



Meet. Share. Spark Innovation.

Dear Colleagues,

Let your faculty meetings be a time when information and conversation spark innovation.

Welcome back!

Welcome to the new school year and a new Spark! It is our goal to help make your faculty meetings a time to spark conversation and innovation.

The ISACS Spark is an initiative to provide our member schools with quick and engaging professional development opportunities to spark conversations in 15 minutes or less. These “sparks” can be used as food for thought or as opportunities to engage in larger conversations among peers. ISACS will be sending Sparks throughout the school year and we hope you will find them helpful in stimulating conversations around exciting research related to teaching and learning.

August Topic – Preparing Kids for the Future

Are we preparing kids for the future? Welcome to the new academic year and new opportunities to empower students in the 21st century. Columbus will host the 2016 ISACS annual conference on Thursday, November 3 and Friday, November 4 where attendees will hear from keynote presenter and author of *Most Likely to Succeed*, Tony Wagner. “Tony Wagner and Ted Dintersmith want us to stop thinking about success for our children in terms of test scores, and start concentrating on real learning, creative problem-solving, and the joy of discovery. *Most Likely to Succeed* is a book for everyone interested in seeing our children thrive in the 21st century.” — Daniel H. Pink, author of *Drive* and *A Whole New Mind*.

We hope you will view the clips below and consider joining us in Columbus where you can hear directly from Tony Wagner and view the film *Most Likely to Succeed* in its entirety!

Videos:

- **Clip #1:** [Most Likely to Succeed, Tony Wagner](#) - Introduction to Tony Wagner and those who are most likely to succeed. (3:38 minutes)

- **Clip #2: [Wanted: Creative Problem Solvers, Tony Wagner](#)** - Harvard education expert Tony Wagner explains why the new economy needs innovators, not necessarily "A" students. (1:27 minutes)

(Length of time for the two clips: approximately 5 minutes)

Below are previews from additional annual conference presenters!

- **Clip #3: [21st Learning Videos - New Line Learning Plaza with Bob Pearlman](#)** (8:21 minutes)
- **Clip #4: [Journey to Pixar - Drawing Research Group with Paul Topolos](#)** (5:36 minutes)

(Length of time for the two clips: approximately 14 minutes)

Stay tuned for more interesting topics. We hope these ideas ignite thinking and conversations in your school.

Regards,

The ISACS Professional Services Committee & the ISACS Professional Development Team

The ISACS Spark has been developed by the Professional Services Committee (PSC). The PSC is comprised of teacher leaders from around the region who are passionate about professional development. All sites and clips have been reviewed and deemed appropriate for sharing.

PAST SPARKS

May 2016 Spark:

May's Spark focusses on creating safe and welcoming schools.

"Schools should be places where children can learn and thrive without fear of hurtful teasing and name-calling of any kind." Quoted from the website, [Welcoming Schools](#).

According to the *Welcoming Schools website*, in the last decade we have seen a tremendous increase in the number of children adopted or born into families headed by lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) parents. At the same time, the 2000 census also reflects that just 25 percent of children in the US are being raised in households headed by a married, heterosexual couple. Given the landscape of diverse family structures, it is deeply important that all children attend schools in which they learn to appreciate and respect human differences, and see their own families reflected in the tapestry of the diverse school community.

Videos:

- **Clip #1: [Embracing Otherness, Embracing Self](#)** - Actor Thandie Newton tells the story of finding her "otherness" — first, as a child growing up in two distinct cultures, and then as an actor playing with many different selves. A warm, wise talk, fresh from stage at TEDGlobal 2011. (13:55 minutes)
- **Clip #2: [Mom, I'm Not A Girl: Raising a Transgender Child](#)** - Raising a transgender child. A mother speaks about raising her son Penelope, who is anatomically female. (7:24 minutes)

(Length of time for the two clips: approximately 21 minutes)

Additional articles of interest:

- [Private Schools and Diversity, Huffington Post](#)
- [Brains in Pain Cannot Learn!, Edutopia](#)

April 2016 Spark:

April's Spark focuses on Math Awareness Month. Communicating a growth mindset helps students believe that everyone is a "math person". Innovation is an increasingly important factor in the growth of world economies. It is especially important in key economic sectors like manufacturing, materials, energy, biotechnology, healthcare, networks, and professional and business services. The advances in and applications of the mathematical sciences have become drivers of innovation as new systems and methodologies have become more complex. As mathematics drives innovation, it also drives careers. For more information, visit www.mathaware.org

Videos:

- **Clip #1: [Boosting Messages From "How To Learn Math for Students"](#)** - Hear from Stanford's Jo Boaler as she and her students address the value of a Growth Mindset in math. (4:24 minutes)
- **Clip #2: [Encouraging children to persist through math challenges](#)** - What do your students do when they are feeling stuck? (6:25 minutes)
- **Clip #3: [Pixar: The Math Behind the Movies](#)** - Pixar Research Lead Tony DeRose delves into the math behind the animations, explaining how arithmetic, trigonometry and geometry help bring Woody and the rest of your favorite characters to life. (7:33 minutes)
- **Clip #4: [Teaching Fraction Problem Solving](#)** - Third grade teacher, Jan Saul, shows how multiple approaches help students wrestle with math problems. Student lead solutions promote engagement and learning. (4:48 minutes)

(Length of time for the four clips: approximately 23 minutes)

March 2016 Spark:

March's Spark focuses on dyslexia. Dyslexia is a language-based learning disability that includes poor sight word reading, decoding, oral reading fluency and spelling. 20% of the total population struggles with symptoms of dyslexia. According to the U.S. Department of Education more than 2 million students ages 3-21 have learning disabilities and many of them are associated with reading.

Videos:

- **Clip #1: [The Big Picture - Rethinking Dyslexia](#)** - This trailer offers a glimpse at the movie directed by James Redford and featuring personal stories of children, experts, and famous individuals who struggled to overcome the implications of a dyslexia diagnosis. (1:48 minutes)
- **Clip #2: [Overcoming Dyslexia, Finding Passion: Piper Otterbein at TEDxYouth@CEHS](#)** - Piper Otterbein was diagnosed with a learning disability in first grade. She struggled all through elementary school and was finally diagnosed with dyslexia in seventh grade. Finally in high school she had an epiphany and decided to focus on her strengths rather than all of her challenges. (7:12 minutes)

(Length of time for the two clips: approximately 9 minutes)

Additional articles of interest:

- [Dyslexia and the Wider World of Creativity and Talent](#)
- [Who Helps Kids With Dyslexia Gain Reading Fluency](#)
- [Why Recognizing Dyslexia in Children at School Can Be Difficult](#)

This email has been sent to heads of school, division heads, assistant/associate heads, deans of faculty, deans of studies, directors of professional development and ISACS teacher representatives.