



# NEWSLETTER



## Hour of Code CHALLENGE WINNERS!

The week of December 7-13 was Computer Science Education Week! To celebrate, Heidi Rethmeier, a Staff Developer at ESU 8, challenged our local K-12 schools to participate in an *Hour of Code*.



A drawing was held the week of December 14<sup>th</sup> and the winners are Nancy Polodna at Norfolk Middle School and Kevin Morrow at O'Neill Public Schools! Classes will receive a free STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) presentation.

Go to [hourofcode.com](http://hourofcode.com) anytime to explore these great FREE resources! NO experience required.

Contact Heidi Rethmeier at [Heidi.rethmeier@esu8ne.org](mailto:Heidi.rethmeier@esu8ne.org) for more information regarding Hour of Code.



### INDEX

#### MEDIA CENTER RESOURCES

- Magic School Bus Resources .....3
- Public Schools Day of Action .....4

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- ESU 8 and AdvancED ..... 5

#### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- BLENDIT2 ..... 4
- COLD Conference ..... 4
- Hour of Code Challenge Winners 1
- Music Teacher Collaboration Day 2
- January At A Glance ..... 5

#### TECHNOLOGY

- ESU 8's YouTube Channel ..... 2

Visit [www.esu8.org](http://www.esu8.org) for more information!

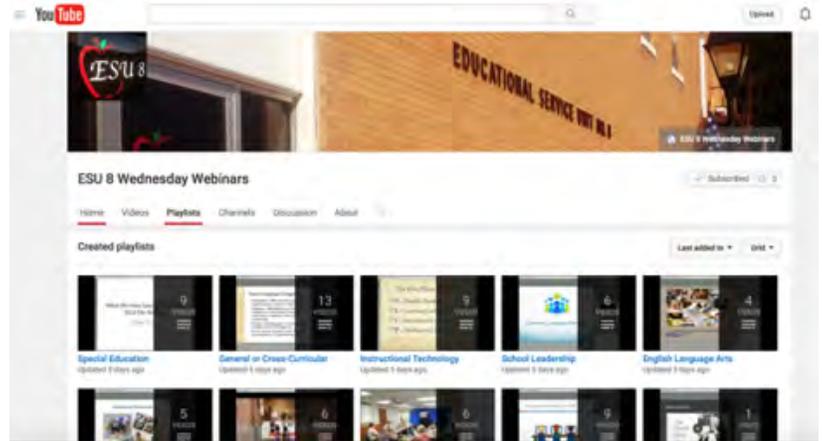
## ESU 8's YOUTUBE CHANNEL

ESU 8's Wednesday Webinars are taking on a new look for a new year. Beginning in January 2016, all archived Wednesday Webinars will be organized and available for anytime, anywhere viewing via our YouTube channel.

You still will be able to see upcoming Wednesday Webinar topics on the ESU 8 webpage, but to revisit archived webinars, navigate to YouTube and search for **ESU 8 Wednesday Webinars**. Once there, you have some options in how you look for recorded webinars.

- From the **Home** page of the channel, you can see suggested videos as well as featured playlists organized around educational topic areas.
- From the **Playlists** subpage, you can view every playlist in a linear menu along with the number of included videos in each.
- You can search in the **Search Channel** bar (magnifying glass icon) for specific topics and/or tags (keywords).

When you select a webinar to view, be sure to read the video description for potential links and related resources to accompany the video.



Also, be sure to **Subscribe** so that you will receive notifications when new videos are added to the channel.

At ESU 8 we have been impressed with many schools' use of Wednesday Webinars— whether it be for full group staff development, late start/snow day sessions, “flipped” professional development, or simply individual choice in professional growth. We hope that by sharing these resources in a more organized, public-facing way, even more people will find benefits. As always, please let us know if there is any topic you would like to see addressed or any suggestions for future improvements. Continue to learn with us through Wednesday Webinars.

## MUSIC TEACHER COLLABORATION DAY

Tuesday, January 26  
Educational Service Unit 8 in Neligh

Please join us for a day of collaboration on Tuesday, January 26, 2016. Meet up with other vocal and instrumental Music teachers to share resources, talk curriculum, and write assessments to match Nebraska Standards.

Last year when the music teachers met they indicated that they would like to work on assessments to match the new state standards. We will have time to do this, collaborate on curriculum, and offer ideas about resources and/or lessons that are successful in the classroom.

Register online at [www.esu8.org](http://www.esu8.org). And if you have questions, please contact Steph Wanek at [swanek@esu8.org](mailto:swanek@esu8.org).



# INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS RESOURCE CENTER



The ESU 8 Media Center has 36 **Magic School Bus** titles for you to check out for your young students. Below are just a few of these titles ...



## Magic School Bus, The: Lost in the Solar System

Grade: Pre K - 2, 3-5

Run Time: [30:12]

More In Series: [Magic School Bus](#)

The field trip to the planetarium is foiled when the museum turns out to be closed, but Ms. Frizzle saves the day. The Magic School Bus turns into a spaceship and takes the class on a trip zooming through the atmosphere, to the Moon, and beyond! Wit...

©2012, Scholastic Audio.

Audiobook

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Refine Your Search:  
[Tags](#)



## Magic School Bus, The: Inside the Earth

Grade: Pre K - 2, 3-5

Run Time: [20:02]

More In Series: [Magic School Bus](#)

Rock collecting has never been quite like this! When the class forgets to do its homework, a fieldtrip through the Earth's crust, into the center of the Earth, and out through a volcano will teach them not to forget their assignments again - and then...

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## Magic School Bus, The: Climate Challenge

Grade: Pre K - 2, 3-5

Run Time: [26:58]

More In Series: [Magic School Bus](#)

Like it or not, global warming is a hot topic, and it will affect the younger generation the most. So why not turn to the teacher kids like the most, Ms. Frizzle! Only the Friz can boil all the hoopla down to the scientific facts in a fun and informa...

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## Magic School Bus, The: Inside the Human Body

Grade: Pre K - 2, 3-5

Run Time: [27:12]

More In Series: [Magic School Bus](#)

Take a ride inside the human body with Ms. Frizzle and the class! Arnold has swallowed the Magic School Bus! Now, instead of seeing an exhibit of the human body at a museum, the class is taking a look at Arnold's stomach, his intestines, his bloodst...

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## Magic School Bus, The: On the Ocean Floor

Grade: Pre K - 2, 3-5

Run Time: [30:25]

More In Series: [Magic School Bus](#)

When Ms. Frizzle drives the Magic School Bus full speed ahead into the ocean, the class takes a submarine expedition that's anything but ordinary. With a well-meaning lifeguard in tow, the class takes a deep breath and learns about hot water vents, c...

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YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
DAY OF ACTION

**JANUARY 27**  
STATE-WIDE ACROSS  
NEBRASKA

 SIGN UP TO HOST A WATCH PARTY AT  
[NELOVESPS.ORG/JANUARY27](http://NELOVESPS.ORG/JANUARY27)

ESU 8 will be participating in the upcoming first-ever **Public Schools Day of Action**, defined by [NElovesPS.org](http://NElovesPS.org) as “a day devoted to engaging all citizens in Nebraska to celebrate our teachers, students and public school communities.”

To celebrate and join the movement we will be hosting a public viewing of the film “Consider the Alternative.” This limited-release film from Nebraska Loves Public Schools explains to families and taxpayers the positive differences already happening in our existing public schools. The hour-long film will be played at 1:00 pm at the ESU 8 main offices and anyone is welcome.

If this time does not work with your schedule, consider hosting your own viewing party in your school or community. Learn more and sign up for free at <http://nelovesps.org/january27>. No matter the level of participation, anyone can benefit from visiting <http://nelovesps.org> and joining in the important conversation about the power of education for our youth and the future of our communities.

## **BLENDIT2: A CTE/SCHOOL COUNSELOR PERKINS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**BLENDIT2** is a 1-year professional development opportunity through the ESU 8 Perkins Grant consortium. Six ESU 8 CTE teachers or School Counselors were selected from a pool of ESU 8 Perkins Consortium applicants. They are participating in the next phase of professional development, which challenges, encourages, and supports career technical education teachers and counselors through the themes of rigor, relevance, and relationships. **Blended Learning Education: *Nebraskans Do It Together*** participants experience blended learning from the ground up.

What is **Blended Learning**? Blended learning is an educational model that combines traditional face-to-face and distance classroom methods with online delivery and participation, and includes an element of student control over time, place, path, and pace.

The ESU 8 Perkins Consortium collaborates with the Perkins Consortiums of ESUs 1 and 17 for this professional development opportunity. Every fall, each consortium invites CTE teachers and School Counselors to apply. Watch your email early next fall for the invitation to apply for the 2016-2017 school year!

## **COLD CONFERENCE: COUNSELORS OPTIMAL LEARNING DAY CONFERENCE**

Thursday, January 28  
8:30am-3:00pm  
NECC Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk

COLD Conference attendees will have the opportunity to complete the ENGAGE! Middle School Careers Curriculum training in the morning and gain access to the accompanying resources. NDE School Counseling Specialist, Donna Hoffman hopes to join us following lunch to provide a counseling update. To wrap up the day, counselors will have time to network around various topics of interest.

Please register by Friday, January 22 using this link: ► <https://goo.gl/1XINEq> ◀  
We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, January 28 at NECC Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk!

