

Ken Field

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Your House is Talking to You

All you have to do is pay attention to the signs and you can constantly improve your living space. Severe weather can be the time when it speaks the loudest because of the temperature difference between indoors and outdoors. If you have any frozen pipes, you can be sure that outside air is getting inside your house. It happens all the time but you don't notice because all it does is run your energy bill up and you have no idea where the source is. But when something freezes, you can pinpoint it and instead of just fixing the pipe, fix the energy leak too. You can also see frost on areas that drop below the dewpoint far enough. I've seen frost on recessed lights in some places. Cobwebs are also a good indication of air movement and they are usually found near sources of fresh air. If you take a bright flashlight and walk around your basement near the exterior walls, you will probably see cobwebs moving and that is a good indication of air leakage. Leaks like that add up and sealing them can be very helpful. Gap filling foam found at home centers now is much better than the original stuff that was so messy and hard to use.

If you have light colored carpet and notice the edges get dirty, especially on stairs, that's because of air leakage at the wall/floor junction. It shows that dirty air from the attic is being drawn through the wall and into the room. Sometimes in the summer when I go to the second floor of a customer's home I can smell the attic. I am very familiar with the smells of an attic because I spend a lot of time there doing energy work. When I smell it in the living space, it tells me that there is a connection between the attic and the house with respect to air movement. That should never be the case so I look for that connection. You need to pay attention to what your house is trying to tell you all the time because you may only notice the sign in one season but energy is lost year round. At a slow rate it goes undetected but still affects comfort and health and elevates utility bills. Ice dams are prevalent now and they are a sign of substantial energy loss too. You don't need an energy audit to learn how your house breathes and where exterior air is entering if you get in the habit of being observant.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

Bangor Educational Foundation Donates Resources to Support Online Learning

By Deanna Ruzanski / Executive Director The Bangor Area School District Educational Foundation Inc.

BANGOR - 2020 was undoubtedly a year of change for most everyone – especially educators. Traditional in-person classroom instruction was challenged by the need for social distancing. Terms like “virtual,” “online,” “hybrid” and “distance learning” became common ways to describe education for most of 2020 and continued into 2021. Programs such as in-person speakers and demonstrations like the kind The Bangor Area School District Educational Foundation was used to funding were being rescheduled and then cancelled indefinitely.

In looking for a meaningful way to support the teachers and students during these unprecedented times, Marc Blau, former educator and Bangor Area School District Educational Foundation and Teacher Grant committee member surveyed a sampling of teachers to understand how The Foundation could help. He received a response indicating that resources may help, specifically books such as The Distance Learning Playbook, Grades K-12: Teaching for Engagement and Impact in Any Setting and DON'T Ditch That Tech: Differentiated Instruction in a Digital World both full of practical strategies to help the virtual home instructors and the HS hybrid teachers.

With the approval of The Bangor Area School District School Board, The Foundation purchased 30 books in total - 3 of each book for the libraries of all 5 schools.

According to online resources, “The Distance Learning Playbook is the essential hands-on guide to preparing and delivering distance learning experiences that are truly effective and impactful” while Don't Ditch That Tech, provides practical ideas to help find the sweet spot where classroom devices meet students' needs and is said to be a teacher-tailored guide that includes tips on how to handle cart/lab scenarios, develop attention-grabbing strategies, and build metacognitive practices.

Upon communicating with each high school principal regarding the distribution of both resources, Dr. Sherry Holub, Middle School Principal thanked The Foundation and teacher grant committee and indicated that she was familiar with both books that DON'T Ditch That Tech: Differentiated Instruction in a Digital World would become a school-wide study next year.



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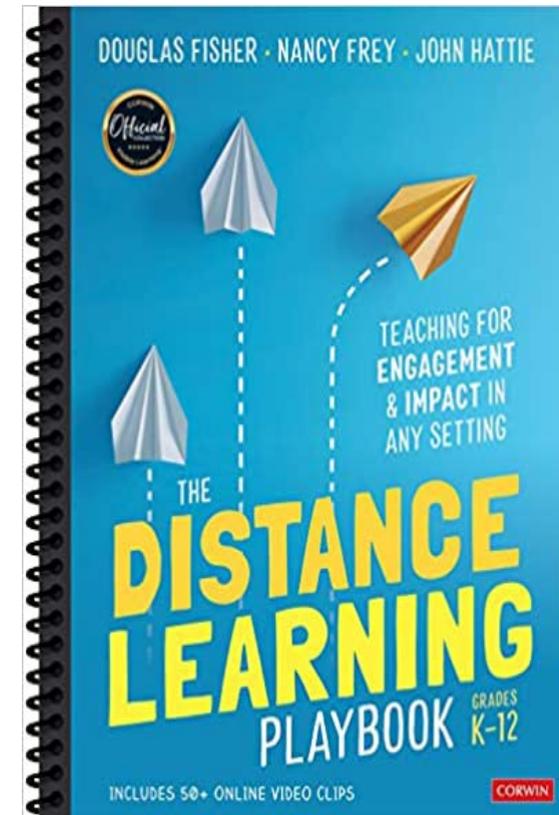
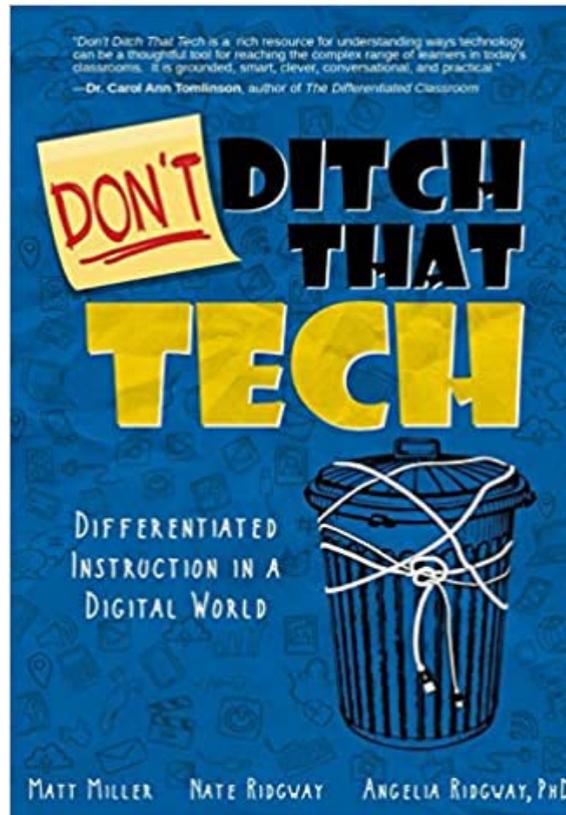
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The Bangor Area School District Educational Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization that operates independently from the district and school board. Founded in the Spring of 1997, The Foundation's mission is to support learning for the children and adults of the Bangor Area School District by funding activities and culturally enriching programs, community events, student scholarships, teacher grant projects and academic awards. The Foundation oversees the financial aspect of various scholarships that are presented to district students each year. The Foundation is also responsible for funding various enrichment experiences such as Cyndi the SynDaver, an outreach program presented in conjunction with the Da Vinci Science Center as well as teacher grant programs, all of which are made available through donor contributions and fundraising efforts of The Bangor Area School District Educational Foundation, Inc. Should you be interested in learning more, sponsoring a scholarship or making a general donation, please visit our website at basdef.org or contact Executive Director Deanna Ruzanski at director@basdef.org