

April 1, 2019

Good morning! No April Fools' Day jokes in this email, I promise! I can't believe it is already April, and time seems to be flying by. I hope you have a great week!

Cameras in the Classroom

At this point we still do not have a lot of information that we haven't already shared. A camera was found in a classroom at Saul Martinez, and on the news Thursday evening Dr. Gandra confirmed that another had been found in an office at the District Offices (she stated the two are not related). We have confirmed that the Sheriff's Department does not plan to investigate, and they stated that because it was a public school and a violation of Ed Code, the District must investigate, which they are doing.

This information gives us quite a bit of concern because we do not really understand what it means when law enforcement says "no crime has been committed" when clearly there were unlawfully placed cameras in at least two places within our District. We are in the midst of consulting with legal counsel and will update you as we have information. Please stay vigilant!

PD Opportunities for Members:

- Painting and Art Made Easy...[find the flyer here](#). April 5th at the CVTA Office in Coachella, and space is limited!
- **Teachers and the Law PD coming soon to the CTA Palm Desert office.** This is especially important to see how your job can be affected by things we consider to be harmless! More information coming...

CVUSD's CABE Chapter:

You may have seen the email last week from Gracie Gutierrez, Director of English Learner Services...CVUSD is working to establish their own CABE chapter, Coachella CABE. She is holding an informational meeting on April 9th at Coral Mountain Academy, beginning at 5:30 pm.

The membership cost will be \$60 per year, which has its benefits, but you do not need to join in order to attend the informational meeting. Please attend to find out more information. [Information about the benefits of joining CABE can be found here.](#)

This opening event will include student performances and speeches, guest speakers, appetizers, and raffles.

Article 9, Transfers and Assignments:

Please make sure in the next few weeks to read this contract article to keep an eye on how discussions are taking place at your site regarding assignments for next year. I've already had several calls from teachers about what happens if a class needs to be collapsed, if a combo needs to be created, or if a site has declining enrollment and may have to lose a teacher.

All of these situations must be handled by following current contract language. CVTA is working on providing some clarifying notes to help site reps decipher the language somewhat. These notes will be provided and discussed at the Rep Council Meeting on April 10th. The contract language already exists, so again I encourage you to take a look at the language. Link to the contract is below in "Contractual Issues."

Reminders:

- When you are called into a meeting with your admin, make sure to ask for a rep if the meeting has anything to do with discipline or could lead to discipline, even if you need to stop the meeting to request one. We have a lot of members lately going to these meetings without the support and witness of a rep.
- You do not need to set SMART Goals or provide date reports to admin unless your team decides to do so. The only documents required from a PLC are an agenda and minutes.
- All combo class teachers get 2 extra days prep. Please see your admin if you didn't get the days.
- Let me know if you want me to show you how to set up your STRS account online...you should be checking your account for accuracy at least once per year!

Professional Library:

Don't forget to take a look CVTA's professional library! We have books available for you to borrow if you want to learn new techniques, stay motivated, and more. If you have any books you would like to donate for the library, please let me know. [You can find the list of available books here](#). The list should also be available on your site's CVTA bulletin board. Happy reading!

Member Benefits:

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.**

There are three options for meetings: group informational for those just getting started looking at STRS info, smaller group for those of you 5-6 years out from retirement needing more personalized information, and individual meetings for those about to retire. Don't hesitate to call...they book up 6-8 weeks out, as space is limited.

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.
- **[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:

- **April 2nd** - Self-Care PD at the CTA PD Office (you must be signed up)
- **April 4th** - Bargaining - Please support your team by wearing your CVTA shirts!
- **April 4th** - School Board Meeting at CVHS, 5:30 pm
- **April 5th**- Art Event for Teachers at the CVTA Office (you must be signed up)
- **April 8th** - RIF Hearing at CVHS (begins at 10...please arrive early)
- **April 10th** - CVTA Rep Council Meeting at CDA, 4:30 pm
- **April 18th** - School Board Meeting at DO, 5:30 pm
- **April 19th**- Spring Break begins (no school this day)
- **April 29th** - Return from Spring Break
- **April 30th** - Bargaining - Please support your team by wearing your CVTA shirts!
- **April 30th** - CVTA Executive Board Meeting, CVTA Office, 4:30 pm

PBIS Tip:

Week of April 1, 2019:

Universal Expectation : Library

Classroom Survival Skill: Getting the Teacher's Attention

Growth Mindset Affirmation: I get what I work for, not what I want.

Restorative Question: How would your classmates describe you?

A Tip from Technology Services:

If you need any assistance with incorporating technology tools into your lesson design, don't hesitate to [book a member of our iCenter Team](#).

A Tip from EL Services:

If you would like assistance in your classrooms, please schedule an appointment with one of our EL TOSAs by clicking the links below:

Araida Flores araida.flores@cvusd.us, araidaflores.youcanbook.me/

Maribel Carrillo macarrillo@cvusd.us, maribelcarrillo.youcanbook.me/

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."