Wednesday Reader

Interactive Accounting Crossword Puzzles from Start Here, Go Places.®

Challenge your students' accounting vocabulary skills with interactive crossword puzzles.

Think your students know accounting terms and concepts? The new crossword puzzle activity from Start Here, Go Places.® puts their knowledge to the test time and time again.

A new crossword puzzle will be created each month, drawing from more than 300 accounting terms curated by our in-house experts to keep your students fresh, even during summer break. The top questions a teacher may have about the crossword puzzle have been put together into a FAQ on the Monthly Accounting Crossword Challenge website.

Visit the Monthly Accounting Crossword Challenge website to start using the interactive crossword puzzles today.

Also, be sure to check out the Start Here, Go Places.® for more tools and resources for teacher and students.

Monday, March 1 is the Deadline for AICPA Foundation Scholarship Applications

Applications for the 2021-22 AICPA Foundation High School Scholarship are open until March 1, 2021.

The AICPA Foundation will provide $2,000 to 10 students who intend to continue their accounting studies at an accredited college or university, and who have taken an advanced high school accounting course taught by you as a part of the APBP program. Selected recipients will be awarded this scholarship during June-July of 2021 for the fall 2021 and spring 2022 academic year.

Eligible students must be/have:

- Taken an advanced accounting course taught by an APBP-trained educator.
- The nomination of a registered educator or school counselor at StartHereGoPlaces.com or nomination by a current AICPA member.

- Proof of acceptance into a public or private, not-for- profit (501(c)) two or four-year accredited college or university located in the United States or territories for the full 2021-22 academic year. Selected recipients must provide proof before the award is paid in summer 2021.

- Maintained a GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).

- Enrolling as a full-time undergraduate (12 semester hours or equivalent) for the full 2021-22 academic year.

- A registered High School student on Start Here, Go Places.

- A U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder).

- Some financial need (i.e., not receiving a full or partial scholarship(s) and/or grant(s) that cover and/or exceed student's educational expenses).

Note: AICPA staff and their family members are not eligible to receive this scholarship.

Eligible students can apply online here. Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2021.

Computer Science PD for Montana High School Teachers—Register by Monday, March 1, to get Priority Consideration for Funding

Four Computer Sciences courses will be offered during Summer 2021. Generous stipends and travel support will be available.

Register for the Summer 2021 courses here. Registrations completed by Monday, March 1, 2021, will receive priority consideration for funding.

Mobile CSP
Mobile CSP is based on the College Board's emerging Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles curriculum framework for introductory computer science. Students learn programming and computer science principles by building socially useful mobile apps using MIT's App Inventor.

Details at mobile-csp.org.

- Questions? Contact Stacy Dolderer at stacy_dolderer@gfps.k12.mt.us

- Location: TBD

- Date: June 2021, exact dates still to be determined

Joy and Beauty of Computing (JBC)
This course provides an overview of the world of computing, as well as a gentle introduction to computational thinking using the Python programming language. It examines the computing field, how it impacts the human condition, and introduces exciting ideas and influential people. The course can be taught for dual enrollment.

- Questions? Contact Jeff Braun at jbraun@mtech.edu

- Location: TBD

- Date: June 2021, exact dates still to be determined

Python Modules for Math and Science
Learn how to integrate modules that emphasize Python programming and computational thinking into high school science and math classes. Modules are fully developed and ready to go. They vary in length and difficulty. Opportunities to develop custom modules for your own classes will be provided and supported.

- Questions? Contact Yolanda Reimer at yolanda.reimer@mso.umt.edu
- Location: TBD
- Date: June 2021, exact dates still to be determined

Game Programming
This course focuses on game programming using Unity.

- Questions? Contact Hunter Lloyd at hunter.lloyd@montana.edu
- Location: TBD
- Date: June 2021, exact dates still to be determined

Additional details available on the Montana Teachers—Summer 2021 PD site.

Faculty Affiliates: University of Montana, Salish-Kootenai College, Montana Tech, and Montana State University. Project funded by the Gianforte Family Foundation.

NBEA 2021 Convention Early-Bird Registration Ends Monday, March 1—Attend in New Orleans or Virtually

This year, the National Business Education Association is offering the option to participate in the 2021 Annual Convention either in-person or virtually.

The NBEA 2021 Annual Convention will take place March 30-April 2 in New Orleans, Louisiana, at The Marriott New Orleans. If you cannot or are not yet ready to travel, NBEA is also allowing participation from your home, home office, or classroom through Zoom.

Early-bird registration for the NBEA 2021 Annual Convention runs through March 1. If you are planning to attend on-site in New Orleans, the rooming block at The Marriott New Orleans closes on March 5.

For complete details, including a tentative schedule of events and registration and hotel rates, please visit the 2021 Annual Convention site.

Eight Free Digital Lessons for Black History Month & Beyond from EVERFI

EVERFI offers two free digital courses for students, 306: African American History and 306: Continuing the Story, that bring to life a number of the influential leaders and events whose impacts changed the fabric of American life.

Start with these online lessons and then explore the offline materials to build out your comprehensive antiracism instruction, in February and beyond.

You can access the resources, which include an antiracism toolkit, videos, timeline activity, and more at Teaching Black History in 2021.

Design a Sticker, Win a Scholarship from Reach Higher Montana

Design the next sticker for Reach Higher Montana and have your design inspire Montana high school students to find their path after high school!

The sticker design contest opened February 1 and closes March 15, 2021.

Prizes: The top two designers will each receive a $1,500 scholarship. The third and fourth place designers will each receive a $1,000 scholarship. The fifth and sixth place designers will each receive a $500 scholarship.

All six winners will receive 100 stickers.

The art program of the respective students will each receive $250 to purchase art supplies or equipment for their designated school or community art program.

Visit the Reach Higher Montana Scholarship page for more details.

Montana's STEM Scholarship Program—Applications Due March 15

Montana's STEM Scholarship Program is designed to provide an incentive for Montana high school students to prepare for, enter into, and complete degrees in postsecondary fields related to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and healthcare. The goal of this program is to increase the number of STEM degree recipients participating in Montana's workforce.

Successful applicants can receive $1000 for the first year, $1500 each for the second and third years of study, and $2000 for the fourth academic year.

The scholarship application and all supporting documentation must be postmarked by March 15.

For the complete application process, eligibility requirements, qualifying STEM majors, and a list of Montana post-secondary institute for which the scholarship can be used, please visit the Montana STEM Scholarship Program page.

The Prospects 2021 Report—Judging Underway; Winners Announced March 12

The Montana Chamber Foundation wishes to say *"Thank you"* to all the amazing educators and students for participating in the inaugural year of The Prospects business pitch competition!

On behalf of the all the parents out here who are also business leaders, the Montana Chamber Foundation recognizes the tireless effort you give for our future. Working together virtually and through the hundreds of text messages to promote this, in-and-out of your classrooms, has given [Matt Olson, Montana Chamber Foundation's Director of Network Development] an insider's appreciation for the uncertainty that the CV19 pandemic is wreaking on you and our communities.

Judging & Awards: For the next three weeks, submissions will be reviewed by more than 60 judges from urban and rural Montana, Seattle, Denver and Moscow, Russia!

This year, the total prize purse is $52,500 to reward the best entrepreneurial ideas from across the state. Competing for these prizes are 93 student submissions from rural and urban Montana.

Winners will be announced on Friday, March 12.

Thank you again! The Montana Chamber Foundation appreciates your resilience. Stay healthy and warm.

Sign Your Students Up for the Virtual CoderZ League Sprint Challenge—Challenge Begins March 1

See your students grow and thrive in the CoderZ League Sprint Challenge. Students will compete in one of three divisions, from Novice to Pro, and will enjoy the fun of working in teams, whether together in class or from home. Students in grades 4 to 12 will solve virtual robotics challenges in a schoolwide competition or against other teams in the state, sharpening their skills in computational thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration. The 2021 CoderZ League Sprint Challenge will be held March 1-31.

CoderZ League is a groundbreaking online robotics tournament that includes two levels to accommodate students of every coding experience (Junior, Pro). The tournament engages students through gaming and competition in STEM, coding, and tech literacy. CoderZ League is cloud-based, available on any device, and uses simulation of virtual 3D Robots to perform complex tasks and missions. The virtual experience makes it easy to design, program, and test a simulated robot in a variety of 3D environments. Teams of students work collaboratively to program, plan, and complete missions.

CoderZ League (Former CRCC) is an exciting, engaging and fun virtual robotics competition for students of all levels to participate and learn about STEM, robotics, coding and ignite their technology career paths.

Explore the U.S. Currency Education Program's Digital Resources for Students and Teachers

The U.S. Currency Education Program (CEP) is responsible for ensuring users of U.S. currency around the world have access to education, training, and information about Federal Reserve notes. Managed by the Federal Reserve Board, the CEP works closely with our government partners at the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing to raise awareness about how to use the design and security features of U.S. currency.

The U.S. Currency Education Program has a number of digital resources available to teach the next generation about money. Visit the Currency Academy for elementary school activities that delve into the art, science, and history of U.S. bills. Lesson plans, printable play money, and animated videos are also available to bring U.S. currency to life in any setting.

The *Money Adventure* mobile app is available for download in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. This animated adventure introduces elementary students to the unique characteristics of U.S. currency. The note front explorer of the app contains a virtual banknote that students interact with to learn about the security features of a $20 bill. In the note back explorer, students must venture through the historical events illustrated on the back of U.S. currency to help Buck the Time-Traveling Dog save Professor Bill.

Teachers can direct older students to the self-guided training module to learn how to use the security features contained on Federal Reserve notes. Additionally, the handheld materials are available in multiple languages to familiarize teens with different aspects of U.S. currency.

All resources are free to access, download, and order.

Apply Now for the Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program

Through House Bill 211, the 2019 Montana legislature renewed the quality educator loan assistance program as a recruitment and retention aid for rural schools. The Office of Public Instruction is responsible for administering the program. Applications for the Montana Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program will be accepted from February 15-March 31, 2021.

Newly hired quality educators who teach or work in a subject that has been identified as a "critical quality educator shortage area" at an "impacted school" are eligible to receive state

paid loan assistance for up to four years, so long as they remain a full-time employee at an impacted school.

The program provides for up to $3,000 of state funded loan repayment at the end of the first year of teaching, up to $4,000 at the end of the second year, and up to $5,000 at the end of the third year. In addition, the school district has the option to offer up to $5,000 at the end of the fourth year, but this is entirely a local decision.

See the Quality Educator Loan Assistance FAQ's for information on the criteria, applying, the list of impacted schools, and quality educator shortage areas.

At the time of application, the quality educator will have to provide the most current loan statement showing the remaining principal balance of the loan. To be eligible, the educational loan must not be in default, and the balance must be at least $1,000. The authorized loan assistance repayment amount will be the lesser of the principal balance or the maximum amount shown above.

OPI Conducting a Professional Learning Needs Survey—Closes Friday

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is requesting your feedback on the numerous professional learning opportunities offered by the OPI. Please visit the 2021-2022 OPI Professional Learning Needs landing page to learn more about this feedback opportunity.

This data will help OPI meet the needs of Montana's educators.

Please complete the survey by the end of the day Friday, February 26.

Please share this request and survey link with your co-workers.

Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam® Grant—Receive up to $10,000

The Lemelson-MIT Program is searching for high school STEM or Career and Technical Educators who could receive a $10K InvenTeam® grant. Many teachers who pursued this opportunity report the InvenTeam experience enriched their teaching and was life changing for students, often inspiring them to pursue STEM pathways in college, despite having little or no prior STEM exposure.

InvenTeams are teams of high school students, educators, and mentors that receive grants up to $10,000 to invent technological solutions to real-world problems. Each InvenTeam chooses its own problem to solve.

The deadline to apply is April 5, 2021.

Registration for CSTA 2021 is Open to All Members

The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) is excited to announce registration for CSTA 2021 is now open for all members.

This year's conference spans two and a half days full of amazing CSTA sessions. With over 150 presentations, there is tons of new content to help you inspire your students.

Register early to ensure you receive this year's swag box (U.S. and Canada residents only) and do not miss out on the fun.

The CSTA 2021 Virtual Conference will be July 14-16.

If you are not a CSTA member, you can become a CSTA Basic Member for free.

Apply Today for a CSTA 2021 Conference Scholarship

The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) prides itself in promoting equitable access to the CSTA Annual Conference by offering scholarships that subsidize 100% of the program cost. These scholarships are intended to support teachers whose limited financial resources may prevent them from attending. The goal is to support as many teachers as possible.

To be eligible for scholarships to the 2021 CSTA Conference, you must:

1. be a CSTA Basic (free) or CSTA+ member,
2. directly teach computer science to K-12 students, and
3. not have access to funding from your school or organization to cover conference registration fees.

Applications close on April 30, 2021.

Montana Teacher of the Year 2022 Nominations and Applications Open

The mission of the Montana Teacher of the Year program is to elevate student success by empowering classroom innovation and enhancing pathways to teacher leadership.

- The Teacher of the Year program elevates student success by celebrating teachers who honor individual student strengths and each child's unique abilities.

- The Teacher of the Year program empowers classroom innovation by recognizing teachers who are responsive to the complex realities that define Montana's diverse and unique classrooms across the state.

- The Teacher of the Year program enhances pathways to teacher leadership by creating teacher ambassadors at the local, state, and national level to connect classrooms to the community.

The Montana Teacher of the Year Program is part of the National Teacher of the Year Program conducted by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), of which

Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction is a member. Diverse statewide selection committees review and interview applicants to determine the finalists and ultimately the Montana Teacher of the Year who then competes at the national level to become CCSSO's National Teacher of the Year. Please visit the National Teacher of the Year website for more information.

All active Montana K-12 teachers who are making a positive difference for students in their community are encouraged to apply.

Teachers can self-nominate by filling out an application or any member of the public can fill out an online nomination form for a Montana teacher they feel is qualified. The OPI will then reach out to the nominated teacher and ask that they complete an application.

- Nomination forms are due to the OPI by May 14, 2021.
- Applications are due by June 18, 2021.
- Complete applications must be emailed to MTTOY@mt.gov.

UM President's Lecture Series with Dr. Beverly Tatum: A Virtual Conversation about Race and Racism

The University of Montana invites all Montana educators to join in the upcoming President's Lecture service, A Virtual Conversation about Race and Racism with Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum.

The virtual lecture will be held Wednesday, March 3, from 12-1:15 pm (MST). The session will be moderated by Dr. Karla Bird, President, Blackfeet Community College.

Dr. Tatum, president emerita of Spelman College, is a clinical psychologist widely known for her expertise on race relations and as a thought leader in higher education. She is the author of several books, including the best-selling modern classic "*Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" and Other Conversations About Race* (now in a 2017 20th anniversary edition), and "*Can We Talk About Race?" and Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation* (2007). Dr. Tatum is a sought-after speaker on the topics of racial identity development, race and education, and strategies for creating inclusive educational environments for learners of all ages.

Participants will need to RSVP in advance.

UM is offering OPI Renewal Unit for teachers. Please contact Randi Edwards in advance if you plan to take advantage of this opportunity.

UM has created a resource page to support building inclusive communities and to further the conversation around Dr. Tatum's work.

Mark Your Calendars for the ACTE Work-Based Learning Hybrid Conference—April 29 & 30

The Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE) will be hosting the 2021 Work-Based Learning Conference in both an in-person and virtual model, April 29 and 30.

This special event, co-hosted by the Iowa Work-Based Learning Organization and ACTE, is a national work-based learning conference focused on supporting the delivery of quality experiences that foster in-depth, firsthand engagement with the tasks required in a given career field.

The Work-Based Learning Conference will feature over 40 work-based learning topics and will include the ACTE Work-Based Learning Policy meeting, committee meetings, and regional work-based learning receptions.

If you can attend in-person, the conference will be held on the Ankeny Campus of the Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, Iowa. The ACTE-member registration rate for the in-person option is $250. If traveling to Iowa is not an option, you can register as a virtual participant. The ACTE-member registration rate if participating virtually is $150.

To learn more about the conference, please visit the ACTE Work-Based Learning Conference page.

ISTELive 21—Registration is Now Open for ISTE's 2021 Virtual Conference

Registration for ISTELive 21, happening virtually June 26-30, is now open. This fully immersive online event is where you will get the strategies you need to move from surviving disruption to reimagining learning. ISTELive 21 is where you will join a global corps of educators to discover fresh approaches and share cutting-edge ideas, all focused on ensuring your students are prepared to meet the challenges of the moment.

Whether you are looking for guidance on a student filmmaking project, want to learn how to incorporate computational thinking into literature, or are eager to hear from a district leader who has pulled off a complicated tech initiative, there is something for you regardless of your role, grade level or subject area.

This summer, gather with educators worldwide on our custom-built platform where you will learn from experts, communicate with each other in real time and access a rich archive of over 1,000 learning experiences that you can return to again and again for six months.

More than 13,000 participants attended ISTE20 Live, ISTE's first-ever virtual event, and the response was overwhelmingly positive:

Register by March 1 to get the lowest price of the year. Plus, get more value by choosing the Educator Virtual Journey, which allows you to bundle the conference with the Summer Learning Academy and Creative Constructor Lab.

Visit the ISTELive 21 conference website for more details and registration pricing.

ACTE Region V 2021 Conference Going Virtual—Early-Bird Registration Ends April 1

Hosted by Nevada ACTE, the 2021 ACTE Region V Conference will be held virtually, April 15-17.

Early registration is now open and can be completed online. The early registration rate for ACTE members is $199 and ends April 1. After April 1, the registration rate increases to $299.

Preliminary details can be found on the 2021 ACTE Region V Conference website.

For questions regarding the 2021 conference, please contact Jennifer Fisk at fiskje@nv.ccsd.net.

Access to the 2021 Revised Montana Content Standards

The newly adopted standards for Career and Technical Education, Computer Science, Library Media, Social Studies, and Technology Integration are now posted in spreadsheet form on the K-12 Content Standards & Revision Webpage.

See individual content area pages to access the standards and other helpful information.

Each standard spreadsheet includes K-12 as well as grade-level sheets.

Model curriculum guides, professional development, and resources will be added throughout 2021.

Districts should consider their five-year curriculum review cycle in order to plan for a staggered approach to aligning to new standards. The implementation date for the new standards begins July 1, 2021.

Fun Facts and Trivia

Vampire Pleco are native to the Amazon River basin and other waterways of South America.

The Vampire Pleco is a fish known for its distinct and lovely appearance as the fish boasts a dark body in the shades of black, brown or gray, with spots ranging from pure white to yellow.

Vampire Plecos have large caudal and dorsal fins, which they use to fan and guide themselves through the water most effectively.

Vampire Pleco can reach 10 inches if it is well-fed and lives for long enough.

You can tell the age of a Vampire Pleco by its size and the shade of its spots.

If a fish has white spots, it is likely a younger one.

If its spots are more yellow, on the other hand, it is probably getting on in years.

Vampire Plecos can live up to 15 years, a respectable age.

Vampire Plecos are flat, with a hard head and long, slender body.

They are bottom feeders, with their mouth on their underside, and they are omnivorous, with an appetite for critters like crustaceans, small worms and larvae, general plant matter, and algae.

Vampire Plecos also have a unique taste for fancier fare, like escargot (snails).

A unique characteristic of the Vampire Pleco is that its pupils, according to light levels, dilate or shrink.

The Vampire Pleco shares this trait with cats, some of the greatest night prowlers.

Indeed, Vampire Plecos can see reasonably well in dark environments, as they hunt prey and avoid predators alike.

The Vampire Pleco can protect itself fiercely, thrashing with a small, sturdy body and using its best defense mechanism—the stiff, upright dorsal fin, which it uses to threaten and lash out at enemies.

For questions, please contact:

Eric Swenson, Business Education Specialist - 406.444.7991