The Carbon TIMEs

In This Issue

Andy's Message

Hi Folks—

We hope you're finishing up the Summer II workshop and feeling ready to start the year! We will be keeping that workshop "open" on Groupspaces in case you would like to come back to it during the year. We're also excited about some new resources that we're just finishing up now:

Videos: we're reviewing the final cuts of the videos now, with music, improved animations, professional voice acting, and revised scripts. They will be up soon on the National Geographic Website (for full URL, see page 4).

Large Scale Units: We are finishing initial revisions of *Ecosystems* and *Human Energy Systems.* Look for them next week as downloadable Zip files from the MSU website and later in the fall on the National Geographic site.

We're looking forward to hearing from you about how the teaching is going!
--Andy

Thanks

We'd like to give a special thanks to Capital City Growers Supply for donating 45 packets of lettuce seeds to the Carbon TIME project!

Welcome

We'd like to welcome four new researchers to the Carbon TIME crew at MSU: Carly Atkinson, Wendy Johnson, Anthony Machniak, Caitlin Mack, Emily Scott, and Sarah Stapleton. Welcome to Carbon TIME! We're looking forward to working with you.

Reminders

Full Test
Fall 2013
Give this to your students before you teach any units this fall (online).

Contact us
Feel free to call or email us if you have any questions as you start teaching this fall!

Zip Files
Don't forget you can download all materials for each unit in one big zip file at the MSU website.

Ask Staci:
Why does IRB matter?

Why is it important to get consent from your students to participate in the Carbon TIME project? Staci, or project manager, gives answers to the most common questions she is asked.

"Why collect consent?"
Student consent allows students to be able to agree or disagree to their test results being shared with MSU for our research purposes. This helps them understand that you will collect data from them and then send the data to us. If you aren't testing certain classes—no worries, you don't need to ask for student consent in those classes.

"How do I collect consent?"
If you're administering any tests online, this is a feature that is already built in to the online system, so students can choose to share their responses with us or not. If you are giving any tests on paper, you will need to have all students sign the student consent form on paper, and then keep the consent forms in your classroom.

The IRB requires that we keep track of this paperwork, but we want to keep student responses anonymous, using only their initials as identifiers to link their pre/post tests. Please keep track of students that did not consent to sharing their tests with us, and withhold them from the stack of tests when you send them to MSU.

"My students won't give consent so they can get out of taking the test. What should I do?"
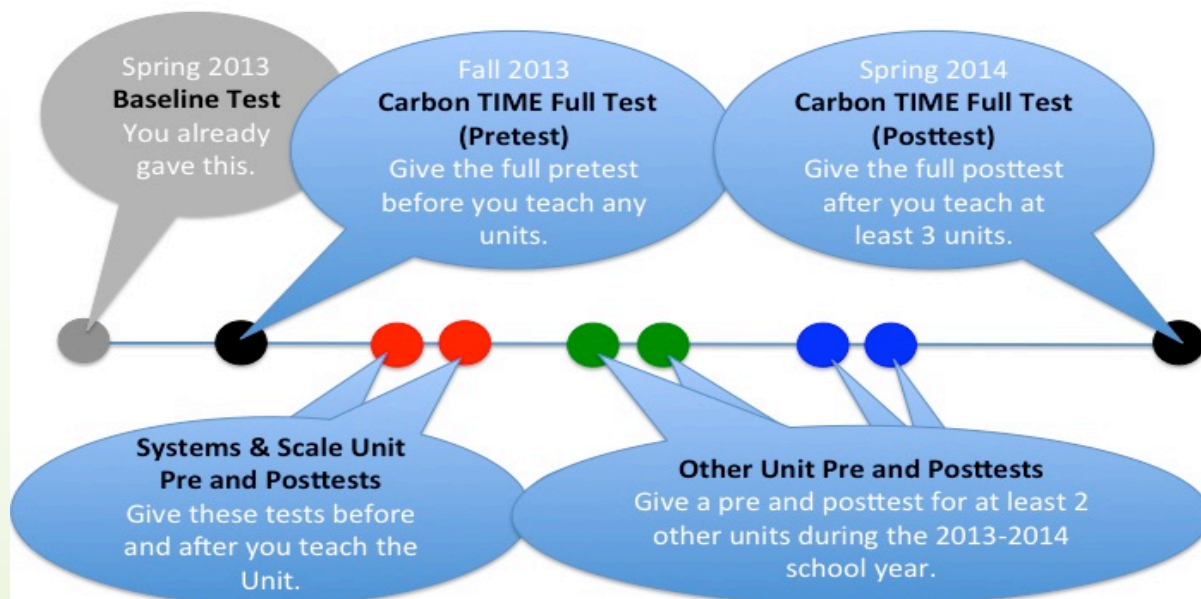You are still the teacher, and the test is your assignment in the classroom. You should explain to your students that it won't get them out of taking the test—they still have to take it, their answers just won't be shared with researchers.

"Do I have to collect any parent consent?"
Nope. This level of data collection is very low risk—meaning the student data is not identifiable to researchers. If you want to notify parents for your own purposes, that is completely up to you—however we do not require any paperwork from parents for the 2012-2013 school year.

Timeline of the Carbon TIME Student Tests

Here is an overview of the ten Carbon TIME tests you will need to give during your time as a Cohort 3 teacher. We hope this is helpful! Email Staci (sharpst5@msu.edu) if you have any questions.

Who You Gonna Call? Carbon TIME Support

Neely Clapp

Neely organizes the NREL website and dashboard. This is where your students take online tests, where you order your materials, and where you get feedback from your student's tests. Email Neely (fnc6884@gmail.com) if you have questions about the "My Student Answers" feature or the NREL website.

Hannah Miller

Hannah is a graduate research assistant who helps with curriculum development, PD workshops, the NGS website, student data interpretation, and the newsletter. Email Hannah (hkm@msu.edu) if you have any questions about the NGS website, the Groupspaces website or workshops, teaching the Carbon TIME units and using the teaching materials, or ideas/contribution for the newsletter (note: Hannah *loves* receiving ideas about the newsletter from teachers!)

Staci Sharp

Staci is our project manager, which means she handles…everything else. Staci takes care of the details related to almost everything but curriculum development, data interpretation, and the NGS website. Email Staci (sharpst5@msu.edu) if you have questions about ordering/shipping materials, mailing anything to MSU, IRB and consent forms, payments, receipts, the MSU website, checking things of the dashboard, activating tests online, and anything else that crosses your mind!

Parting Reflections

Kathryn Oleskowitz is leaving Carbon TIME to start her internship year as a special education and elementary school teacher. She shared these parting reflections with us before she left.

"When Andy and I discussed my work for CarbonTIME recently, we determined that my title might have been called 'patternfinder.' As a coder, I found patterns in students' written responses to the CarbonTIME assessments in order to determine their understanding. As a teacher I will be able to find and analyze patterns in my own student work in order to provide differentiated instruction. Working with Carbon TIME prepared me to do the type of analysis that can help me provide a more personalized learning experience for each of my students." –Kathryn

Good luck with your internship year, Kathryn! We'll miss you.

Spotlight on Cohort 3!

Say hello to Valerie Fuecker, a new member of Cohort 3. Valerie is a science teacher at Mount deSales Academy in Baltimore, Maryland, which is an all-girls private school. She teaches 9th grade biology, and 11th and 12th grade Forensic Science (fun!). Valerie heard about Carbon TIME through a coworker, and initially became interested in environmental literacy as an undergraduate where she studied environmental science. "*I have always loved learning about the environment and how my behavior impacts the world around me. I think it's important for my students to have that same understanding and maybe this will help them to think about how their actions can impact the environment!*" Fun facts about Valerie: she loves traveling, cooking, baking, and going to Ravens and Orioles games (she lives within walking distance to the stadiums). She was also a student at the same school where she teaches now.

Welcome, Valerie!

Notice: When downloading curriculum materials from the NGS website, try to use Firefox instead of Internet Explorer. Internet Explorer causes some of the files to download incorrectly!

Links You Need

Testing Website and Dashboard:
http://ibis-live.nrel.colostate.edu/MSP/home.php
- Give feedback
- Order Materials
- Shipping information
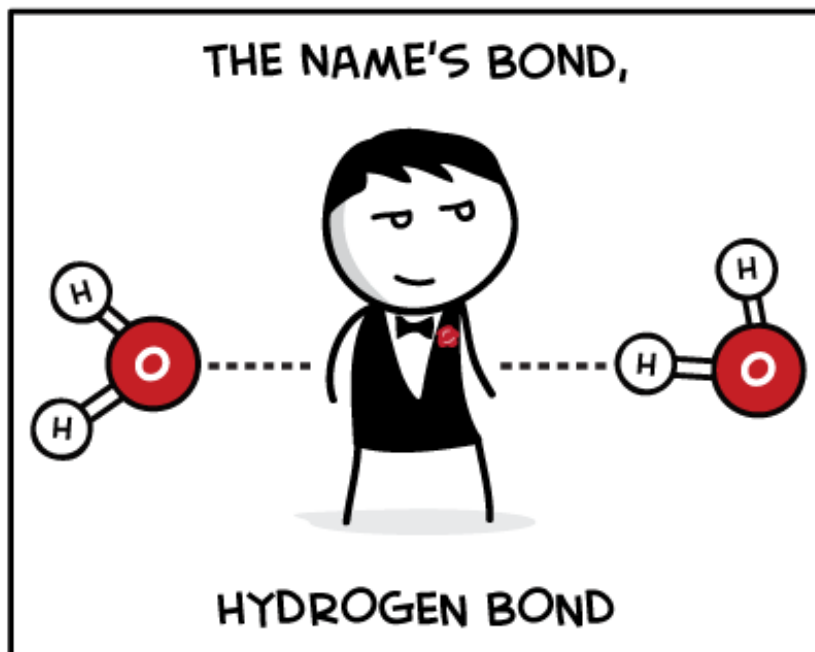
Group Spaces Workshops:
www.groupspaces.com/CarbonTIME

Find us on Facebook: Email Staci (sharpst5@msu.edu) to request to join our group.

Follow us on Twitter: @CarbonTIME

Carbon Comics

THE NAME'S BOND,

HYDROGEN BOND

National Geographic Website:
http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/msu/carobontime/staff/?ar_a=1
MSU Teaching Materials (You can download all materials for each unit in a single Zip file here):
http://edr1.educ.msu.edu/environmentallit/publicsite/html/CarbonTIME1314_unit_zip_files.html