



Welcome back from a well-deserved summer break! We hope the start of the new school year finds you rested and energized to take on the challenges that will come your way. We enter schools facing students who, like us, are trying to process the division, incivility and sense of anxiety that seem to have a grip on this country. While we might not have all the answers to all the questions, we do share a common moral framework that will help guide us through these trying times. Included in this framework are a respect for the dignity of our fellow humans, an unwavering commitment to public education and a deep belief that all people should receive an equal opportunity in life.



We have a profound responsibility to instill in our students an appreciation for the ideals that will steer our city and country to a more harmonious and just future. It is therefore incumbent on us to model these values and help create schools where everyone is good to one another. This means that we should make decisions collaboratively, value that collaboration as a process for improvement and celebrate in the successes of our colleagues and students.

We are strongest when we are united. Only collective action and speech will enable us to protect our profession from those who wish to silence our cause. If we work in solidarity with each other, we will be unbroken, because ours is the side of compassion. The challenges we face this year will be great, but will be met with the unbounded resolve of a profession united.

When these challenges do present themselves, please reach out to your union so that we can join together to ensure that our professional and personal lives are healthy, and that we are ready to teach and act.

In solidarity,

Janella Hinds, Vice President for Academic High Schools

Sterling Roberson, Vice President for Career and Technical Education

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## Join your fellow union members in the Labor Day Parade

With workers' rights under attack nationwide, now is the time to stand together. March with fellow union members at the city's Labor Day Parade! The parade is Saturday, Sept. 9, and the UFT contingent will assemble on West 47th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues. We will begin marching at 1:15 p.m. up Fifth Avenue. [Please register if you plan to attend.](#)

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## Standing with Dreamers

The UFT stands in full support of our members, students, families and allies who have benefited from Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. We will work together to ensure that our schools and our communities remain welcoming places for Dreamers and those who work with them.

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## Program problems and reorganization grievances

When grievances arise out of school reorganization, (for example: the start of a new semester), and involve teacher programs, there are special time limits. Reorganization grievances must be filed within **two school days** after the member has knowledge of the program in question. Article 7 of our contract provides a list of the types of grievances covered under this process. Additionally, this [reorganization factsheet](#) addresses many important questions regarding reorganization grievances. Contact your chapter leader, district representative, or union office if you have specific questions or concerns.

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## Prepare for your initial planning conference now!

The year's evaluation process starts with the initial planning conference, so it's critical that you get off on the right foot. The conference is a one-on-one meeting with the principal or assistant principal that takes place at a mutually-agreed upon time. At the meeting, members select their observation option, discuss their program, and set goals for the upcoming school year. For members rated

collaborative construction of the Teacher Improvement Plan.

If you have any concerns regarding preparation for your initial planning conference, this [article](#) provides some helpful tips. For a more comprehensive look at the evaluation process, the UFT's [guide to teacher evaluation](#) is a valuable resource.

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## Students in Career Technology Entrepreneurship Program



**Students explore virtual reality at the Career Technology Entrepreneurship Program**

Students from schools throughout New York City converged in August at the New York Institute of Technology for a dynamic program that focused on cyber-security, and virtual, augmented and mixed reality technologies. The Career Technology Entrepreneurship Program is the result of a

technology companies WebGuyz, CISCO Systems and Microsoft. Over the course of the program, students built video games, met with industry leaders, and participated in live cyber-security exchanges. The program is proof that experiential learning engages students in ways other approaches simply do not. This may very well be the future of education as students work cooperatively to solve complex problems, design phone-based educational applications and immerse themselves in “hands-on” education via virtual reality.

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## Continuing Teacher and Leader Education requirements

During the five-year period that began on July 1, 2016, professionally certified teachers and Level III certified paraprofessionals are required to collect a total of 100 professional development hours — now called Continuing Teacher and Leader Education hours — by a state-approved provider such as [LearnUFT](#) and the UFT Teacher Center.

Professional and Level III teaching assistant certificate holders are required to collect and track 100 CTLE hours in each five-year cycle. Permanent certificate holders are not required to track CTLE hours. If you have questions regarding CTLE requirements, many answers can be found in this [Q & A guide](#). Additionally, this [certification chart](#) provides a quick rundown of the specific job titles that are required to register and report CTLE hours.

If you are required to register and report CTLE hours, [the workshops offered by Team High School](#) are a great opportunity to both grow professionally and begin accumulating the requisite hours.

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## Educators teaching students to speak 'truth to power'



UFT members gathered at the UFT headquarters for the Speak Truth To Power workshop

UFT members from across the city participated in a three-day Speak Truth To Power workshop in July, led by Team High School and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights. Speak Truth To Power helps educators learn how to better engage students while teaching critical material related to human rights and social justice. This was the fourth year that Team High School has partnered with the RFK Center for Human Rights, and many New York educators and students have created award-winning videos and songs in Speak Truth To Power's student contests. Contact [Team High School](#) if you would like a teacher who is experienced with the material to visit your school to introduce a social justice curriculum as well help you and your students participate in video and song contests related to human rights.

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## Increase in Teacher's Choice funding

Teachers will each receive \$250 this school year, an increase of more than \$100 from last year. The New York City Council provided a 63.5 percent increase in funding for Teacher's Choice in the city budget following a strong lobbying effort by the UFT and its members that showed the impact of Teacher's Choice funds on classroom learning.

To receive reimbursement through Teacher's Choice, you must submit receipts as proof of purchase. These receipts must accompany a [Statement of Purpose/Accountability form](#), which you should submit to your school's principal by Jan. 19, 2018. Purchases must be made between Aug. 1, 2017, and Jan. 14, 2018, to qualify for Teacher's Choice.

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## Spotlight on secondary schools

Secondary schools have grades 6-12 and represent a dynamic contingent of the high school division. Encompassing six grades allows for consistent and smooth transitions to the upper grades and provides continuity for families and students. If you currently teach in a secondary school that is doing great work, please share your stories and pictures with us via [email](#) or Twitter: @UFTTeamHS.

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## Contact and share with us

As always, reach out to Team High School if you have any questions or concerns. We can be reached by phone at 212-598-9217 or via email at [teamhighschool@uft.org](mailto:teamhighschool@uft.org). Additionally, we'd love to know all the great things that are happening in your school and in your chapter. Please share these stories and pictures with us via email or on Twitter: @UFTTeamHS.

OUR CHAPTER | OUR UNION



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