



Coachella Valley Teachers Association
California Teachers Association
National Education Association

August 17, 2020

mycvta.org

CVTA Advocate



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Greetings!

Welcome to our first full week with students! I have no doubt that you are providing your students with a great virtual learning experience, and I can't wait to hear about it. I will share that I am very disappointed in the PD offered by our District last week. I know many of you shared the same sentiment. At a time we need more support than ever, we received training on things we didn't have access to, as well as trainings that were clearly put together last minute (presenters even shared they had no time to prepare!).

You may have heard several times by now that there will be on-going training for Canvas on Wednesdays. It is not mandated to use Canvas right now, but do take the time to explore it and learn how to use it as you receive those trainings. Please let me

know if there is anything you are being required to use/teach without proper training. For example, there is SEL Curriculum linked in the pacing guides and none of us have been offered training (not to mention it isn't even tied to our Blended Model). We are currently looking into this new SEL Curriculum to determine if it is a mandate or a suggestion (it may be great curriculum, but training should have been provided).

As many of you already know, we lost our member Salomon Alvarez (DMHS) to COVID-19 last month. (Please note... we do not feel comfortable sharing information about other members who have passed, unless the family gives us permission to do so). His son, Sal, shared this for our members:

Mr. Salomon Alvarez, more affectionately known by his thousands of students as "Señor" or "Mister", passed away on July 24th, 2020, at JFK Memorial Hospital in Indio, California. He is survived by his wife, 2 sons, and 5 grandchildren. Mr. Alvarez left a legacy that displayed a passion for education and coaching, inspiring his students and his own children to push themselves harder and use each opportunity in life as a moment for learning and improvement. Even in the most difficult of times or circumstances, Mr. Alvarez leaned on his love for the Lord to persevere and stand firm from a place of faith and integrity. It's this love that allowed him to excel in his genuine care for all of his students; always wanting the best for each one. Born in Indio, California in the year 1947, Mr. Alvarez was a proud graduate of CVHS's class of 1965, and a proud member of the Coachella Valley's first CIF state champion (American football). He began his dream profession of becoming an educator by starting as a teacher's assistant in 1992 and worked tirelessly to complete his bachelors and masters degree. After thousands of miles and hundreds of hours completing weeknight and weekend courses, Mr. Alvarez became the first of his family to receive an advanced degree. Later in life, his dream of traveling the world was able to become a reality and he extended that passion to his students, whom he would organize and take on an annual trip to the Iberian Peninsula. These trips were not merely for vacation, rather they were educational; an opportunity to expand the mind across various cultures and languages, bringing home the importance of anthropology and personal growth. Mr. Alvarez forever had CVHS and Desert Mirage HS close to his heart. His unexpected departure leaves a large void in the lives of the thousands of individuals who have counted him as a mentor, and certainly for the family that loves him dearly. However, we take comfort that he is rejoicing with our Heavenly Father and Lord willing, we will see him again.

Secondary Member-at-Large Election

Thank you secondary members for participating in the election, and for electing Leo Perez as our new Secondary Member-At-Large! Congratulations, Leo! His contact information can be found on our website and our Facebook page.

CVTA Virtual Office Hours Wednesday 8/19/2020 4 pm - 5 pm

We are hosting our monthly office hours this week on Wednesday. Drop in if you have questions or concerns. As always, we do not have an agenda for this meeting. It is for our members to have an opportunity to speak with us if needed.

Meeting link: <https://carissacarrera.my.webex.com/carissacarrera.my/j.php?MTID=mb86382d0cad8825d503b293e99dbbd7e>

Meeting number: 126 031 9154

Password: uMA6vBXEw92 (86268293 from phones and video systems)

Join by phone: +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

CVUSD School Board Meeting Thursday 8/20/2020

These meetings are still being held virtually. Here are the links:

[Watch the CVUSD School Board Meeting here](#)

[Submit comments here for the Board Meeting](#)

Important things to know

- **MOU Frequently Asked Questions** have been added to our website at www.mycvta.org. These are based on questions asked at our two MOU meetings.
- CalRTA asked to share some information about their organization (retired teachers). [See the flyer here](#). They have some grants available to teachers!

Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

- **August 19th** - CVTA Virtual Office Hours, 4-5 pm (links in next week's email)
- **August 20th** - School Board Virtual Meeting, 5:30pm
- **August 26th** - CVTA Executive Board Virtual Meeting, 4:30pm
- **September** - All month...Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank Open Enrollment
- **September 7th** - Labor Day Holiday
- **September 9th** - **CVTA Rep Council Virtual Meeting, 4:30 pm**
- **September 10th** - School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
- **September 11th** - Deadline for class size requirements
- **September 12th** - Low Desert Leadership Virtual Training for site reps and CVTA Leadership

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 archived on our CVTA Website, also. Thank you!

Carissa Carrera
CVTA President

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

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Coachella Valley Teachers Association | | cvtaprez@gmail.com |
86695 Avenue 54
Suite J
Coachella, CA 92236
(760) 619-9236

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