



End of First Quarter

The end of the first quarter has arrived. Each of you has put a lot of work into doing what is best for your students. I know that each day presents you with many choices and decisions to make. I applaud you all for continuing to make those decisions that provide opportunities for students to grow, learn, and have fun.

Professional Development: Educators have been asking about opportunities for personal professional development. If you are one of the many educators who have struggled in your career advocating for what may be best for a student, you are in luck. For the next three Saturdays this October you are invited to attend a series of workshops presented by the Educational Rights Counsel and the OEA to learn how to advocate not only for your students but also yourself in these tough times. You may register by following this link: [Protecting Your Students: Successful Advocacy in Tough Times](#). The workshops are free to attend.

Tip Off: The first edition of the Tip-Off is now available. It is a little different than in the past. Written by members, I want it to be filled with **valuable information** but also information about things to do that will allow you to take time away from the demands of being an educator. If there is something that you would like to have included, please let us know and we will work to make it happen. Here is a link to the first 2022-2023 OEA Tip-Off ([October 2022 tip-Off](#)).

Parent-Teacher Conferences: This week is the start of the parent-teacher conference season. Here is the language from our Master Agreement (p. 29):

Bargaining unit members may be required to attend two to four parent/teacher conference sessions per year. A session may occur over multiple days...These scheduled conferences can occur before, during or after the duty day. Bargaining unit members will receive compensatory time for each hour worked outside of the duty day up to a maximum of seven hours. Bargaining unit members shall be paid \$28.50 per hour for scheduled parent teacher conferences in excess of seven hours outside of the duty day per semester.

AR Meeting and General Assembly: The next Association Representative Assembly will be held Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the IBEW Local #22, 8946 L St, Omaha, NE 68127. The meeting is open to all members of the Omaha Education Association. The meeting begins at 4:30 with secondary concerns followed by the general meeting and then closing with elementary concerns. It is also an opportunity to meet with some OEA and NSEA endorsed political candidates. Candidates for the Omaha Public Schools School Board, Bri Full, Margo Juarez, and Hina Agarwal, will be in attendance.

Extra Duty: Many of you have put in extra hours beyond your duty day. Please keep track of the time you spend beyond that duty day working on school “things” while still at school. Request an extra duty pay sheet from the office, record your hours, keep a copy for yourself, and **send** it to your administrator for compensation.

As the days get shorter and the temperatures get colder, remember to always take time for yourself. You cannot be the best teacher for your students when you are not being the best for you. You, as educators, are always putting the needs of others before your own. Please take time to be involved in the lives of your own families and children, do the things you enjoy, eat dessert first and go to bed when you are tired. I want you to know that I am working diligently for you to bring systemic change. Educators, I hear your stories and feel your discomfort, discouragement, joy, and elation. Thank you for all you have done, are doing, and will continue to do.

In Solidarity,
Michelle

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