

New Teacher and New Para Welcome



**By HCEA President
Ann De Lacy**

Dear Colleagues,

Every June, for as long as I can remember, HCEA invites retiring members to our offices on Dorsey Hall Drive for a little gathering to celebrate the culmination of their longtime membership and service. At the end of these sessions, MST A UniServ Director, Cheryl McLeod, asks those in attendance to share their most memorable moments in education. Following these heartwarming assemblies, Cheryl and I usually smile at each other, lament on how few people attend, and

bemoan the sad fact that these stories are not somehow captured and shared.

During a recent conversation with retiring Lime Kiln Middle School French/Spanish teacher, Vivian Gentile, the subject of feedback from retirees came up. "I think it would behoove the school system to get feedback from retiring teachers.

Usually we love an opportunity to voice our views," wrote Vivian. "So few people ever ask for them."

In late June, a survey, designed by Vivian, was mailed to every retiring HCEA member. The survey asked two questions: 1. What were your reasons for remaining in Howard County Schools so long?; and, 2. What were your reasons for leaving?

One response was so beautifully written and captured the essence of the passion behind why one chooses to go into education with such clarity that I decided to share it with you. Unfortunately, I am unable to provide credit to the author because no name was attached.

"I stayed in teaching because I cherished the look in a child's eye when he/she understood. As I became older, I also cherished that same look in the eyes of new teachers when they finally understood the difference between classroom management and classroom control, lesson planning and lesson development, and surviving their profession and thriving in their profession."

"When I began teaching, I was committed to the calling of educating children. I took my job and my moral responsibility to their education seriously. I talked about students, not because of 'data' or 'scores' but because it was my ethical responsibility to do so. When a child failed, I saw it as my personal failure as well as my responsibility to help him or her succeed."

Irrespective of the role we play within Howard County Public Schools, we hold the future of children within our hands.

Have a great year!



Sick Leave Bank – Enroll Now!

What is the Sick Leave Bank? It is a benefit to bargaining unit members that provides sick leave after the contributing member's accumulated sick leave has run out. Those who join the Sick Leave Bank contribute a few sick leave days to the bank; then when a

participant needs days because their sick leave has been exhausted and they have suffered an incapacitating personal illness or injury they can apply to draw from the bank. For details on how the Bank works visit the HCEA website at

www.hceanea.org and look under Member Services. The deadline to join is Wednesday, September 30th for the Teacher Bank and Friday, October 30th for the ESP Bank. If you have any questions contact HCEA at (410) 997-3440.

Dates to Remember:

Call HCEA to register for events.

Change is Coming! MSEA Official Kickoff

Tuesday, September 1
4PM – 8PM
140 Main Street
Annapolis, MD

Paychecks

Friday, September 4
Friday, September 18
(First Dues Deduction)

Last Day to Sign Up for Teacher Sick Leave Bank

Wednesday, September 30

HCEA Crab Feast

Friday, October 2

MSEA Representative Assembly & Convention Workshops

Friday, October 16 &
Saturday, October 17
Ocean City Convention Center

Last Day to Sign Up for ESP Sick Leave Bank

Friday, October 30

Welcome to the National Education Association!!

Welcome to NEA Member Benefits, the department within NEA that's dedicated to making the personal and professional lives of educators better through "best of class" products and services. As a new member, you're invited to take advantage of our NEW MEMBER PROGRAM. Visit our website to check out the special offers for new members at www.neamb.com/newmember1. If you are not a new member, visit www.neamb.com.

Creating a Professional Image

As a first-year educator, you have no name recognition, no reputation and no credibility. Think of it as a clean slate. Your behavior and your interaction with all the groups that make up the school community will not only define your image, but also have an impact on the image of the profession as a whole.

From the beginning, let parents know you believe a working partnership with them is best for students. Send messages home about what they can do to support learning. Invite parents to join the class and assist with school projects.

Dress neatly. No low slung pants, sloppy t-shirts, short tops or flip flops. You are a professional and a role model – make sure you dress appropriately.

In early November, send home a list of good books for parents to consider for holiday giving. List a few academic books, but include mostly books that are interesting or entertaining, and at the same time of literary or academic merit, as they relate to your teaching area.

Display your degrees and certificates. Every other professional has these documents framed and hanging on their office walls, you should too. Not only is it good for those times when parents visit your classroom, but think about the positive effect it has on your students.

Have a classroom bulletin board where each week a student gets to display their five favorite pictures.

If you have questions or concerns, ask a veteran teacher in your building, or contact HCEA at (410) 997-3440.

September 1: We're Changing Our Name!

When delegates at the MSTA Representative Assembly voted last October to change the name of the Maryland State Teachers Association to the Maryland State Education Association, it was a historic moment, but one certainly in keeping with the Association's long tradition of inclusion and advocacy.



"The vote was one of deep significance for our members," said MSTA President Clara Floyd. "Above all, we are advocates for great public schools, and what makes a school great is the commitment of each and every member of that school's staff. "Becoming MSEA says to our members, parents, school officials, elected officials and the public, that every school employee enjoys the benefits of our support—whether it is at the worksite or negotiations table, in Annapolis, or as champions for their professional growth."



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