



October 26, 2020

[Coachella Valley Teachers Association](#)  
[California Teachers Association](#)  
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## Greetings!

Good morning! I hope everyone is healthy and staying safe!

Here is a thought on handling Zoom while needing to meet one on one with students...don't leave the students alone in the main room while you go into a breakout room. Consider putting your students into the waiting room while you meet with a student in the main room. Leaving them alone in the main room is like leaving them alone in your classroom, where they can see each other and talk unsupervised. The waiting room is more secure, and you can send individual messages to them as needed. (Note: this process could be used for parent conferences as well.)

### Tentative Agreement for the 20/21 Bargaining Year

Voting on the TA closed last week on 10/19/2020. 96% of our voters approved the TA. The CVUSD School Board also approved the TA at the 10/22/2020 School Board Meeting. This means that the negotiations we began last year, for this year, are closed without any changes being made.

We will need to open up negotiations for the 21/22 school year in the next few months, and this time it is the entire Collective Bargaining Agreement that is open for discussion (the current CBA expires on June 30, 2021). As always, we will survey members prior to opening up negotiations, so make sure to look for that opportunity in the future.

### School Board Elections

We are getting down to the final push, and we have one more day of precinct walking and phone banking. Contact us if you are available to help. Many people don't realize how much impact a school board member has on your day to day work. It's really important to have board members without personal agendas, honest, hard-working people who want to do the best for CVUSD students. We believe our three endorsed candidates are the people we need...help get them elected!

## Parent Conferences

Parent conference dates were decided quite a while ago and are listed on the District Calendar. This was before the pandemic, however, and some changes are necessary because of being in Distance Learning.

Because the students already have a shortened synchronous day, the District did not want to take two hours out of instruction time for the minimum days we get in exchange for parent conferences. For secondary, it was decided to take the two hours from District PD, so the minimum day has been moved from October 30th and is now on Wednesday, October 28th. The dates for secondary conferences have not been changed, and you are expected to be available to parents during the assigned times.

We are still working on the elementary conferences and minimum days, so look for updates as changes get approved. In a normal year, you have floater days in exchange for conferences because of Early Release Wednesday, but it is more likely minimum days will be scheduled at the District level this year because we do not have Early Release anymore.

\*Note: The District still owes us all a minimum day in exchange for Open House. We have reminded them of that and will keep doing so.

## CTA Trainings

CTA's [Institute for Teaching](#) is collaborating with [Thrively](#) to offer CTA members a series of webinars emphasizing **A Strengths-Driven Approach to Learning**. This custom professional development series will explore:

- How to build deeper relationships with students utilizing Thrively's Strengths Assessment
- Social emotional wellness/mental health
- Student engagement and project-based learning
- Asynchronous learning resources
- Restorative practice resources
- A streamlined, high-impact means of promoting equity in a virtual classroom

Thrively is an online tool designed to support students on a personalized learning journey that develops the whole child.

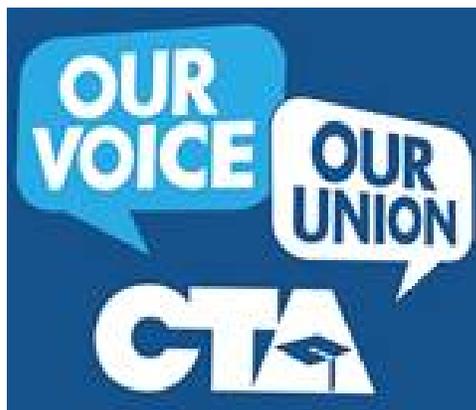
- The series begins on **Oct. 29, 3:30-4:30 p.m.** Register [here](#).

Educators interested in using Thrively's "Classroom Pro" (a \$99 value offered to CTA members at no cost) with your students, please complete the [IFT Thrively form](#).

Thank you for everything you do...it does not go unnoticed! Have a great week!

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## Important Dates

- **October 27th** - Middle School Conferences
- **October 28th** - CVTA Eboard Meeting
- **October 29th** - High School Conferences
- **October 31st** - Precinct Walking and Phone Banking
- **November 4th** - CVTA Rep Council 4:30 pm
- **November 6th** - 1st Year probationary meeting deadline (Article 10.1.6.2)
- **November 11th** - School Holiday - Veteran's Day
- **November 12th** - CVUSD School Board Meeting
- **November 13th-15th** - CTA New Educator Weekend (virtual)
- **November 17th** - CVTA Eboard Meeting 4:00 pm
- **November 18th-19th** - Elementary Conferences
- **November 23rd-27th** - Thanksgiving Break

**Carissa Carrera**  
CVTA President

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

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