



Fall is in the Air

I've noticed the work that educators have put in this last quarter. It is amazing to me all the remarkable things that you are doing because it is what is best for your students. There are only four weeks between now and the when the holiday season begins to go into full effect. I wanted to share opportunities for both professional growth and personal growth.

Professional Development: Educators have been asking about opportunities for professional development. If you are one of the educators who have struggled in your career advocating for what may be best for a student, you are in luck. Saturday, October 22nd and October 29th, you are invited to attend workshops presented by the Educational Rights Counsel and the **OEA** to learn how to advocate not only for students but 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 and open to both OEA member and nonmembers. The OEA will be providing a light breakfast.

Student Loan Forgiveness: There are many questions swirling around this topic. There are educators who are currently carrying student loan debt like myself. If you happen to be in that situation, the NSEA will be hosting a free online seminar on Thursday, October 20th. Please use the provided link to register ([Student Debt Management](#)). Review the provided handout as

it may answer questions you have about student loan forgiveness ([Student Debt Relief Fact Sheet](#)).

Negotiations: The survey given in late September/early October will remain open for another week. It is extremely important that you participate in the survey. The information gleaned from the data drives the negotiation process. Our compensation asks are based on the number of overages, class sizes, and amount of lost plan time. The information that you provide is invaluable to this process. Here is the link for the survey ([Comp and Benefits Survey Fall 2022: Class Size, Caseload, and Extra Duty](#)). Please take the time to complete the full survey.

20,000 Villagers: Over the last couple of years, Omaha Public Schools has made the concerted effort to make sure that our students have what they need during the cold months of the year (hats, gloves, coats). Ms. Lisa Utterback has requested that I share this with you in the hopes that you will participate. Follow the provided link to donate to this great cause ([20,000 Villagers Campaign](#)). The district has set a goal of assisting 20,000 students. Let's help make that happen.

Pinball Wizard: Come out to Beercade (6104 Maple St, Omaha, NE 68104) on Friday, October 28, 2022, from 4:00pm until 6:00pm for fun and social interaction. Show me your OEA membership number, I will in return provide you with tokens to show your skills on classic old school along with the new hip video games. Who doesn't want to master the Pac Man board or conquer Donkey Kong? The goal of the event is to just socialize and build camaraderie among members.

Inclement Weather: As we know the coveted snow day is something our students no longer experience. In the event of a "snow day" or inclement weather day, students will log in for remote learning. Middle and High school teachers will start classes at 9:10am and conclude at 11:05am. Live office hours will be from 11:05 until 12:00pm. Classes will be 25 minutes in length. Elementary classes will start at 11:00am. ELA will take place from 9:15 until 9:45am. Math will take place from 9:45am

until 10:00am followed by live office hours until 11:00am. Teacher planning and prep will occur for all grade levels in the afternoon.

Aflac: We all know the commercials. The ones with the white goose, Nick Saban and other famous coaches talking about insurance. They have reached out to the OEA to conduct meetings about the services they provide. Mike Friehe (Free) and Jenna Anderson will be reaching out to the building ARs through the building principals to hold these meetings. The meetings will be brief and take place before or after school. Both said they would gladly bring snacks and other goodies for the opportunity to visit with our members.

I know as we enter these colder months of the year that it is not always easy to be bright and cheery. The long cold nights make it tough. Remember, it is okay to not be okay. ***Do the things necessary to make sure you are doing what is best for you.*** When you do that, you then will be able to do what is best for your students. Always eat dessert first, go to bed when you are tired, and it is fine to carry over to tomorrow that which you did not get completed today. Liz, Kathie, and I are here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for all you have done, are doing, and will continue to do.

In Solidarity,
Michelle

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