

September 3, 2019,

Good morning! It was very nice to have a 3-day weekend... hopefully you enjoyed it!

We'd like to welcome our Headstart and Preschool teachers back this week!

Cameras

Yes, it is still an issue. Despite Dr. Gomez's statement released last year that there were no more cameras, it seems there are still some cameras around that no one knew about. It seems that none of these are in classrooms, but rather in offices. Many sites (if not all) have exterior cameras, and most people are aware of those. At this time we believe that HR is working to ensure that any remaining interior cameras were approved, and that people are aware of their presence.

- Ask your administrator if there are any cameras inside buildings on your campus, including the front office.
- Notify us if you are aware of a camera indoors at your site.

The Standard Disability Insurance - Open Enrollment Month

Please look for the announcement for your site visit! **If we get 5% of our eligible members to enroll, everyone gets the health exam waived, for either Disability Insurance or Life Insurance. This means that members with preexisting conditions can still enroll!** Meet with the rep to see what they have to offer...they have many benefits geared toward educators other companies do not offer.

Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank

September is open enrollment month...this is the time to enroll if you have not previously done so. If you are not enrolled, you will not be allowed to enroll later on if you find yourself with a need to use this bank. This has happened to a few individuals over the years...please don't let it be you. Contact Jasmine Persaud in HR to enroll, or attend our informational meeting regarding the CBA Leaves Article on September 12th (see list of dates below for more information).

Who are your Site Reps?

AE - **vacant**

BD - Dave Winchester, Kristie Saucedo

CC - Alexis Harding, **one vacancy**

CDA - Justin Berzon, Jonathan Brown

CMA - Mary Helen Rios, Michelle Ramos

CVHS - Maya De Leon, Doreen Vicario, Jesus DeRosas, Cristal Lopez, Jerry Carmona

DMHS - Maria Blackmon, Jesse Cota, Matthew Ellis, Joyce Mochizuki

DO - Penney Woods
ECE - Annette Vargas
JK - Alma Gutierrez, Anna Razo
LF - Nora Montez
LP - Kelly Reilly, Shannon Rodriguez
MA - Paula Marvin, Cathy Loy
MV - Kathleen Galarze, Chriselda Villareal
OA - Lorraine Salas, Mark Roybal
PP - Denise Lamper
PV - Michael Abril
SM - Karen Franke, **two vacancies**
SV - Rachel Flores, Don Arballo
TC - Luis Barraza, Pilar Schlickemayer, Linda Luna
VDS - Stephanie Ortiz, **one vacancy**
VV - Gladys Young, Carlos Villa
WS - Martin Duran, Juan Badeña
WSHS - James Steinman, John Sellers

New Shirts for CVTA Members

We are providing new shirts to all of our members this year. They will be ordered by site, at the time that your site rep provides us with a list of members and preferred shirt sizes. Please make sure to get your size to your site rep to help make the process a little easier. **Shirts will not be ordered until we receive a complete list of member names and shirt sizes from your site (including ECE teachers, Psychologists, and Speech Pathologists who may be housed at your sites). These are slowly coming in...please get your list to me. Thank you!**

CalSTRS Counselors at the CTA Palm Desert Office: Now you can schedule sessions locally (usually we have to drive to either Palm Springs or Riverside). One way to schedule an appointment with these counselors is on the <https://www.calstrs.com/mycalstrs> website. You can also schedule by calling (800) 228-5453 and selecting option 3. **A real CalSTRS Counselor will never send you an email advertising his/her services via District email...those are spam and are usually salespeople.**

Contractual Issues Happening Right Now

Remember that the contract is an agreement between CVTA and the District and it was bargained in the best interest of students and teachers. That means that both sides agreed to abide by what is included in the contract, so when something needs to be cited from the contract, it isn't what "the District said" or what "CVTA said"... it is what was agreed to and is therefore legally binding.

[Find the contract here.](#) Here are the things we are working on:

- **We are not aware of any other grievances at this time.**
- Grievances need to start at the informal level. This means that you have a conversation with your immediate supervisor, whether face to face or via email, in order to give them the opportunity to remedy the situation. It is important that you actually state, "This is my informal grievance." This will begin the timeline, and will ensure your administrator understands that there is a timeline to follow. Sample grievance forms can be found on our website at www.mycvta.org under Documents. The Uniform Complaint Form can be found there as well.
- **Williams Complaint Form** - Some of you have asked for this form, which can be used for complaints about facilities and textbooks or instructional materials. This form could be an option when a grievance isn't the appropriate path to deal with a situation at your site.

Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

- **September** - All month...Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank Open Enrollment
- **September** - All month...The Standard Disability Enrollment Campaign. Look for the rep at your site.
- **September 5th** - School Board Meeting @ JK, 5:30 pm
- **September 7th** - Low Desert Leadership Training and First Rep Council Meeting @ Agua Caliente
- **September 12th** - Deadline to meet the class size requirement
- **September 12th** - Informational meeting regarding Article 14, Leaves, DO Board Room 4-5 pm. Bring your questions! Jasmine Persaud will be there to answer questions and explain the language.

Please share this email with anyone you know that does not already receive it. There is a link near the top to sign up on our mailing list. These newsletters are always posted on our Facebook page, as well, which can be accessed even if you don't have a FB account. It is a public page and can be seen by anyone who visits it. Thank you!

Carissa Carrera
CVTA President
"You can't do it unless you organize."