

Tara Croce Park
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"...Her rapport with her students is amazing. She is fun, creative, challenging, affirming, honest, helpful, and truly dedicated. The ways that she integrates technology, instruction, real-life experience, and active participation is both remarkable and inspiring..."

Stephanie Schlueter
Sixth Grade Parent

"... He expresses over and over again how much he loves your online classes. Science has always been a class he struggled in, but this year he looks forward to class..."

Sean and Kathy Coffey,
Sixth Grade parent

Philosophy of Education

I believe that all students can learn in the right environment with quality instruction. All students should be given the opportunity to learn, be challenged and utilize higher order and critical thinking skills. Students should be taught and assessed in authentic ways that allow them to utilize technology so that they will thrive in the 21st century.

Education, Honors, and Certifications

Blackboard Hall of Fame Award Winner 2012

"Bloom" with STEM

Nominated for National Online Teacher of the Year Award 2011 and 2012

Nominated by CEO, principal, assistant principal

Nominated for Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Award 2011

Nominated by assistant principal

Master's Instructional Technology

Widener University- in progress

Bachelors of Science, Elementary Education

West Chester University. 2001

Key Qualifications

- Blackboard MVP- 2013
- Blackboard Ask the Doctor's Program 2012-2013
- Certification- Elementary Education
- Certification- Middle School English
- Certification- Middle School History
- Certification- High School English
- ITLG Grant 2011/2014- Make Your Online Classroom Bloom with STEM- created an online STEM program where students are able to follow the engineering design process based on NASA's BEST program. Students work on monthly design challenges and are visited via webcam by actual NASA scientists and engineers.
- Blackboard Collaborate and Blackboard Learn, expert user
- Glogster Ambassador- 2011- present
- Vast experience in teaching online. Extensive experience using web tools and incorporating ISTE NET's and technology standards into teaching practices.
- Dedicated to enthusiastic and challenging instruction fostering a love of learning in students.

"...she is challenging our already self-motivated son to improve his work, to continue to strive for excellence in all he does. She is encouraging, kind, helpful and as a result, he is excited to attend her classes and to learn from her. In my mind, there's just nothing better than a student who is eager to learn partnered with a teacher who is eager to teach! Mrs. Park's students are in for an AWESOME year!"

Rebekah Hallberg,
Sixth Grade Parent

"During my first telephone conference call with Tara, I realized straight away that she was more than a teacher, she was my academic partner.

Dawn Lubetski,
Sixth Grade parent

Employment

Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School

- Innovation in Teaching and Learning Grant Recipient, 2011-2014
- Sixth Grade Teacher, 2010-present
- Project Leader to the CEO, for Technology, 2010/2011
- Fifth/Sixth Grade Teacher, 2009/2010
- Seventh/Eighth Grade World History Teacher, 2007-2009
- PSSA Site Coordinator, 2006-2011
- Mentor, 2005-2007
- Kindergarten-Fourth Grade Teacher, 2004-2007

Chester Charter School

- Fifth Grade Special Needs/Behavioral Support, 2004/2005
- First Grade, 2003/2004

Professional Affiliations

Association for Supervision and Curriculum, ASCD
International Society for Technology Education, ISTE
International Association for K-12 Online Learning, iNACOL
Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology, PAECT

Conference Presentations

- **ISTE 2011-** Blackboard Collaborate- How to Access Higher Order Thinking Skills with Breakout Rooms
- **Blackboard Collaborate 2011-** Panel on Student Engagement
- **PA Virtual, Professional Development-** Make Your Online Classroom Come Alive with Glogster
- **Organized Webinar for ISTE's SIGOL-** Brandon Lutz's 60 in 60
- **iNACOL 2011-** Panel on Student Communication and Teacher Best Practices
- **ISTE SIGILT Webinar 2011-** How to Use Storybird in your Classroom

I've had the privilege of watching Tara's work the last several years and can attest to the fact that she truly has become one of the elite thought leaders within K12 distance education. In my current capacity as leader of the Customer Programs division within Blackboard Collaborate, I work closely with hundreds of educators each year across both K-12 and higher education, and I can say with the utmost confidence that Tara leads this elite pack.

Matt Wasowski
Blackboard

Mrs. Park's energy and passion to enrich her students was underscored with every Blackboard Collaborate Session. Initially, our son Peirce was not a huge fan of science, but by the end of the school year he not only developed a fresh appreciation of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Peirce readily agreed to exhibit at the school Science Fair. With Mrs. Park's consistent encouragement, Peirce had a wonderful experience in his first scientific investigation, and it showed. He took 2nd place—quite a feat for one who did not “like science so much”. Thanks to Mrs. Park, both of our sons have expressed their desire to work for NASA after college

Kim McGuckin
Parent

- **iNACOL Teacher Talk Webinar January 2012-** Access Higher Order Thinking Skills through Breakout Rooms.
- **PA Virtual Professional Development- February 2012 -** Tech Tools for Online Teachers
- **PETE and C- February 14, 2012-** Make Your Online Classroom “Bloom” with STEM!
- **PETE and C- February 15, 2012-** Creating Connections, Virtually
- **Blackboard Distinguished Leadership Series Webinar- April 16, 2012-** Using Breakout Rooms to Access Higher Order Thinking Skills
- **PAGE (Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education)- May 4, 2012-** Make Your Online Classroom “Bloom” with STEM!
- **Blackboard Connections Summit 2012-** Make Your Online Classroom “Bloom” with STEM!
- **Blackboard World Conference 2012-** Make Your Online Classroom “Bloom” with STEM!
- **Learning 2.0 Conference-** Using Glogster in Your Online Classroom
- **Blackboard Webinar October 3, 2012-** Blackboard Hall of Fame winners
- **Blackboard Webinar October 2, 2012-** Updating to the new Blackboard Collaborate
- **iNACOL October 2012-** Make Your Online Classroom “Bloom” with STEM!
- **iNACOL October 2012-** Bridge the Geographic Gap with Glogster!
- **Blackboard World 2013-** Make Your Online Classroom “Bloom” with STEM!
- **Blackboard On the Road October 2013-** University of Pennsylvania- “Bloom” with STEM