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Welcome Back

By now, you have all settled back into the daily routines that make Greece Teachers the best and brightest in our profession. Your effort is the most important work for maintaining a healthy community. Every day, you inspire students to work harder than they thought possible and reach goals that will ensure a happy and productive life.

Over the next few months, you will be getting updates concerning APPR and the Governor's test and punish

agenda. Although the work of NYSUT leadership and NYSUT members across the state, in concert with strong parent advocates, beat back much of the Governor's plan, too much remains.

The new laws will make it difficult for newly hired teachers to earn tenure (update below). Further, the new APPR law has doubled down on using standardized testing as the primary means for evaluating teachers.

So, we still have work to do.

What can you do in the short term to help change the issues?

First, continue to visit nysut.org and use the NYSUT MAC. Second, visit greceteachers.com and get informed about the issues. Lastly, attend your building GTA meetings or attend a GTA Representative Assembly. Our first Representative Assembly is September 23 at 4:00

Tenure Law Changes:

- Applies to teachers hired on or after 7/1/2015
- Probationary period is extended to 4 years
- Teachers seeking tenure must earn an Effective or Highly Effective in 3 out of 4 years.
- A teacher rated ineffective in the fourth year cannot be granted tenure at that time. The BOE can grant a Juul, however.
- A tenured teacher changing districts must have a 3 year probationary period, provided the teacher didn't have an ineffective rating in the last year.

APPR Update

The new APPR negotiations have begun with the District. However, until an agreement is reached, we will continue to work under the current APPR agreement.

There have been many significant changes to the law and the GTA leadership has been working with our NYSUT LRS and attending workshops over the summer to become more familiar with the new regulations. Further, on September 23, I will be presenting a “barebones” interpretation of the new regulations to the building representatives.

We all know that this current iteration of the APPR is unfair, unreliable, and unreasonable. This is one area where all GTA members should be active politically. There are few areas that have such a profound impact on a career of education. Please be active and diligent.

Contract Update

We are in the final steps of finalizing language. New copies of the contract will be printed soon. Each member will receive a copy.

Member Benefits

NYSUT Member Benefits is a program that offers discounts and services to NYSUT members. However many in GTA don't even know it exists.

The Member Benefits can be found at memberbenefits.nysut.org. According to chairperson Martin Messner, NYSUT Member Benefits has “close to 50 endorsed programs & services available to NYSUT members -- we have something for everyone and offer significant savings to all who belong to NYSUT.”

Programs Include:

- Insurance
- Shopping and Travel
- Legal/Financial
- Financial Planning

Consider visiting the Member Benefits website. There are some good opportunities for NYSUT members.

Building Visits

Currently, we are working to set up monthly building visits. It is our hope that by getting into each of our 17 buildings monthly, we can be more responsive to your questions or concerns.

Discussions will include:

- Your questions and comments
- Follow ups from prior meetings
- Updates from APPR, Albany, or problem solving.