



Middletown Teachers' Association

MTA News

A Message From Your MTA President Christopher White

MTA News

Middletown Teachers' Association

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As we begin the second semester of our school year, we will find ourselves wondering where the time went. We wonder how many emergency days do we have left? What happens if...?

The biggest "what if?" has to do with APPR. Very recently, it has been passed in the legislature that State Assessments can be decoupled from teacher evaluations. It will be up to individual districts to locally negotiate for their district. At this point, we are still awaiting further guidance from NYSUT in the best way to negotiate. Another what if...

What if we negotiate a contract? By the time you read this "President's Message," the negotiating committee should be in active negotiations. When a possible settlement is reached, it must be presented to the MTA executive board, who then vote on whether the package should move forward. If it moves forward, then the MTA representative council (made up of your elected reps from each building) will vote to present it to the total membership. From there, there will be a general assembly meeting to present the package. Members can ask "clarifying" questions to better understand the presented package. There is no debate regarding the package. The second general assembly meeting will be held, where members can voice their opinions. After that, a vote is put to the membership.

As we move forward, we will have some important dates coming up. The first will be the MTA scholarship. Once we have dates, we will let the members know. In May, there will be elections (like every year), so if any member is interested in running for position, that is your time to make a difference. Please remember that you must be a member in good standing in order to run for a position.

Finally, as we continue on in this new year, I pray that everyone has a wonderful second half of the year!

Article Ideas Wanted!

~Stacey Atlas

In preparing for the new year I am reaching out to you to see what topics you would like to see in the MTA Newsletter? Please email stacey.atlas@ecsdms.org or call 326-1317 to share topics.

I look forward to writing about your interests :-)

Newsletter Submissions

Newsletter submissions can be

sent to Jennifer Sitko at

jennsitko@yahoo.com and copied

to Kerry Luba at

kerry.luba@ecsdms.org

Please use private emails for
newsletter articles.

New or New to You - *Observations*

- Stacey Atlas

As the first round of formal observations comes to a close, take time to reflect on the positive changes you have been able to make with students. Reflect on student rapport, classroom climate, classroom culture, student voice, instructional practices, etc. There is so much to celebrate as we close out the 2018 year.

For many of you reading this article, this was your first formal observation in your teaching career. Sure you've been observed by your cooperating teacher and your supervising professor when you student taught- but those observations held a different feel than your Instructional Leader, Assistant Principal, or Principal observing you.

There are two formal observations conducted per school year: Announced and Unannounced. For the Announced Observation you will be provided with a day and time your observation will take place. You will have a pre-observation conference with the administrator observing you. At this meeting you will provide him/her with your classroom make-up, lesson objective, lesson activity, and lesson closure. After your observation you will have a post observation conference to discuss the observation. The Unannounced Observation is not announced and you will have a post observation conference after your observation. For both observations you will receive an observation write-up within 5 school days. You then have 2 school days to review your written observation before meeting with the observer.

As you reflect on your formal observation, reach out to your mentor to brainstorm and practice how you can continue to improve your teaching skills. You will discover different ways to address management, content, classroom climate and culture, along with building even stronger bonds with your students. Your observation is a tool to help you grow as a professional.

Please feel free to reach out to a Union representative with any questions you may have about observations.

Benefit Fund Updates

-Tom Blon

Benefit Fund Update

Chair: Ashley Burke

Secretary: Pamela Phillips

Christopher White, Gina Graziano, LoriAnn Lawrence

Fund Manager: Tom Blon

1. Address change/ Name change

Please notify the MTA Benefit Fund (tantblon@gmail.com) if you have changed your name or mailing address.

2. **Will Day** : April 9, 2019.

3. National Legal Office Telephone Numbers

NY residents: 800-832-5182

All other areas: 800-292-8063

After Hours Hotline: 800-292-8063

4. Vision Plan

MTA members only are covered under the basic plan. Members can purchase a Family Plan (\$395.00 / year) through the following website:

<http://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/insurance/vision-plan>