



Cleveland Teachers Union

News & Notes

Compiled by Tracy Radich, 1st Vice President
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FREE TAX SERVICE

CTU is providing free, limited tax service again this year for CTU members. Tax service is offered after school beginning at 3:25pm from February 4 – April 11. Appointments only – no walk-ins. Members can begin scheduling appointments on Wednesday, January 23 from 10am – 4pm. Only members of the CTU are eligible for the tax service. If you have any questions please email Andrea Dockery (adockery@ctu279.org).

CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

The CTU and CMSD officially started contract Negotiations on January 15. The current Collective Bargaining Agreement expires on June 30, 2019. We are under a very tight timeline to secure a new CBA. The CTU Negotiations team is made up of: David Quolke, Shari Obrenski (Director of Negotiations), Tracy Radich, Kurt Richards, Jillian Ahrens, Mary Moore, Michelle Rzuclido, Michael Kulcsar, Mark Baumgartner, Cherylane Jones-Williams, Susannah Muskovitz (legal counsel), and Sandy McNair (outside counsel for healthcare).

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATES

All Negotiations updates will be sent via personal emails. No information will be sent via CMSD email. If you would like these and other updates, please make sure that the CTU has your personal email address. Send an email to yolanda@ctu279.org with your first and last name, personal email address, work site, and position. You must be a member of the CTU to receive updates.

EARLY RELEASE FOR CONFERENCES

Thursday, February 7 is an early release day for conferences. Students will be released at same time as the release was on Open House day. Conferences end 2 hours after normal student dismissal time. These 2 additional hours are NOT entered in Workday. These 2 additional hours are part of the 6 additional hours that make up the day off the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

ADDITIONAL FSA CARDS

If you signed up for a Flexible Spending Account, a new card was sent in January. Only one card was issued. If you need an additional(s) card, please call 1-800-522-2037. You will be directed to enter your member number. Ignore that, do not say anything. You will then be connected to an operator. That person will be able to help you receive an additional card(s). Balances (up to \$500) that were left in 2018 have been rolled over onto the new cards in mid-January.

GRIEVANCES

Do you plan to file a Grievance? Do you have a question about a Grievance that was already filed? Please make

sure to send all Grievances and questions to grievances@ctu279.org.

CONVERSION FROM 26 TO 24 PAYS

For the 2018-2019 school year, CTU members are paid 26 pays in this school year. Beginning in August 2019, we will transition from 26 pays to 24 pays in a school year. In May, the actual dates that we are paid will begin to change so that we have a smooth transition to 24 pays and do not have a 3 week or more gap in pay while making this transition. Please be mindful of these dates so that any adjustments needed to automatic payments from your bank can be made.

The reasons for going to 26 to 24 pays is to eliminate the 3-week gap in pay and to eliminate the need to adjust pay dates in the summer so that there only 26 instead of 27 pays in a fiscal year. This was important to many of our members during the last contract negotiation.

These are the remaining pay dates for the 2018-19 school year. The May 31 pay check is the first check that will have a modified pay date in order to make the transition from 26 to 24 days as smooth as possible. Please note that any auto bank deposits may need to be adjusted beginning May 31.

Remaining Pay Dates for 2018-19 School Year

Fri., January 25, 2019
Friday, Feb. 8, 2019
Friday, Feb. 22, 2019
Friday, March 8, 2019
Friday, March 22, 2019
Friday, April 5, 2019
Friday, April 19, 2019
Friday, May 3, 2019
Friday, May 17, 2019
**Monday, June 3, 2019
**Thursday, June 20, 2019
** Friday, July 5, 2019
**Friday, July 19, 2019
**Monday, August 5, 2019

SALARY & BENEFITS UPCOMING EVENTS

Cindy Antonio and the Salary and Benefits Committee want to make sure that all members know of these upcoming events:

**Student Loan Forgiveness meeting will be held on January 24 from 3:30- 5:00 and 5:15 – 6:30 at the CTU office located on the 3rd floor of the Halle Building.

**Voya will be hosting a Debt Relief Clinic on January 31 from 3:30- 5:00 and 5:15 – 6:30 at their office at 6450 Rockside Road.

Please RSVP via email to cantonio@ctu279.org

SAY YES TO EDUCATION

Cleveland is going to become the next (and fourth) Say Yes to Education city. This is good news for students and families in Cleveland schools. Say Yes to Education is a non-profit that works with communities to make graduation and college or trade school or other post-secondary opportunities a reality. An even greater component of becoming a Say Yes city is the commitment to and importance of wrap around services in all of the K-8 schools. As a Say Yes community students that are in CMSD for grades 9-12 will be eligible for scholarships to pay for students to attend college or pursue other post-secondary opportunities. In order to help prepare students for post-graduation success, as a Say Yes city all of our schools and all of our students from grades PK-12 will be touched by wrap-around support. This will be phased in over the next four years. The Say Yes strategy requires the entire city to come together as partners. That means that the city, the county, the district, the CTU, parents, higher education, philanthropy, and the business community are working together to make success for students and the community a reality.

SCHOOL YEAR 2018-2019 CONTRACTS

Contracts for the 2018-2019 school year are going to be sent to certificated members via CMSD email by February 1. Certificated members that are issued a limited or extended limited are required to sign and return their contract. Please look for this coming by the end of the month.

DIFFERENTIAL PAY DATES

Differentials are paid quarterly. The CBA lists each differential and the quarter(s) they are paid. The quarters are based on athletic seasons, not academic quarters. Differential payment dates are on or about: December 1, February 1, April 15, and June 15. Quarter 2 will be paid January 25. If you do not receive an anticipated differential payment, please contact Ann Niklas in HR. She is the person that can help you with differentials.

PREFERENCE FORMS

Preference Forms are due by February 15. A Preference Form gives teachers and paraprofessionals the ability to notify their principal of their preferences for the 2019-20 school year. Please make sure that you submit your Preference Form before February 15.

OVERAGES

If you are over class size or case load limits, you need to complete and submit your Overage forms by Friday, January 25. Forms for Marking Period 2 Report Card are available online on the district website under Human Resources. A link to the forms is here:

<http://clevelandmetroschools.org/Page/14495>

CONVERTING PD HOURS TO CEUs

For all members that need to renew a license or certificate, the cost of converting PD hours to CEUs through the CMSD Office of Professional Development will be a flat rate of \$20. No matter how many hours you are converting, the cost will be \$20. This change was recommended by your Local Professional Development

Committee (LPDC) which is comprised of both district and CTU members. This is in an effort to support your license renewal efforts and as a result of current and impending changes to the PD technology platform. As this technology is changed and upgraded, less manual work is required and costs associated with maintaining the system are reduced. The LPDC made great efforts to pass the savings on to employees. Many people who are renewing in 2019 have been on hold waiting for a transcript, thank you for your patience as we have worked to get this new structure in place. As the technology continues to upgrade, the cost will eventually go to zero.

You can request a copy of your transcript on the Office of Professional Development home page. When you are ready to convert, your \$20 money order should be made payable to CMSD. You may mail or hand deliver your money order to the Office of Professional Development.

CONTINUING CONTRACTS

Any certificated employee who applied for a Continuing Contract by September 15, 2018 for the 2019-2020 school year will be notified in the early spring regarding issuance of contract. The Board of Education votes to approve Continuing Contract recommendations in the month of May (per HB 525).

SUBSTITUTES SUBMIT IN WORKDAY

Just want to re-emphasize how important it is for substitutes to verify what is in Workday and submit. I recommend that substitutes verify and submit on a weekly basis. This makes it easier to correct any errors before pay day.



Cleveland Teachers Union 279



@ctu279



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.