Here’s a great chance to learn some new methods, share your best ideas, and network with other tutors and experts.

Our first annual literacy conference, Toolkit for Tutors, will be Saturday, April 6 at John Bapst Memorial High School in Bangor. We hope you’ll join us for a stimulating day filled with information and teaching tools.

**SCHEDULE**

Please choose one class from each session

8:15-8:45 a.m.  Registration, coffee and refreshments

8:45 a.m. Welcome! —Mary Marin Lyon

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.  

**SESSION I**  

**Beyond “What Comes Next?”: effective strategies for promoting comprehension** —Susan Bennett-Armistead

Many people, even skillful readers, could benefit from some additional comprehension strategies. Move past the “I read it but I don’t get it” response to “Oh, that reminds me of...” by helping your literacy learners make connections to their prior knowledge, previous texts read, and their knowledge of the world. In this interactive workshop, you’ll learn several research-based strategies that you can try with your literacy learners right away!

**10:45 to 12:15 p.m.**

**SESSION II**

**American Culture: Holding Up a Mirror** —Nancy Connor

How do you help students figure out the ins and outs of U.S. culture? Sometimes that’s as important as learning English. This workshop will address common behaviors, values and assumptions, communication styles, and ways of reasoning that are so automatic to many of us that we don’t think about them, yet must be learned by those with different backgrounds. Participants will come away with a better understanding of American culture as well as some activities to use with their students.

**2:45 TO 3:00 p.m.**  

**SESSION III**  

**Troubleshooting English Language Teaching** —Chris Mares

Do you have questions about ESL/ELL teaching methods? Do you need ideas for a specific teaching situation? Bring your questions to an ESL teacher with nearly 30 years of experience. Chris Mares is the director of UMaine’s Intensive English Institute, an immersion program for students from all over the world. He will answer your ESL questions, troubleshoot problems you’ve experienced, and discuss methods he has used with a variety of students.

**2:45 TO 3:00 p.m.**

**Evaluation and door prizes**

**12:15-1:15 p.m.**  

**Working lunch**

Sharing resources, ideas, problems and solutions for ELL and BL tutors. Participants are strongly encouraged to bring something to share with your group: a book, website, activity, or other resource. Facilitators: Basic Literacy (BL) — Jen Montgomery-Rice; English Language Learning (ELL) — Kara Schreiber

**2:45 TO 3:00 p.m.**

**Using Technology to Enhance Learning** —Laurie Carpenter

What technology resources are available and how can you use them with your students? How can we benefit from e-readers and downloadable e-books? Learn how to use e-reader devices (e.g. Kindle and Nook) and tablets (e.g. iPad) effectively. The presenter will have some to demonstrate, and you are encouraged to bring your own as well. You’ll also learn about some databases (such as Learning Express) that can be helpful to both tutors and students.

**Facilitators**

**Basic Literacy (BL)** — Jen Montgomery-Rice

**English Language Learning (ELL)** — Kara Schreiber

**American Culture: Holding Up a Mirror** — Nancy Connor

**Troubleshooting English Language Teaching** — Chris Mares

**Using Technology to Enhance Learning** — Laurie Carpenter