methods- music, dance, games and modeling- to support science learning. Ms. von Barga values collegiality and works closely with teachers locally and globally to learn new techniques and to share knowledge of successful techniques with others, all with the goal of improving student learning. Ms. von Barga is a National Board-Certified Teacher in Adolescent and Young Adult Science. She has received the Presidential Scholar Teacher Recognition Award, the Sammamish Learning Promotion Award, the Skyline High School PSTA Teacher of the Year and was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Ms. von Barga loves learning and teaching biology with an undercurrent of optimism.

NBA IB English for All Roundtable with Amy Green and Jamie Davis

The IB recognizes that all students can and should engage in high quality education provided through IB coursework. Many schools are exploring the idea of implementing IB English Language and Literature for all students. This session will give participants an opportunity to identify and discuss items to consider when offering the course, including school priorities, engaging reluctant learners, and staying true to the curriculum while also meeting the needs of a wide variety of learners. Educators from schools at all stages of implementation are welcome to attend.

Amy Green has served as the IB Coordinator for both DP and CP at North Salem High School for the last three years. Coming from a background in special education, she is passionate about inclusivity and access. After witnessing the growth of North's first cohort of IB graduates, she became a huge proponent of the IB and its potential to work towards closing knowledge gaps.

Jamie Davis was part of the team that guided North Salem High School through the rigorous authorization process to become an IB World School. With three years of experience teaching IB English Language and Literature, he also serves as the Extended Essay Coordinator. Although initially skeptical of IB programs, he has come to appreciate the transformative impact of the "IB for All" philosophy, recognizing its potential to enrich the entire school community.

NBA Global Politics Roundtable with Ben Ryan

This roundtable provides Global Politics teachers a space to collaborate with their peers in other schools. Topics will include how to integrate requirements for the new Paper 3, how to plan and sequence the Engagement Activity (as well as the new criterion!), how to tie assessments to the May Exams, and how to elevate student writing from description to evaluation. We will also have time to share new ideas and fun lessons, so feel free to come with questions or topics that you would like to discuss that aren't included here! The goal of this roundtable is to come back with new ideas that you can use in your classroom!

Ben is entering his 10th year in education, teaching at Newport High School in Newport, Oregon. He has taught IB History for 9 years, and is an Examiner for the program, specializing in Paper 3 and the Internal Assessment. He pioneered the effort to transition Newport High School away from IB History and towards IB Global Politics and is entering his second year teaching the subject. Ben is looking forward to facilitating a discussion with other teachers that live and breathe IB Global Politics!

NBA Computer Science Roundtable with Josh Eerkes

With the new curriculum being released for the Computer Science program, we will spend our time together evaluating ways to apply Project Based Learning in the classroom to develop the essential standards required for the current test material as well as create a program that will bridge into the new requirements. We will also discuss techniques used to integrate the required Object-Oriented Programming skills throughout the year to ensure success in both the IA as well as the test. Bring any examples of your current curriculum and be ready to share with the group any successes and or failures that you have experienced with the goal of leaving the round table with a new energy aimed towards improving the success of your CS testers.

This is Josh's eighth year teaching Computer Science at Kennewick High School where he has created a program that has focused on helping students master the core elements of Computer Science while solving real world problems. Before he ventured into the world of education, he was the Director of IT for a Washington based petroleum company where he designed, managed and supported the technology infrastructure for convenience stores including networking locations, wiring and installing POS systems, and handling the security of payment processing. He is married and has two kids, twins, that are just starting the ninth grade. His favorite hobby is fishing and he can guarantee that he will get sidetracked at some time during the roundtable with a few fishing stories