

MCEE Teacher Talks & Topics for December 9 and January 13

As promised when the [Montana Council on Economic Education](#) (MCEE) convened their first group of teachers for our online professional development this summer, they wanted to adapt and offer programming that added value and evolved based on feedback.

MCEE has received encouragement to continue the monthly check-in opportunities, but to focus on different topics that could be more relevant to different classroom experiences.

For December, MCEE invites teachers to join and share the best technology tools in teaching business they have found. This conversation will be led by teachers and will be an honest and candid review on the available tools. There will be an opportunity to share successes or gaps in the tools out there.

[Business - Wednesday, December 9 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.](#)

In January, MCEE will bring the focus to our teachers working in Economics and the best tools/methods in delivering economic fundamentals either in person or remotely in today's C19 environment and the uncertainties of attendance.

[Economics - Wednesday, January 13 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.](#)

Click the links above to register.

If you have topics you want highlighted for February, March or April, please email Dax Schieffer at mcee@montana.edu.

Jump\$tart Announces Free Online Professional Development via J\$FFE Online

The [Jump\\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy](#) is excited to announce a new professional development opportunity—Jump\$tart Financial Foundations for Educators Online, or [J\\$FFE Online](#).

J\$FFE is a comprehensive, content-based professional development program for teachers, designed to improve their own financial knowledge and confidence – and help them make smart consumer decisions of their own – before taking that knowledge into classrooms at all grade levels.

The first module of J\$FFE Online– [Spending and Saving](#) – is available now.

[Registration](#) is required, but this distance learning program is absolutely free.

Computer Science PD Workshops Offered by AVID in Partnership with CODE.org

Are you looking to grow your computer science teaching skills? Join the Montana-based workshops with other educators from your region. 98% of teachers recommend our engaging professional learning programs to teach computer science. Spaces are limited, so apply today,

[K-5 Educators: Computer Science Fundamentals](#)

Designed to be fun and engaging, Code.org's progression of Computer Science Fundamentals courses blend online and "unplugged" non-computer activities to teach students computational thinking, problem solving, programming concepts and digital citizenship.

--Dates: February 9 & 16, 2021

--Time: 4:00-7:00 p.m.

--Location: Virtual/Online

Learn More at [Code.org](#).

[6-10 Grade Educators: Computer Science Discoveries](#)

Mapped to CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards, the course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, animations, games, and physical computing systems.

--Dates: June 21-25, 2021

--Time: 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

--Location: Helena, MT (location TBD)

--Dates: August 9-13, 2021

--Time: 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

--Location: Virtual/Online

Learn More at [Code.org](#).

[9-12 Grade Educators: Computer Science Principles](#)

This course introduces educators to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. It is rigorous, engaging, and approachable, all while exploring many of the foundational ideas of computing to explain how these concepts are transforming the world in which we live.

--Dates: June 21-25, 2021

--Time: 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

--Location: Helena, MT (location TBD)

--Dates: August 9-13, 2021

--Time: 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

--Location: Virtual/Online

Learn More at [Code.org](#).

Renewal units will be offered. For questions, please contact Ty Stevenson, AVID/Code.org Product Manager, at tstevenson@avid.org or 206.390.2829.

[Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship Awards Now Open](#)

The [Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship](#) awards 100 high school seniors with a \$40,000 scholarship for college, plus a guaranteed paid internship programming at Amazon. For high school seniors seeking to continue their computer science education at a four-year college, the program can make all the difference for a bright and developing future.

Encourage your students to [apply](#). The deadline for applications is February 18, 2021. For complete details, please visit amazonfutureengineer.com/scholarship.

Every year students share it was the encouraging and persistent nudge of a teacher that ultimately convinced them to apply. Your encouragement could change a student's life.

Federal Register Notice Inviting Applications: 2021 Native American Career & Technical Education Program (NACTEP) Competition

The U. S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) is pleased to announce the posting in the November 30, 2020, Federal Register of a notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2021 for the [Native American Career and Technical Education Program](#) (NACTEP).

NACTEP provides grants to improve career and technical education (CTE) programs that are consistent with the purposes of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, as amended by the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (the Act or Perkins V) and that benefit Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

The link to the Federal Register Notice is available at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/30/2020-26112/applications-for-new-awards-native-american-career-and-technical-education-program-nactep>.

The deadline for the transmittal of applications is January 29, 2021, although the attached Federal Register Notice omitted the date in an error and will be correcting it later this week.

OCTAE will be hosting a webinar for prospective applicants tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 9, 2020, at 2:00 pm ET. Further information will be posted to the Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN) at <https://cte.ed.gov/grants/funding-opportunities>.

Please direct any inquiries regarding the 2021 NACTEP grant opportunity to nactep@ed.gov.

Montana Financial Education Coalition Launches Meme Contest

The [Montana Financial Education Coalition](#) (MFEC) is launching a financial education-themed meme contest that is open to middle school and high school students across Montana.

Students should create an image meme about financial education. Suggested topics include spending and saving, budgeting, building credit, credit-debt cycle traps, credit scores/reports, investing, buying goods and services, earning income, identity theft, or insurance.

All entries must be submitted through the online [meme submission form](#). Students must review the [Meme Contest Rules and Instructions](#) prior to making any submissions. Entries will be judged on originality, importance, and wit/humor.

The submission deadline is 5 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, December 18, 2020. Finalists will be posted to an album on the MFEC Facebook page.

Voting will kick off on January 6, 2021. The top six memes garnering the most "likes" on Facebook will be eligible for a cash award.

WBEA Awards Program Accepting Nominations thru December 18

Now is the time to nominate and recognize a colleague through the [Western Business Education Association](#) (WBEA) [awards](#) program.

Nominations can be submitted for

- Outstanding Educator at the Middle School, High School, Post-secondary, or University level
- Outstanding Career & Technical Student Organization Advisor
- Distinguished Service
- Distinguished Service Award for a Company, or a Representative of a Company, or Legislator
- Communication Recognition
- Western Business Education Association Recognition Certificate

All details and application materials can be found on the WBEA website at wbea.info/awards.

For questions regarding the WBEA awards program, please contact WBEA Awards & Scholarship Director Joshua Fisher at jfisher@astoria.k12.or.us.

Deadline for WBEA Educational Opportunity Scholarship Extended to December 18

The Western Business Education Association encourages Business Educators working on an advanced degree to apply for the [WBEA Educational Opportunity Scholarship](#).

The [WBEA Educational Opportunity Scholarship](#) is provided to help offset tuition costs for educators who are pursuing an advanced degree to support teaching in the area of Business Education. The amount of the yearly scholarship is determined each year according to availability of funds.

Eligible candidates must meet the following criteria:

- be a current member of an S/T/P and a member of WBEA/NBEA
- be currently engaged in the business/computer education profession in the Western Region
- register for and pass a credit class with a "C" grade or better
- provide proof of payment and a grade sheet or unofficial transcript upon completion of the class to the Professional Development Director

Complete scholarship details can be found on the WEBE website at wbea.info/professional-development.

The deadline to apply for the [WBEA Educational Opportunity Scholarship](#) is December 18.

For questions, please contact Joshua Fisher, WBEA Awards & Scholarship Director, at jfisher@astoria.k12.or.us.

The Prospects: 2021 High School Business Plan & Pitch Competition Now Open

Administered by the Montana Chamber Foundation, [THE PROSPECTS](#) is a virtual statewide entrepreneurship competition with scholarships, cash, and technology prizes for high school students with new ideas and existing small businesses. All entrants will have opportunities for mentoring and internships, apprenticeships, and work-based learning.

[The Prospects](#) is a collaborative initiative and platform for investing in our students by connecting them with business and community leaders. Students are encouraged to display their entrepreneurial spirit with products and services, innovative problem solving, and community or social improvements for

Montana (and beyond!). Statewide leaders will act as third-party judges, providing scores and choosing winners, as well as their recommendations, feedback, and potentially employment opportunities.

The submission portal opened on Monday, November 16, 2020, and will close at midnight (MST) on Friday, February 12, 2021.

For complete details about [The Prospects](#) competition, please visit montanachamber.com/prospects.

[The Prospects](#) competition is offered through partnerships between the [Montana Chamber Foundation](#) and [Youth Entrepreneurs](#) and sponsors First Interstate Bank, Montana State Fund, and Northwestern Energy.

[Check Out Scratch for Some Creative Coding Activities for CSEdWeek 2020?](#)

Computer Science Education Week (CSEdWeek) is right around the corner. Kicking off on December 7, CSEdWeek is designed to spark young people's interest in computer science, often by introducing students to an "Hour of Code" tutorial.

Below you'll find three tutorials to engage learners with a broad range of Scratch experiences. Each tutorial begins with a brief intro video and step-by-step ideas to get the group started. All three educator guides now include tips on facilitating both in-person and remote classes and workshops.

Imagine a World

Imagine a World is a great introductory coding activity and comes with a set of [illustrated activity cards](#) and the new [Imagine a World educator guide](#) to help jumpstart facilitation. What will you and your students imagine?

Code a Cartoon

This tutorial includes a starter project full of characters from Cartoon Network's Craig of the Creek. Code them to jump, fly, and change size. Students can add their own characters and take them on an adventure! Check out the new [Code a Cartoon educator guide](#) for facilitation ideas.

Make it Fly!

Are your learners ready to take their creative coding to a new level? Have them choose a character and program it to fly. Plan a class or workshop with the [Make it Fly educator guide](#).

Looking for more CSEdWeek inspiration?

The [Scratch Ideas page](#) has starter projects, activity cards, tutorials, educator guides, and more to support your [CSEdWeek](#) efforts. We look forward to seeing what your students imagine, create, and share.

[New Hour of Code Tutorials, Live Workshops, and Webinars from CodeHS](#)

CSEdWeek 2020 is coming up on December 7-13. Engage your students with new Hour of Code tutorials and interactive workshops showing students how coding can be used to make a positive change in the world.

Register your class for a live Hour of Code workshop hosted by the CodeHS Team. Whether your class is remote or in-person, these workshops are a great way to get students excited about computer science.

Live Hour of Code Workshops include

- Coding for a Litter-Free Community: [Monday, 12/7 @ 19 am MST](#)
- Coding for Data Visualization: [Tuesday, 12/8 @ 12 pm MST](#)
- Coding in Music: [Wednesday, 12/9 @ 9:30 am MST](#)
- Supporting Artists with Code: [Wednesday, 12/9 @ 11 am MST](#)
- Turtle Graphics with Tracy the Turtle: [Thursday, 12/10 @ 9 am MST](#)
- Creating Virtual Worlds: [Friday, 12/11 @ 11 am MST](#)

For more details, visit the [CodeHS 2020 Hour of Code Resources](#) page.

Interested in running an Hour of Code workshop at your school? Join CodeHS for a free webinar to learn about their new Hour of Code tutorials, how to pick the right tutorial for your students, and tips on hosting a successful workshop.

The webinar will be held on Thursday, November 19 at 10 am MST. For more details, please visit the [registration](#) page.

CodeHS has 20+ Free Hour of Code Tutorials. Access a variety of free hour-long tutorials on CodeHS including creating virtual worlds, coding for data visualization, coding for music, building mobile apps, and more. Visit [codehs.com/hourofcode](#) to learn more and access lesson plans for your Hour of Code event.

[Just in Time for CS Education Week, CodeBytes Mini-Lessons for a Virtual Hour of Code](#)

The [Hour of Code](#) is a month away, happening this year from December 7-13, 2020, and [Code.org](#) is excited to announce 115 brand-new tutorials and lesson plans. Many activities were created with remote learning in mind to support the various classroom models taking place during this time.

This year, Code.org introduces [CodeBytes](#), new mini-lessons for virtual classrooms Code.org hopes everyone can join them this year for CodeBytes, a brand new series of easy-to-digest, 20 minute interactive lessons that will stream twice daily during Computer Science Education Week, Monday through Friday, December 7-11. If you're planning for a classroom that's gone fully virtual, [CodeBytes](#) are designed to fit smoothly into a distance learning plan. Episodes are tailored to different grade levels.

Whether students have a computer or a smartphone, they can interact with and tune-in to every episode. Each lesson is hosted by Code.org staff and blends computer science with real-world topics, including artificial intelligence and [#CSforGood](#). Take a look at Code.org's [planned activities](#), and add your favorites to your calendar so you do not miss out.

Explore endless computer science topics with brand-new tutorials. This year's activities dive into tons of different CS topics like AI, data processing, and app & game design, as well as programming concepts like events, loops, and variables

Students can [explore the oceans](#) with SciGirls, learn to [code and meditate](#) with CodeSpeak Labs, [build a climate clock](#) with Vidcode, or try out another of the 30+ new [#CSforGood](#) themed activities and lesson plans. See them all at [hourofcode.com/learn](#).

No computer? No problem. Code.org has unplugged resources for students. Every student deserves to learn computer science regardless of what technology they have at home. A number of [engaging new unplugged options](#) from our partners at Google, Kodable, iRobot, and elsewhere are available to learners with low or no connectivity or limited device access.

Code.org has also created a printable [Hour of Code Unplugged Activity Packet](#) for ages 4-18. Please include these resources in your next communication to parents and caretakers so that your students can still join this global event.

To make this year's event even more engaging for students, try [inviting a volunteer](#) to speak to your classroom! Many volunteers are eager to help in-person or virtually and are also CS professionals who can speak about their career path.

Whether your students are learning in-person, at home, or a hybrid of both, [Code.org](#) hopes that these resources can make it simpler than ever to bring an Hour of Code to students of all ages. However you choose to participate, Code.org can't thank you enough for your effort and support.

[\\$10,000 Scholarship Opportunity for Your Students from CSTA](#)

The Computer Science Teachers Association & the Association for Computing Machinery are pleased to announce the application period is now open for the CSTA/ACM Cutler-Bell Prize in High School Computing.

If you are a 9-12 computer science educator who is working with high school seniors looking to continue their studies in computer science or technology, tell them to apply for the [\\$10,000 CSTA/ACM Cutler-Bell Prize](#).

These funds will be provided to the university of their choice and they will be honored at CSTA's 2021 Virtual Conference. Up to four (4) scholarships will be awarded. The application period closes on January 12, 2021.

For complete scholarship details, please visit csteachers.org/page/csta-acm-cutler-bell-prize.

[Perkins 2020 Secondary Rural Reserve Grant RFP](#)

The Career & Technical Education unit of the Office of Public Instruction has been awarded some additional funds to help support Montana's smaller schools with additional Perkins dollars.

Purpose: To create career awareness, recruit, and retain students within a CTE Secondary Program of Study that leads to a high skill, high wage, or in-demand occupations.

Awards: Grants of up to \$2,000 each will be available to Secondary Perkins eligible school districts who receive less than \$5,000 in Perkins funding and are considered remote rural schools as defined by NCES.

Schools will have had to complete the Perkins Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and Perkins E-Grant application as well.

More details are provided in the [Perkins Secondary Rural Reserve Grant application](#).

For more information please email Shannon.boswell@mt.gov.

[Fun Facts and Trivia](#)

The Many Banded Shell-Dweller is endemic to Africa's Lake Tanganyika.

Many Banded Shell-Dwellers are members of the fish family Cichlidae.

The Many Banded Shell-Dweller gets its name from the dark colored bands, or rings, which encircle their bodies and from the fact that they utilize abandoned shells to protect themselves from predators

Many Banded Shell-Dwellers live in open sandy areas with large quantities of Neothuma snail shells.

The Neothuma snail is a freshwater snail is only found in Lake Tanganyika, where it is the largest gastropod

The Many Banded Shell-Dwellers use these snails shells as shelter.

Many Banded Shell-Dwellers are very popular among aquarists and easier to house than many other cichlids since they do not grow very big.

One shell dweller from Lake Tanganyika will rarely claim a territory bigger than 10 square inches in the aquarium.

Shell dwellers are also popular due to their charming personality and strong will; characteristics which they share with many of the larger cichlid species.

When a female lays her eggs, they produce a small number of fry, usually five to 15.

Lake Tanganyika is an African Great Lake.

It is the second-oldest freshwater lake in the world, the second largest by volume, and the second deepest, in all cases after Russia's Lake Baikal in Siberia.

Lake Tanganyika has a mean depth of 1,870 feet with a maximum depth of 4,826 feet.

It is the world's longest freshwater lake at 420 miles from north to south.

The lake is shared between four countries—Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, and Zambia.

Lake Tanganyika drains into the Congo River system and ultimately into the Atlantic Ocean.

Issues of the Wednesday Reader are archived on the Montana Business Education Association (MBEA) website at www.mbea.info. The Wednesday Readers are under the Newsletter section and listed most-recent first.

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"You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right." ~Rev. Theodore Hesburgh