



Cleveland Teachers Union

News & Notes

Compiled by Tracy Radich, 1st Vice President
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NEWS & NOTES

News & Notes is a weekly (that's the goal) publication that has been ongoing since August. It is available on the CTU website and through Member Mobilization emails. This is an update of the work that is being done on behalf of all of our teachers, paraprofessionals, psychologists, nurses, speech language pathologists, therapists, sign language interpreters, and social workers.

TAX TIME

It's that time of year again. The Cleveland Teachers Union is offering a limited income tax service for members in our bargaining unit, LOCAL 279. Income taxes will be prepared at the CTU Office; located in The Halle Building, 1228 Euclid Avenue, Suite 600.

Members began calling the CTU office to set up an appointment on Wednesday, January 20. Appointment slots are on a first come first serve basis.

TDES WALKTHROUGH 2

The TDES Walkthrough 2 (WT2) was due on January 22. If your WT2 has not been completed, please make sure you have emailed your evaluator to let them know the event has not occurred. Then send a second email to the TDES Co-Chairs (Lora Cover and Jillian Ahrens) with a notification that the WT2 has not been completed. You can reach the TDES Co-Chairs at: TDES@clevelandmetroschools.org. This needs to be done immediately.

STAFFING

It is getting close to the time of the year when staffing is done for the 2016-2017 school year. The goal is to have staffing done prior to the end of the school year so that everyone knows where they will be and what they will be doing next school year. A timeline has NOT yet been agreed to. BEST Rubrics have been sent to principals to print and give to each teacher. Paraprofessionals DO NOT need to complete BEST Rubrics. If allocations are reduced at your school that necessitate transfers, the BEST Rubric is used to determine who will be identified for transfer if there are not sufficient volunteers. You do count this school year as a year of experience. BEST Rubrics are due back to principal with a copy to the Chair by February 3. This is to make sure this piece is completed prior to any staffing. BEST Rubrics were done in the fall and do need to be completed again. You are able to add another year of experience, new licenses may have been added, people have changed in the building, etc. BEST Rubrics are verified by Principal and Chair and then checked again by Human Resources.

IPDP

IPDPs need to be written BEFORE you take classes for your license renewal. An IPDP should be written and approved as soon as you have your new license in hand. You DO NOT write a new IPDP when it is time to apply for a new license. If you have an approved IPDP that was written after your current license was issued, there is no need to write a new IPDP. When done correctly, the IPDP is written as soon as you get your new license and prior to taking any classes or PD that counts for CEUs and it is not written at the end when you are applying.

ENCORE SLO VERIFICATION

Roster verification is happening now for all Encore teachers. An email was sent to Encore teachers with specific instructions for how to do the verification.

The deadline is Friday, January 29 at 6 pm.

CEUs FOR TRAINING MODULES

All CTU members completing the online training modules will receive 6 CEUs. Members do NOT have to complete any additional paperwork. Information on who has completed the training will be sent to the Office of Professional Development on or before April 1 to be processed. If you have any question, please feel free to contact Jillian Ahrens or Vicki Brian.

OVERAGES

Remember when submitting class size overages, ESP classes (PE, art, etc.) are considered as separate classes. Those overages are NOT based on the total students seen in a day. Please see page 36 (Article 10 Section 1) for details and grade level break downs. Overages are reported 8 times a year (each interim and report card period). Payment is made after the end of the school and must be mailed no later than July 15.

RACIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE IS REAL

Stephanie Henderson and the Civil Democratic & Human Rights Committee wants to make sure everyone knows about their next workshop Racial & Economic Justice is Real with Petee Talley. This workshop is on Wednesday, February 10 from 3:30-5:30 at East (1349 East 79th Street & Superior). Please email Stephanie Henderson with your name, school, and phone number. A confirmation email will be sent to you prior to the workshop.

CTU BLUE TUESDAYS

Let's turn our schools blue by wearing CTU blue on Tuesdays. Starting next Tuesday, January 19 plan to wear your favorite CTU blue each Tuesday. Our unity shares a message in each school and throughout the district.

ATTENTION RESIDENT EDUCATORS

If you are a resident educator this information applies to you. Teachers who hold a 4 year Resident Educator License or a 4 year Alternative Resident Educator License you DO NOT need 6 semester credits or their equivalent of CEUs to transition to a 5 year Professional License. Successful completion of the 4 year Resident Educator Program and passage of RESA is the course work. Once you obtain the 5 year Professional License you will need to begin to work on obtaining your 6 semester credits or the equivalent of CEUs. If you have any questions, please email Deb Paden (Deborah Paden in the CMSD email).

CTU Polos- Stylish and Affordable

CTU polo shirts are ready and available for purchase. Send your order form and payment to Wendi Kral at the CTU Office. After ordering, you will receive a confirmation email from Wendi Kral. Shirts can be picked up at the CTU office as soon as your order is received and processed. Represent in style at school! If you ordered a polo but would like to exchange it for a different size, you may exchange unworn polos by contacting Wendi Kral via school mail at Wendi.Kral@clevelandmetroschools.org to make arrangements.

HEALTHSPAN

If you are concerned whether or not your doctor is planning on remaining with Healthspan, CTU recommends that you call your doctor and ask if he/she has made a decision yet. Healthspan Ohio (formerly Kaiser) announced on December 11 (in a move that took many by surprise in NE Ohio) its plans to "exit direct care delivery and dissolve the medical group on March 31st". While this will have impact on our members (and the other CMSD employees that have Healthspan as their healthcare provider) the impact may not be as great as originally thought. Healthspan is eliminating its brick and mortar facilities, but hoping to keep many of its doctors – you would just have to see them at different locations. HealthSpan is getting rid of its facilities, but not its health insurance network. While it is unknown right now how many doctors have chosen or will choose to stay with HealthSpan – it does appear that if your doctor stays, than this change on March 31 will not have an impact other than where you go to see the doctor. HealthSpan is conducting job fairs this month to try to keep as many doctors as possible in their network. There will be meetings with HealthSpan, the District, CTU, and the other unions that will help to clarify issues further and how a smooth transition will be made for everyone who has HealthSpan. We will keep you updated.

TDES UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

A walkthrough is a visit to a classroom or workplace that is 5-15 minutes in duration. Written feedback is given in the portal. If the evaluator is looking for evidence of off-stage domains (1 and 4) one of the walk-throughs can be a conversational walkthrough in which the evaluator and professional discuss off

stage domains. The professional has the ability to add additional evidence in the portal.

Remember that if there is a concern or procedural error with a TDES event you have the right to appeal the event by emailing the Academic Superintendent within 10 working days of the event. Be specific with the issue and what resolution you are seeking. The Academic Superintendent has 10 working days to respond. If not resolved, you can appeal to the TDES Co-Chairs by emailing TDES@clevelandmetroschools.org. The first step is NOT a Grievance. You must follow the appeal steps above before a Grievance can even be considered.

If your TDES event has not been completed by the deadline, please make sure you send two separate emails. One email goes to the evaluator letting them know you are concerned about the timely completion of your evaluation event. The second email goes to TDES@clevelandmetroschools.org to document your concern about completion.

Please check out the TDES pages on the CMSD website for information on the portal, training documents, etc.

SALARY & BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Cindy Antonio and the Salary & Benefits Committee wants you to save the date for the next event on February 16, 2016 @ East Professional Center from 3:30 – 6:00. If you are retiring and need to meet with Valic about Severance Pay Deferral Plan (Appendix O pg. 210) to set up the account – this is a great opportunity to do that. If you have HealthSpan they will also have information and assistance available that night.

TEXT ALERTS

A text service is available for members of the CTU. You can sign up right now to receive mobile text message alerts from AFT-Cleveland Teachers Union. You will receive updates, notices, and reminders. Get your phone out right now and send a text message with the word ctu279 (lowercase, no spaces) in your message box. Send to the phone number 69238.

AFT-CTU will never charge you for text messages, your carrier's Message & Data rates may apply.