



Education Association of St. Lucie LOCAL 3616

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The VOICE

Editor: Maureen Sinnott
371 East Midway Road
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

VOTE . . . For your job!

We know that there are many educators who do not like to be political. It is messy. It can get ugly. It can harm friendships and create family arguments. We get it. But, you are ALL in a career that is controlled through the political process. The good news is that being involved doesn't have to mean you get vocal about who you are voting for or go to Tallahassee and lobby. You don't have to have family fights at Thanksgiving dinner or unfriend your Facebook friends.

Getting involved is as easy as educating yourself and voting. *You can even vote by mail, so you don't have to go to the polls.*

Picketing, working to contract, packing the board room are all short-term solutions. When they are successful, they work to increase pay and change working conditions for a year. If we want to make long term changes to our profession, we have to educate ourselves, our families and friends, and we have to get out and vote.

Vote as if your job and your students' futures depend on it. Because they do.

Important upcoming election dates:

Early Voting

Monday, October 24, 2022 – Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm daily.

Sunday, November 6th, 2022, from 7:00 am until 3:00 pm

Early Voting Locations

**Renaissance Business Park (Formerly
Orange Blossom Business Center)**
4132 Okeechobee Rd.
Fort Pierce

Zora Neale Hurston Library
3008 Avenue D,
Fort Pierce

**Indian River State College Veterans Center
of Excellence – New Location**
500 NW California Blvd.,
Port St. Lucie

MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Event Center
9221 S.E. Event Center Place
Port St. Lucie

Paula A. Lewis Library
2950 SW Rosser Blvd.,
Port St. Lucie

Port St. Lucie Community Center
2195 SE Airosa Blvd.,
Port St. Lucie

General Election Day
November 8, 2022
7:00 am-7:00 pm

Your Contract . . . Clarified! with CTA Vice-President Rebecca Petrie

Let's face it. Time is important to all of us.

Your contract is clear about how your planning time – as well as other non-student contact time – can be used. The information below is from the CTA contract.

First, let's review a few definitions contained in contract. This will help when reading the contract language.

Planning Time: *time spent in groups or individually during the work day for preparation of the instructional program and work required activities.*

Common Planning Time: *Collaborative instructional planning of teachers for shared students or common content (e.g. grade groups, teams, departments, small learning communities).*

Protected Planning Time: *Protected common planning time (principal directed) no more than one day a week.*

Official Planning Period: *The Principal will establish the official planning period for each teacher and notify teachers in writing either individually or in the Teacher Handbook. The official planning period is the time subject to all contractual stipulations in Article IV, Section E (below).*

Article IV - - Teaching Conditions

E. Planning

The Board and the Association agree that adequate planning time is important to the improvement of the quality of instruction. Interruptions to planning time will be minimized whenever possible.

1. Teachers shall have a continuous, uninterrupted block of time daily that is no less than 45 minutes. In schools with block schedules, the official planning time minutes must equate to the same number of minutes biweekly as this provision.

*2. The official planning time for each teacher will be provided to them in writing either individually or in the Faculty Handbook. **The Principal will not direct the official planning time more than one day a week**, except during the last 4 full weeks of the academic year when the principal shall not direct any of the official planning time. This paragraph applies only to the official planning time.*

So... what does all of that actually mean?

You should know (and if you don't, you should ask) what part of your day is your "Official Planning Time". Sometimes it is referred to as "Protected" time. When we get questions about planning time, this is usually the first question we ask.

Your administrator can direct ONE of these official/protected planning periods each week. However, the other four planning periods throughout the week are to be used as teachers see appropriate (grading papers, creating lesson plans, communicating with parents, updating bulletin boards, etc.). Some school administrators have found ways to include *additional planning time on the master schedule. In that event, the "protected" time stays as outlined above. The difference is that this additional common planning time can be directed by your administrators.*

Now, for those who work at schools on a block schedule, you may have to think about your planning time in a two-week cycle. Essentially each of your 90-minute blocks is equal to two 45-minute blocks. That means your administration can direct one full 90-minute block within the two week timeframe OR can direct 45 minutes each week.

We hope you find this clarification of planning time helpful. Please feel free to call the office if you need further information or clarification.

Member Spotlight



Lauren Mueller, NPK8

Northport ELA Teacher Creates Shark Tank Project for Her Students

Lauren Mueller has been teaching for five years, but this is her first year teaching 8th grade at Northport K-8. In addition to teaching English Language Arts throughout her day, Lauren also teaches a course called Critical Thinking. The purpose of this class is to “enable students to develop learning strategies, critical-thinking skills, and problem-solving skills to enhance their performance in academic and nonacademic endeavors”.

Through the Critical Thinking course, Lauren is able to focus on creating assignments that offer real-world experiences while reinforcing skills that are necessary for her students success in high school and beyond. This allows Lauren to meet the diverse needs of her students while making sure to meet the standards.

Lauren believes that this course is just as important as core curriculum classes because it provides her students with the ability to learn skills and strategies that have “real-world” applications such as time management, making and attaining goals, and career setting. Because these skills are not expressly taught through core classes, Lauren sees the importance of teaching them to help her students achieve success now and in the future.

Lauren stated that “I knew I wanted to make this class helpful for the students, but also fun.” To that end, Lauren created an assignment for her students based on the popular tv show, *Shark Tank*.

Students were tasked with creating a product that was a solution to a common problem. Students had to create a Power Point that explained the problem, what their product was, and how it was a solution to a common problem. This was then presented to both the class and to the guest “Sharks” - educators that Lauren recruited from both her school and EASL. The presenters took questions from the class as well as the Sharks. The Sharks scored each student based on the rubric that was given to the students, which Lauren used to ascertain whether the Sharks would buy their product.

Lauren’s next assignment is a murder mystery. Students have been taught skills that will help them determine who “the killer” really is.

All in all, Lauren is thrilled to be teaching at Northport and is very excited to see the growth in her students this year.



CTA Vice-President Rebecca Petrie and Member Support Specialist Maureen Sinnott were asked to be guest “Sharks”.

If you know of a colleague that deserves to be in the Member Spotlight, please let us know! We enjoy highlighting the engaging activities that our members are creating for students and colleagues across the district.

**Education Association of St. Lucie
Local 3616**

**371 E. Midway Road
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982
Office: 772-464-6430
Fax: 772-464-7446**

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Union Staff

Maureen Sinnott/ Member Support Specialist
Lucy Bravo/ Organizing and Member Advocacy Specialist
Barbara Ziegler/ Office Manager

E-mail:

David.Freeland@FloridaEA.org
Rebecca.Petrie@FloridaEA.org
Lucy.Bravo@FloridaEA.org
Barbara.Ziegler@FloridaEA.org
Maureen.Sinnott@FloridaEA.org

**Focus on CU
with CU Vice President
Sandy Rohn**

Happy October!

We are excited that we were able to secure an LOU (Letter of Understanding) to change the salary schedule for our Health Paraprofessionals in order to make their salaries more in line with the work they do. They all did a wonderful job of advocating for themselves, which made our job easier to complete.

We will continue to do all we can to ensure that all our members are fairly compensated. We have strong language in place to protect us and will continue to monitor this information.

Right now, the best thing you can do for your job security is to VOTE for candidates that are more “public education friendly” and are more concerned about the rights of educators.

Please make a plan to Vote by mail, early voting, or (if you are a traditionalist) on November 8th at your local polling place!



Remember, we are stronger together,
Sandy

*Let's Talk
Benefits*

Let's Talk Benefits with
Lucy Bravo, Organizing and Member Advocacy Specialist
This month's focus will be on the union benefit partner

FEA Access



FEA Access To Savings Empowers You to Travel Your Way for Less!

In addition to deep, members-only travel discounts as a member of FEA Access to Savings, you get access to our top-notch travel customer service team.

Your customer service phone : 1-888-304-9048

Log in via the web: [https://
fea.accessdevelopment.com/travel/](https://fea.accessdevelopment.com/travel/)

