



K-12 Teachers Alliance Featured Presenter:

Dr. Boris Korsunsky

Presentation Topics

- DATA DRIVEN INSTRUCTION
- BRAIN BASED LEARNING
- 21ST CENTURY SKILLS
- K-12 SCIENCE/COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Biography

Boris Korsunsky has taught all levels of physics in his native Russia and, since 1992, in the US. He has also presented workshops for teachers and students in the US, Russia, Thailand, Singapore and other countries. To Boris, the most important goal is not to teach any particular content but to inspire and to nurture the habits of mind that would help the students achieve their full potential. Boris is equally proud of his students who have reached the national physics teams in Russia and in the US and those who struggled through his course but stayed on because “it was fun!” Boris especially enjoys teaching problem solving skills. In 1996 and 1997, Boris was one of the coaches for the US Physics Team.

In addition to having written hundreds of items for various standardized physics tests, from middle-school to graduate-school level, Boris has authored several books and numerous articles on physics education.. Boris is most proud of the two recent articles that he co-authored with his students; both articles are based

on the independent research projects that explored the state of mind of physics learners. Boris is currently involved with the College Board AP Physics program as a teacher, Exam Reader, workshop leader and the author of various training materials.

Boris holds graduate degrees in Physical Chemistry and Physics from Russia and a doctorate from Harvard Graduate School of Education. His dissertation focused on analyzing the cognition of solving challenging physics problems.

Academic & Professional Qualifications

- Ed. D. (2003) Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, Mass. Focus: Learning and Teaching. Dissertation topic: Cognitive Mechanisms of Solving Non-Trivial Physics Problems.
- Physics Instructor, Weston High School, Weston, MA
- Content Developer, Effective Educational Technologies, Cambridge, MA
- Visiting Scientist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
- Wrote test items for graduate-school admission test and high-school standardized state exams
- Coached the US Physics Team: created original challenging problems, ran the activities at the training camp, assessed the team members performance, helped made the final selection of the team
- Designed and conducted the original study of problem solving approaches used by Advanced Placement Physics C students in several US high schools

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