



THE EDUCATOR

Newsletter of the Arlington Teachers' Association

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Welcome Back!

Welcome back ATA Members! How did you spend your summer? Did you relax at the beach, catch up on your reading, or visit with family? Maybe you did some volunteer work, or even PD.

Several of us attended NYSUT's annual Mid-Hudson Region Summer Leadership Conference that was held in Tarrytown at the end of August. Over two and a half days we participated in workshops on topics such as our NYSUT member benefits (read more on page two) how to represent members who are being disciplined, and strategies to increase member engagement. There were also a lot of opportunities for network-

ing with other locals from across the region.

One of the main takeaways that the ATA delegation agreed on is that we're in a pretty good place. We heard from other locals who were strug-

It's not an easy task to make sure that our 12 buildings function as one unit, and it takes the help of every member.

gling to communicate with their members, and locals who were dealing with a lot of discord in their district. We came away thinking that we are very fortunate to have an executive team that works well together, and a group of building reps who do what is needed to keep our

buildings connected.

Keep up the good work! It's not an easy task to make sure that our 12 buildings function as one unit, and it takes the help of every member. Yes, it is important to attend meetings, and read emails, but it's also about making personal connections. Along with things like bargaining for your salary and benefits, your union also provides opportunities to volunteer

and attend social functions. Taking advantage of those opportunities strengthens us, and they're fun too! Be on the lookout for news about ATA events.

I hope this school year is your best one yet!

-Sam Falk,
Communications Chair



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Trivia Challenge

Answer the question below correctly and you could be the proud winner of ATA gear!

In what year was the ATA founded?

Submit your answer to the above trivia question to sfalk@acsdny.org by September 19. The winner will be randomly selected from the correct submissions.

Congrats To Newly Tenured ATA Members

Elementary

Arthur S. May
Shelby Munoz
Kristy O'Connell
Amanda Prizzia

Beekman

Brian Kimbark
Rachel Shields
Anya Tomaseski

Noxon

Erin Gargano
Kathryne Gruskin
Abigail Heaton
Cassandra Jaeb
Katherine McKeon

Overlook Primary

Laura Bagnarol
Jaime Politi
Euni Shim

Traver Road

Kira Riccio

Vail Farm

Amanda Grabowski
Garret VonderHeide

Middle

LaGrange

Christine Fiore
Elaine LiVelli
Courtney Peterson
Rachel Rankin Van
Der Stuyf

Union Vale

Jennifer Alexander
Alexandra Casado
Alexandria Cropley
Nicole Haight
James Keller
Amanda Lenane
Jillian Patterson
David Uridia

High

Nicole Asendorf
Lynne Czajka
Jessica Dandridge
Rhonda Owens

CAO

Dawn Jawrower
Jessica Mirra

Be Your Best Self With Member Benefits

It doesn't matter if this is your first, 50th, or 30th year. It's always tough to start a school year. NYSUT has provided a handful of free resources to help you take care of yourself so that you can be the best you can be for your students.

NYSUT has offered a free subscription to Calm Premium, which you can access at this link: www.calm.com/b2b/nysut-member-benefits/subscribe. You will need your member ID which you can get at www.nysut.org/memberid

Once you set up your account, which by the way you can also share with up to 4 "dependents", you have full access to the broad library of resources including guided meditations, mindfully read short stories, calming soundscapes, the

"daily move", and so much more. I have used this app and resources off and on since it was first offered and would be glad to answer your questions about it.

NYSUT has also put considerable resources into their Peer Support Line. This is a free, confidential phone number that puts you in touch with a trained educator who is/has worked in a school and understands the life of an educator. Monday to Friday, noon to 8pm you can call 844-444-0512 to be connected with someone who is ready to listen and may be able to guide you toward a solution. Had a bad day and need to vent? Worried about a loved one and not sure who to turn to? You or anyone in your family may make use of this service to help you through the tough times. You can also leave

a voice message during the other times of day, or you can contact the support line via chat or secure digital message as well.

Finally, NYSUT Education and Learning Trust (ELT) is soon to announce free training for RISE: Wellness and Resilience for Educators through a collaboration with Kripalu wellness and yoga center in the Berkshires. Details about the training sessions will be forthcoming on the ELT site (www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/rise), but there are already some helpful videos and resources available right now.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about these or any other union member benefits.

-Steve Hetzrog,
ATA VP For Membership



The Arlington Teachers' Association's Annual Morning Movie

to benefit the Arlington Education Foundation

Come see the
Halloween classic,
Hocus Pocus with
us!
(Rated PG)

Saturday, October 25, 2025
Doors open at 9:30 AM
Show starts at 10 AM sharp
Hyde Park Roosevelt Theater
4060 Albany Post Rd. Hyde Park

Tickets are \$8 each

Venmo: @ata4547002 (it will come up as Dave Cordella 1452)

include your last name, number of tickets, and school in the: *what's this for?* section

OR send a check or money order to:

ATA C/O Kristine Jackson 46 Davis Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 OR through interoffice mail

Please include your last name, number of tickets, and school in the memo

Example: Smith/4/OPS

No physical tickets will be issued, but we will have a record with your information at the door.

NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR

You don't want to miss out on the raffle prizes!!

Questions can be directed to Kristine Jackson: kjackson@acsdny.org



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Arlington Parent Teacher Association
Arlington Teachers' Association

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Welcome, New Members!

The Arlington Teachers' Association would like to welcome the following people to the Arlington School District and the ATA. To help us get to know them, each new member was asked **what they will be teaching, where they are from, and what their favorite food is**. Please let us know if there are more additions to your building that we can include in the next issue.

◆ELEMENTARY SCHOOL◆

Arthur S. May

Maria Gecaj—5th Grade—Wappingers Falls, NY—Pasta

Samantha Gentile—Special Ed.—Newburgh, NY—Sushi

Kelly Hait—Special Ed.—Highland, NY—White Pizza

Beekman

Melissa Deserto—Special Ed.—Hopewell Junction, NY—Italian Food

Noxon

Katherine Cody—Reading—Brewster, NY

Jennifer Conroy—Special Ed.—Hopewell Junction, NY—Ice Cream

Lauren Dykstra—Special Ed.—Wappingers Falls, NY—Pizza/Tacos

Katherine Mosca—Psychologist—Dansville, NY—Nachos

Overlook

Diane Farris—1st Grade—Hopewell Junction, NY—Mexican

Jocelyn Jones—Speech—LaGrangeville, NY—Tacos

Titusville

Kiana Jedlicka—3rd Grade—Poughquag, NY—Pizza

Traver Road

Brooke Fanuele—2nd Grade—Pleasant Valley, NY—Pasta

Michael Greco—Phys. Ed.—Marlboro, NY—Pizza

Juliana Nargi—Special Ed.—Pleasant Valley, NY—Chicken Cutlets

Samantha Owens—RSP—Poughkeepsie, NY—Pizza

Vail Farm

Veronica Acevedo—Social Worker

Brianna Cretara—1st Grade—Hopewell Junction, NY—Pasta

Hannah Jackson—5th Grade—Poughquag, NY—Ice Cream

Taylor Kimble—5th Grade—Poughquag, NY—Pizza

Michelle Trapani—Reading

West Road

Emma Ackerler—5th Grade—Commack, NY—Sushi

Alexis Jacques—Elementary—Poughquag, NY—Sushi
Jenna Staten—3rd Grade—Putnam Valley, NY—Hibachi

♦MIDDLE SCHOOL♦

LaGrange

Emily Ireland—Social Studies—Stormville, NY—Tacos
Ryan Lerner—Spanish—Hyde Park, NY—Pizza Hot Dish
Amber Litchauer—School Counselor—Poughkeepsie, NY—Steak
Sofia Raffaele—Social Studies—Pleasant Valley, NY—Italian Combo With Chips
Douglas Salvati—Special Education

Union Vale

Brianna Bisceglia—Italian—LaGrange, NY—Anything Italian
Allen Grant—Special Education
Brendan Sheehan—Special Education
Stacy Wickeri (also at ASM)—Social Worker

♦HIGH SCHOOL♦

Angelina Lauria—Technology—Beekman, NY—Birria Tacos
Kyle Novak—Phys. Ed.—Beekman, NY—Steak & Mashed Potatoes
Mariana Pavic (also at UVMS)—Business—Campbell Hall, NY—Chicken
Bella Piacente—Social Studies—Patterson, NY—Belgian Waffles

♦NON-PUBLIC♦

Katherine Berkley—Special Ed.—LaGrangeville, NY—Pizza



Photos by Sam Falk

New teachers and their mentors were treated to lunch while learning about ATA benefits at AHS on August 25.

2025 — 2026 ATA Officers

President

Bob Maier

Elementary Vice President

Nicolle McMorris

Secondary Vice President

Greg Nieman

Vice President For Membership

Steve Hertzog

Treasurer

Dave Cordella

Chief Negotiator

Robert McHugh

PR Committee Chair

Kristine Jackson

Community Action Chairs

Brendan Lawlor

Bill Mueller

Communications Chair

Sam Falk

Senior Building Representatives

ASM — A'Rehema Leach

BES — Christie Boydston

Noxon— TBA

VFES— Scott Adams &

Alison Durkin

OPS — Christene Way

TRP— Diana Judge

JDWR—Barbara Mackey

TIS — Heather Blatz

LMS — Bill Mueller

UVMS — Jim DeBonis

AHS — John Filor

AHS — Theresa Daleo-Stock

What's Going On?

"What's Going on" is a monthly feature of The Educator. It highlights noteworthy accomplishments by ATA members. Do you know of a colleague who deserves recognition? Let The Educator know by emailing sfalk@acsdny.org. We can't know what's going on at all of your schools without your help!

Congratulations to the following ATA members for their contributions to the Arlington community and beyond.



Photo Courtesy of Sandi Grafmuller

Disabilities Awareness

Physical therapist Sandi Grafmuller (AHS/UVMS/LMS), pictured second from right above with her husband, daughter (second from left), and family friend (who are both AHS students), volunteered on D3Day at Heritage Financial Park on August 16. Disability, Dream and Do empowers individuals with disabilities through inclusive events. Members of the Hudson Valley Renegades, along with volunteers, provided opportunities for people with special needs to experience the benefits of athletics while promoting diversity and inclusion. For more information visit d3day.com.



Photo Courtesy of Colleen Napora

Social Studies

AHS special education teacher Colleen Napora attended the Founding Forward Medal Of Honor Legacy: War On Terror seminar in Philadelphia from July 27 to August 1. Through lectures and discussions, participants studied the events surrounding the American War on Terror as a separate phenomenon from the Iraq War. They also visited the 9/11 Museum and Memorial in NYC and met Medal of Honor recipient Ryan Pitts (pictured with Napora above.)

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Do you know something great that an ATA member has done recently? Perhaps they have done charity work, received an award, attended a conference, or even published a book. Let us know by scanning the QR code or going to this link:

<https://forms.gle/aGLYf3LWHqkP5gaS7>



Big Read

On August 26 several ATA members took part in a workshop about the Poughkeepsie Public Library District's 2025 Big Read. Pictured from left to right are Liz Crivello-Jordan (BES), Lori Tse (AHS), Jeanette Sotland (AHS), Alicia Jazayeri (BES), Jenna Filor (AHS), and Amanda Lachman (AHS). They discussed the books for this year's Big Read, learned about the Mid-Hudson Anti-Slavery History Project, talked about projects they can complete with their students, and took a virtual tour of the Museum of the American Revolution.



Photo Courtesy of Liz Crivello-Jordan

DC Fair

Titusville 3rd grade teacher Chris Shave and his family are known for showing their sheep at the Dutchess County Fair, but their involvement begins weeks earlier as they help organize the open class entries for Needlework and Stitchery, Photography and Fine Arts in Building E. They began in early August as artisans and crafters dropped off their work to be judged and displayed. Serving as the volunteer chairpersons is a family affair. Chris is the chairman of the photography while his wife Meegan has charge of Needlework and Stitchery and their daughters Cosette and Mace are in charge of fine arts. The Veeder-Shave family has been in these roles for numerous years and enjoy helping the fair run these competitions which are a staple of the county fair.

After that work is complete the family moves over to the 4-H building to help organize and judge the entries from members. Both girls grew up in the program and volunteer whenever they are able to do so. Meegan is the head of the 4-H Fair Committee which oversees 4-H at the fair. In addition to being a 4-H volunteer, Chris serves as the president of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Board of Directors. 4-H Youth Development is one of the programs with extension.

Science

AHS Biology teacher Tricia Muraco was selected to participate in the 2025 BIORETS program at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Through six weeks of intensive ecology instruction and field work, Cary BIORETS helps teachers develop their skills in conducting original research, including research design, implementation, and data analysis. The program also guides teachers in translating those skills into novel instructional materials that enrich learning experiences for their students.



Photo by Maribeth Rubenstein/Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Throughout the summer, Muraco worked on a research team that investigated the legacy effects of spongy moth caterpillar defoliation on forest structure and productivity. Donning mesh-covered hats to protect them from insects, the team trekked through Cary's forest to measure the amount of greenery at sites that had and had not been defoliated by the caterpillars in 2023 and 2024. Along with the rest of the Cary BIORETS cohort, Muraco presented her scientific findings and curriculum innovations in a research symposium on August 8. Over the coming school year, she will continue to work with BIORETS program managers to refine, implement, and evaluate her new lesson plans.

Based on her experience at BIORETS, Muraco is designing a lab that will get her students out into the forest at Baird Park. The students will work in teams to measure productivity, biomass, and carbon sequestration, as well as how disturbances shape those variables.

Cary BIORETS provides participating teachers with an \$8,800 stipend. Each teacher also receives a budget of up to \$2,000 for classroom supplies to enable implementation of their new curriculum. Support for the program comes from a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation and our generous donors.

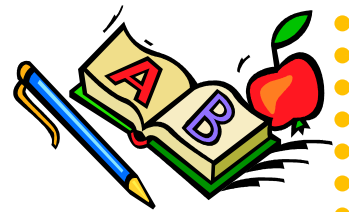
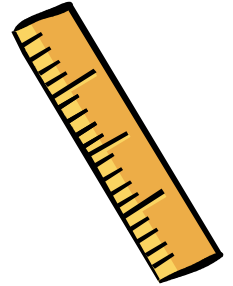
Dates to Remember

SEPTEMBER

- 9th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO
- 16th—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 18th—Middle School Open House—Half Day For Students
- 23rd—Rosh Hashanah—No School
- 30th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., CAO

OCTOBER

- 1st—Deadline to submit information for graduate or inservice credit
Deadline for using 2024-2025 Welfare Trust benefits
- 2nd—Yom Kippur—No School
- 9th—High School Open House—Half Day For Students
- 13th—Columbus Day/Indigenous People Day—No School
- 14th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., ASM
- 21st—ATA Executive Council Session, 4 p.m., AHS room 1432
- 23rd—ARTA Lunch, 12p.m., Joe Willy's Seafood House
- 27th—Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., JDWR



Announcements

ATA Executive Council meetings are open to all members. They will take place this school year at 4 p.m. in AHS room 1432 on the following Tuesdays: 9/16, 10/21, 11/18, 1/20, 2/24, 3/17, 4/21, 5/19, 6/16

Stay informed! Follow us on Facebook and X or check out www.arlingtonteachers.com for forms, photos, calendars, and more.