

August 12, 2019

Welcome back! I hope each of you were able to make the most of your summer break. Like me, you are probably ready to see those eager faces in our classrooms and get this year started! There is always such potential in a new school year, and together we can make great things happen.

Tuesday is a meeting day, and in addition to a staff meeting, every site should conduct active shooter drills using the ALICE strategies. Wednesday is your day for working in your classroom, and should be free from interruptions of any kind. If there are any meetings/luncheons scheduled, they must be optional, and should not prevent anyone from access to any information/activity they should receive as site staff. If there is anything for which the entire staff needs to be present, it should be handled on Tuesday.

Over the summer our School Psychologists were added to our Bargaining Unit. Please make sure to welcome them, as well as our newly hired teachers. We still have quite a few teachers on the RIF list...hopefully this will change in the first couple of weeks when the District can see actual enrollment numbers.

We will have our annual CVTA Welcome Back Social on Friday, August 23rd from 4-6 pm. It will be held at Trilogy at The Polo Club (Ave. 52 across from CDA, 2nd floor), and will be **open to CVTA Members only**. A flyer will be sent out soon to remind you!

Our PBIS Expectations are a great way to start the year: Be safe, Be respectful, and Be Responsible. Go out there and be amazing!

### **Site Rep Elections**

We have several sites still needing one or more reps. Without a rep, your site is without a vote at CVTA meetings. Please consider nominating yourself. There will be training at the Low Desert Leadership Conference on September 7th. [Find the flyer with more detailed information here.](#)

### **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. For sites that do not have a rep, we will need a volunteer to gather the information for us...please let me know if you are interested in helping. Shirts will not be ordered until we receive a complete list of member names and shirt sizes from your site.

[Please read the attached flyer from California Casualty.](#) This is a company vetted by CTA, specifically for teachers. You can only get this insurance if you are a CTA Member! Their

homeowners/rental insurance covers personal items in your classroom. Their auto insurance has special coverage when your car is at work and damaged. They have a lot to offer to teachers. Please consider asking for a quote! Contact Chriss Renn at [www.CalCas.com/crenn](http://www.CalCas.com/crenn).

### **The Standard Disability Insurance**

CVTA will hold an enrollment campaign during the month of September. If you do not already have this insurance, please make sure to visit the rep when he is at your site to learn about this plan. It is geared toward teachers specifically, unlike those offered by other companies, and has several great benefits the other companies do not offer...pay attention to these special coverages just for teachers.

**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:

- **No CVTA 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](http://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:**

- **August 12th** - New Teacher Orientation @ DO Board Room, 8:00 am
- **August 13th** - First workday...meeting day

- **August 14th** - Second workday...**no meetings should be scheduled**
- **August 15th** - First Student Day!
- **August 15th** - School Board Meeting @ DO, 5:30pm
- **August 22nd** - School Board Meeting @ DO, 5:30pm
- **August 23rd** - CVTA Welcome Back Social (**Members Only**), Trilogy at the Polo Club (Ave. 52 across from CDA), 2nd floor, 4-6pm
- **August 28th** - CVTA Executive Board Meeting @ CVTA Office, 4:30pm
- **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 2nd** - Labor Day Holiday
- **September 5th** - School Board Meeting @ JK, 5:30 pm
- **September 7th** - Low Desert Leadership Training and First Rep Council Meeting @ Agua Caliente

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!

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Carissa Carrera  
CVTA President

"You can't do it unless you organize."