



# Cleveland Teachers Union

## News & Notes

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Issue 14 – December 15, 2014

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### NWEA ADMINISTRATION

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders that took the NWEA that started last week, this winter administration of the test does count as an alternative test that if a student scores above the cut score – this will allow the student to pass to 4<sup>th</sup> grade under the Third Grade Guarantee law. The cut score is 185.

### TAX TIME

Very soon it will be income tax season again. Head Trustee – Andrea Dockery-Murray wants everyone to know that the Trustees are working on securing tax preparation service at the CTU. Please stay tuned for more information in January!

### MONEY MANAGEMENT

Cindy Antonio and the Salary & Benefits Committee invite everyone to their Money Management Workshop on February 17 from 3:30-6:00 tentatively scheduled for BBB. The District is in process of transferring all Professional Development to the East Professional Development Center (formerly known as East High School). When the transition is complete all PD that was at BBB will be hosted at East.

### PAUSE ON PARCC

David has been working with our lobbyist to meet with Senate leaders and other officials to put a PAUSE ON PARCC. CTU is seeking legislative action to not allow the data collected from PARCC to be used for high stakes decisions for teachers or students. We will be asking members to help spread the message to state Senators. We will ask people to join us in emailing and bringing more attention to the implications of this test to the people that can help put a brake on the stakes. Look for an email soon. After break we will likely need to undertake a postcard campaign.

### TDES

Last week David reminded everyone that the TDES Formal Announced Observation (FAO) is due on December 12. If your FAO has not been completed, please make sure you have emailed BOTH your

evaluator and the TDES Co-Chairs (Christine Fowler-Mack and Jillian Ahrens) with a notification that the FAO has not been completed. You can reach the TDES Co-Chairs at [TDES@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:TDES@clevelandmetroschools.org).

The second walk-throughs can begin taking place in semester 2 (which begins on January 6). Walk-through 2 is to be completed by February 6.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE READING GUARANTEE

3<sup>rd</sup> graders that score 394 or higher on October OAA will take PARCC in the spring, while students that scored below 394 will take OAA in the spring.

### RIMP COLLECTION

For 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers that may have had to write an additional RIMP for a student that does not have a RIMP now, but scored less than 400 on the October OAA, those RIMPS are due on DECEMBER 17. This RIMP will be mostly the plan and will not contain all of the data points that the current RIMPS contain.

NOTE: Third grade students must receive a minimum of 394 on the Fall OAA to meet the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee. Those that do NOT reach 394 will retake the OAA in the Spring. However, ODE has determined that students who are below 400 (including 394-399) will be eligible for intervention services - which means they must have a RIMP. While 394 is the cut score for promotion, 400 is the cut score for proficient.

### REPORTING PARENT CONFERENCES

When you are entering grades into ESchool for this second marking period, please take a moment to also mark any parent conferences that have been made this school year - or any new contacts since the last time you marked them in ESchool (which would have been interim 1 or grade period 1). HB 525 requires parents or guardians of students to attend at least one parent teacher conference prior to December 15, however the District is still keeping track of parents who have attended any of a myriad of events to meet with and talk with teachers.

When doing your grades for Marking Period 2 – it is the last column marked CONFR.

The only way for the District to make an accurate report of parent conferences to the media, Board, and state is for the conferences to be noted in ESchool.

The only way for the District to know what parents have attended conferences, SST meetings, curriculum meetings, IEP meetings, face-to-face meetings, etc. is if teachers take a moment to mark it in ESchool while doing interims or report cards. You and your parents make time to meet and discuss important educational issues and it is important to mark the parents that do make the effort to meet with you. If you have not done it this year it is a drop box on ESchool and you only mark parents that have attended. If you marked a parent has attended already this school year, you do not need to mark it again.

### **BLUE INSTITUTE TABLETS**

If you attended the Blue Institute and received a tablet or iPad (whatever the device is) and you are not able to connect to the wireless at your school – you can put in a ticket for that. Something happened and the technicians know what to do to fix it, just submit a ticket to tech services.

### **APPEALING TDES EVENT**

The TDES & Grievance teams want to remind everyone that if you are appealing a TDES event - the first step is not a Grievance. To appeal, you must email your Academic Superintendent to request intervention and/or support within 10 working days. Per the CBA, the Academic Superintendent has 10 days to reply with a decision. If you are not satisfied with the Academic Superintendent's decision, you can appeal that response to the TDES Co-Chairs within 10 working days. Again the TDES Co-Chairs are Christine Fowler-Mack and Jillian Ahrens. You can reach the TDES Co-Chairs at [TDES@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:TDES@clevelandmetroschools.org)

### **LEGISLATIVE LAME DUCK SESSION**

Kurt Richards and Tracy Radich actively tracked legislative actions that were up and down throughout the 2 week lame duck period. Legislation to eliminate the Common Core and limit testing to just 4 hours did not make it to the floor for a vote. A provision to eliminate minimum salary in the law and open the door to merit pay – also did not make it to the floor for a vote.

The Board of Education did vote to eliminate the 5 of 8 rule. In Cleveland, we do have language in the CBA

requiring all students in K-8 schools to be scheduled for art, music, PE, and media. We also have language that prohibits sub-contracting. In most RSP areas there are shortages – and more RSPs are needed to meet the needs and demands of the students in CMSD. As OFT President Melissa Cropper sees it “5 of 8 – the crux of the issue is money.” As opponents to eliminating 5 of 8 note, districts are likely to slash these positions as soon as budgets are tight. Poor districts throughout Ohio are more likely to need to cut budgets and those districts are where students need these people the most. However, in Cleveland we have the reality of good contract language to protect our members and the children that reap the benefits of having these educators.

ODE is to report to the legislature by January 15 regarding testing – all testing, including PARCC, ODE mandated, district mandated etc. This report must have recommendations for the legislature. Tracy Radich met with the legislative advisor to the ODE to weigh-in on testing, PARCC and the impact on kids and teachers. Shari Obrenski and Mary Moore met with ODE and teachers from across Ohio to tell first-hand the obstacles to testing, the impact on kids, and the impact on time to actually teach.

2015 is a budget year and Governor Kasich is planning to release his budget to the House in the beginning of February. How education is funded under Governor Kasich has not been favorable to CMSD. This budget will be another important event to watch.

### **SALARY SCHEDULE PLACEMENT**

The CDCS Joint Oversight Committee has resolved the New Hire Salary Placement issue. All new hires for 2013-2014 and 2014-15 should have received an email with general information about salary placement, as well as a personal email with salary details earlier this week.

In general, new hires will be placed on the CDCS Salary Schedule based upon previous teaching experience, other relevant experience, specialized training, and accomplished ratings under another Danielson-based evaluation system. Documentation relating to any of the areas listed must be sent to Amanda Artbauer in Human Resources no later than Friday, January 23. If any New Hire believes the placement is incorrect, he or she should send an email to Amanda Artbauer and copy Christine Costello and Shari Obrenski with that concern as soon as possible.