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HDTA on the Web

- hartdistrictteachers.org
- [HDTA Facebook](#)
- [Twitter @HartDTA](#)
- [CTA Website](#)
- [NEA Website](#)
- [HDTA Mailchimp](#)

Helpful Links

- [Conference Request Form](#)
- [Grievance Form](#)
- [CTA Instruction & PD](#)
- [Membership Benefits](#)
- [CTA Invest](#)
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HDTA EXECUTIVE BOARD (2019-2020)

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State Council Rep: Cesar

Arevalo



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we start off the new year and get back into the swing of things, I want to say that I'm proud to be a teacher in this district, a member of HDTA, and a peer of yours. The strength, courage, and effort I see on a daily basis amazes me. I'm lucky enough to be a parent of two Hart district graduates and will watch my daughter graduate from the University of Washington this June. She is majoring in environmental science, a choice she made after studying the subject in high school. Luckily my son took the less expensive route and began his STEM major classes at COC. Their enthusiasm for knowledge and skill was formed through their family, not just their mother and me, but of the Hart district family. It is this "village" that has raised thousands with skill, compassion, and energy. This family always

comes together in times of need.

Speaking of coming together, I greatly appreciate the efforts of our Reps in gathering signatures to qualify the "Schools and Communities First" initiative for the upcoming election. As our district is already crying deficit spending and the district is going broke, it is more important than ever to increase funding in education across the board. An increase in the Prop 98 base will provide a much-needed shot in the arm to public education.

As the CFO goes out on his "The Sky is Falling" tour, we will be completing our own analysis of the budget. We may need to come together again in order to convince the district that we are their number one asset and need to be treated that way.

As the bargaining team begins its arduous task and the teams begin the process,

we will do our best to keep you updated and informed as much as is possible. We received 45 pages of comments in the bargaining survey which the team read each and every one. We met on Thursday to review the comments. I will be putting together a summary and getting that out ASAP. Some of the comments will need to be addressed through site reps as they are not negotiable items. As a reminder, salary and benefits are automatic re-openers then each side gets three articles to address in addition to mutually agreed upon items. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 255-0311 with any questions or concerns. Together,

Together,
John Minkus

Bargaining Rep Needed
\$687.50 per semester
Twice monthly meetings; sub coverage for full day release.
Contact [Michael Copenhaver](#) if interested.

*Active Links in Section



The [CTA Good Teaching Conferences](#) continue to support excellent teaching and learning practices for classroom teachers via peer-to-peer instruction. Offering a variety of diverse workshops focused on curriculum content areas for K-12 teachers, the conferences provide opportunities for professional development and offer time to

TEACH THE TEACHER | CTA Conference

network and share ideas with colleagues and experts in the field of education.

Date: March 13-15

Location: Hyatt Regency Garden Grove

First and second teachers - This is an excellent conference for you to attend. If interested, complete the [HDTA authorization for conference form](#) and **submit to Gary Schulman by February 10**. All expenses will be paid; university credit available.

*Active Links in Section

SITE REPRESENTATIVES

Academy of the Canyons & Learning Post:

Don Musella

Arroyo Seco:

Thomas Van Dyke

Bowman: Mike Coombe

Canyon: John Albert & Cesar Arevalo

Castaic: Lori Hermelin

CEPA: Christy Lennarz

Golden Valley: Darren LaRue & Michael Bunch

Hart: Sam Modugno & Lynn Yale

La Mesa: Kathy Gettman

CEPA: Christy Lennarz

Placerita: Edward Carr

Psychologists: Eboni Shields

Rancho Pico: Doug Smith

Rio Norte: Julie Schneider

Saugus: Megan Botton & Marty Fricke

Sequoia: Fidel Garica

Sierra Vista: Skye Ostrom

SPL: Kaitlyn Wilson

TLC: Anna Bettencourt

Valencia: Maya Loch, Gene Truex-Hill & Stephen Whelan

West Ranch: Laura Erickson & Mike Kane



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Office Hours

9-4pm

*Feel free to leave a message by phone or email. We will be in touch as soon as possible.

CONTRACT REMINDER

12.8.1.1 Class Size

If 15 days from the beginning of the semester, or at any point thereafter, a section is over contractual class size limits for ten (10) school days the unit member assigned to that section will have the option of either one (1) period of compensation time per student over the limit or one hour of compensation time at the hourly rate of pay. The unit member waives the right to be compensated if he/she requests the larger class size. The unit member must

submit such waiver in writing to the school principal. All class size waivers must be approved by the teacher, department chair, and the school principal. It is the responsibility of the unit member to request compensation prior to the end of the semester by completing the Class Size Compensation form and submitting it to the school principal.

For more information regarding the contract, visit the [HDTA Site](#).

[*Active Links in Section](#)

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD | Conferences Approved by HDTA

[*Active Links in Section](#)

HDTA unit members can request funds to attend a conference. The form must be received at least 45 days before the 1st day of the conference by our HDTA treasurer, Gary Schulman. This ensures timely approval by the HDTA Executive Board and HDTA Council. There is a maximum available of \$3500 per school year for each

unit member. The unit member must be in good standing to request conference funds.

Did you know?

Since August 2019...

19 HDTA Approved Conferences

\$15,000 Total Expenses Covered



Elizabeth Ng, Rio Norte Junior High California Teachers Association (CTA) New Educator Weekend San Diego, California

"The conference offered many different areas of helpful content so that we were able to choose what we wanted to focus on. My favorite workshop was called 'Student-Centered Classrooms/Social Emotional Learning' This workshop had us focus on our 'why' that keeps us going through the day-to-day challenges of teaching, and how to use that "why" to positively impact ourselves and our students. We also discussed how to connect our curriculum to students' lives in order to achieve (ideally) 100% engagement. This workshop was for junior high teachers, so it was nice to be in a room of educators who are teaching similar content to students."



Photo submitted by Elizabeth Ng, Kacey Dawson, Nicholas Ferroni (keynote speaker), and Elizabeth Ng



Melanie Crawford, Arroyo Seco Junior High Annual Conference for Middle Level Education Nashville, Tennessee

"This conference addressed the unique needs of this age group [seventh grade], focusing on classroom student engagement and motivation, project-based learning, differentiated instruction, and literacy. By far the most useful and thought-provoking session I attended was Generation Z: facing four hidden realities of the most anxious population. This workshop was a condensed version of the recently published book [Generation Z Unfiltered: Facing Nine Hidden Challenges of the Most Anxious Population](#) by Tim Elmore and Andrew McPeak. Our students, every year, are experiencing more and more anxiety. This session helped illuminate why this is the case and how we, as teachers, can help."



Photo submitted by Melanie Crawford, Jessica Meraz and Melanie Crawford

Conferences Approved by HDTA *cont.*



Lori Hermelin, Castaic High School
American Association of School Librarians National Conference, Louisville, Kentucky

"One of my favorite sessions was presented by a math teacher and her school's librarian. They shared a bunch of ideas for ways that math teachers can collaborate meaningfully with the teacher librarian. It was inspiring because that is an area where I feel I have lots of room to

grow. I came back and shared some ideas immediately with my math colleagues, and I hope we can implement some of their ideas as Castaic grows. I recommend this conference to other teacher librarians, literacy coaches, and any content-area teachers looking to get ideas on how to better utilize the collaborative power of working with the teacher librarian at their school."



Momoko Russell, Saugus High School
Strategies! Strategies! Strategies! Strengthen Your Writing Instruction to Significantly Increase Students' Writing Skills (Grades 6-12)
Arcadia, California

"The focus of the conference was to have a basket of tricks to improve student writing skills. The best speaker was [Mary Ellen Ledbetter](#). She had a lot of student samples to work through and focused on the bigger issues, including improving the ever-dreaded analysis. Ledbetter also discussed all the writing modes and has basic graphic organizers

available. Ledbetter also stresses the value of conferencing and has suggestions to help you implement it in your classroom. I would recommend this conference to the junior high English teachers so they can incorporate some of these tricks as an introduction to high school. It gives high school English teachers a good reminder that we need to go back to some of the strategies that maybe we've put on the back burner."



Kimberly Jimenez, Hart High School
California Mathematics Council
Palm Springs, California

"My favorite strategy is the reflection piece. The presenter, Anna Mathgate, suggested not focusing on assigned homework rather have students reflect using the question feature in Google classroom. She suggested using the [10 questions by Jo Boaler](#) as well as some she created her self. Using the question tool allows students to respond to each

other, it also allows the teacher to respond as well. If students have a misconception, it is easily spotted either by other students or the teacher, which can be corrected. She also suggested not to give it a grade until the student is done learning. This way students are focusing on the corrections needed and not the grade they earned. Also, giving them a grade makes it final, and students won't generally go back to make corrections. I have started doing this in my class, and it is amazing."



Brianna Mowry, Sierra Vista Junior High
California Choral Directors Association Conference
Oakhurst, California

"Directors from all over the United States meet to learn new teaching techniques for our developing choirs, explore new music technology, participate in conducting workshops, and sing wonderful music! My favorite workshop was actually designed for elementary music, but was adaptable for middle school students. Instead of telling us how to teach

the materials, the instructor simply led us through a class as if we were students. We practiced using our head and chest voices, collaborated to create simple harmonies, and played singing games that tricked us into learning concepts like syncopation. He never stopped the class to teach us as teachers, instead, he let us sing for the entire session. It didn't feel like learning at all, and by the end, I had 20 new ideas to implement with my choirs."



Photo submitted by Brianna Mowry