



MTA News

A Message From Your MTA President Christopher White

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Middletown Teachers' Association

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Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter submissions can be

sent to Jennifer Sitko at

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The submission deadline for the
next newsletter is November 21st.

Please use private emails for
newsletter articles.

Welcome Back!

As the year progresses through the beginning weeks, I have been thinking about some possible goals for the upcoming year. We all have expectations of how we want our year to go with our students. I figured I would jot down a few hopes that I foresee for our union.

My hope for this union is the basis of a phrase I borrowed from the NYS AFL-CIO President, Mario Cileto, "When others see us, let them see no daylight!" That phrase has meant a great deal to me. My goal is that no matter our differences, no matter our politics, no matter our personal ideology, we will stand side-by-side with each other and support each other. We should have each other's back, and no one can see any divide between us!

I hope to see more involvement in union activities. There is a saying I often hear is that 10% of the individuals do 90% of the work. This year, we hope that more individuals will become involved. We are over 600 strong! Imagine if each member volunteered at one event? We are all in this together. Please remember that the success of any union begins with U!

I hope to see more smiles. I have noticed the general unhappiness in a myriad of members. I was at a leadership conference over the summer when presenter said something so simple. Throw a party. How long have we just focused on the trouble within our given buildings? How often have we reached out to others? By getting together, we can alleviate the stresses of the day. We will also foster a stronger unit.

Imagine over 12,000 books being handed out to our students! This is quite an image, all those books stacked and sorted. Each and every student going home with their own book. This is not a fantasy, but a reality that your union made possible thanks to the efforts of a few dedicated members! These members brightened the days of those students and brought a smile to each of their faces.

Real Rapport

~ Angela Robinson-Monroe

Now that we have officially started quarter one, it is good to consider true rapport. Having real rapport with students is easy and very validating for our students. Real rapport also paves the path for a good connection that fosters an amazing educational journey! Where do we, as highly effective educators, start when it comes to having real rapport with the students that trust us with their educational success and betterment? We, as effective educators, start this real rapport by learning our students' names- how to correctly pronounce and spell them. Let your students know that you are human and need some time to get it right, but make it clear to them that you are committed to spelling and pronouncing their names correctly. It means a lot to them and helps them to see that they are important and worth the necessary effort that is required to learn their names correctly.

Aside from getting their names, the way in which we interact with them goes a long way. A smile, good morning/good afternoon and how are you, really helps a student. We do not know what our students are going through and we should ensure that when they are in our classrooms they know that they are cared for and loved, even if they are disruptive and uncooperative

Lastly, allowing our students to hone in on their voices helps us cultivate real rapport. Allow your students time to share about what is on their mind, what they plan to do for the weekend, or other things that require them to share and speak in class. It is important that we teach our students to speak in front of and to others. It is validating for them and prepares them for public speaking that will take place later in the school year.

Real rapport is a necessary part of the educational journey. It is easy and very validating to the lives of the students that we have vowed to educate and prepare for college and ultimately a career! Here's to real rapport in all of our classes!

President's Message

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This was accomplished because of the efforts of a few members, now imagine what could happen if we had 600 members? That's a lot of books and a lot of smiles.

I hope that I can tell future members that no matter what life throws at you, wear it like a loose garment. Do not let the everyday stress of work interfere with the joys of family and friends! At the end of the day we will be surrounded by those that love us and support us. Isn't that what union is all about?

Summer Leadership 2016

~ Robbyn McCauley

Nothing says summer like attending NYSUT's Summer Leadership Conference in Parsippany, New Jersey! I was fortunate enough to attend again this year and there was one clear message that I took away from it - WE HAVE TO VOTE! I'm not just talking about the presidential election either. We need to look at our local/state levels and put pro-education folks into the seats that matter. This is not a decision of Republican or Democrat; this is a decision of who will be our voice? Who will advocate for teachers? Who is willing to stand up and fight for us?

First steps? If you are not already, register to vote. You have until October 14th and can register online, by mail, or in person. Here's a link to get you started:

<https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/electronic-voter-registration-application>

Next step? Why not check out who NYSUT is endorsing? On August 11th, NYSUT released its endorsements for Congress and the state Legislature, "backing candidates who have championed public education, health care and workers' rights." Here's where you can read about the process NYSUT went through and find a list of those endorsed candidates:

<http://www.nysut.org/news/2016/august/nysut-votes-endorsements-in-legislative-congressional-races>

Finally, how about taking it a step further and come "work" the phone bank at the MTA office? The Hudson Catskill Central Labor Council will be hosting phone banks at the MTA office every Thursday until Election Day. The CLC will be making phone calls in order to gain support for local NYSUT endorsed candidates. Talk with your Sr. Building Rep to find out when your school is volunteering and make it happen!

Here's the bottom line - we are 600,000 strong in New York State and we are letting our voices go unheard. This is a critical time for education and we must be heard!! VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!

The MTA Helps Our Community

A great time was had by all at the Run 4 Downtown! The MTA, with the aid of Middletown High School National Honor Society students, worked the water stop on Saturday, August 20, 2016.



Dates to Remember

10/16 Making Strides
10/19 Rep. Council
10/20 Board Meeting
10/26 Exec. Board
10/28 Superintendent's Conference Day
10/29 First Book Distribution
11/2 Exec. Board
11/3 Board Meeting
11/9 Rep. Council
11/17 Board Meeting
11/30 Exec. Board

MTA Benefit Fund

- Tom Blon
MTA Benefit Fund Manager

Thanks to all who participated in our fall will day. However, even if you missed will day you can begin the application process by contacting Tom Blon for a legal packet at tantblon@gmail.com

MTA on Facebook

The MTA is on Facebook! Please like/follow our page at Middletown Teachers' Association for updates on MTA events, interesting and informative articles about the state of education, and community happenings.