

Team High School

Chapter Newsletter

October 2020

In normal times, our job responsibilities often consume our lives. This year more than ever, we've taken on great challenges at our schools and at home for the benefit of our students and society. An important reason we have a union is to support our members and school communities through crises like the coronavirus.

Others may ask how UFT members have made it this far, facing the negotiations, arbitrations, constant policy changes, an obstinate mayor and the heightened needs of our students during a pandemic. As usual, the answer to our success is we've been doing it together. Your union has worked tirelessly to secure the best agreement with the city Department of Education to protect our safety and livelihood and ensure the best educational outcomes for our students.

We've made it this far by working outside our buildings until we know they are safe for us and our students. We've made it by banding together as colleagues and unionists to ensure we hire, not lay off, the most important workers of our city.

We cannot be sure what the future holds, but we feel fortunate to continue fighting for you as the largest local union in our nation. While we are not perfect, may we always find strength in coming together.

In solidarity,

Janella T. Hinds, Vice President for Academic High Schools

Sterling Roberson, Vice President for Career and Technical Education High Schools

Solve this problem and solve them all: Ensuring our collective rights

Mayor Bill de Blasio notified the UFT on Oct. 9 that the city was unable to pay our

previously negotiated lump-sum payment. Specific clauses were included to prevent such a move. We took the city to emergency arbitration where it was decided members will receive half of the payment this month and half in July. We also were awarded a no-layoff clause for the remainder of this year. This was not our preferred outcome but we are happy we will eventually be made whole amid the city budget shortfall.

The UFT continues working diligently to ensure optimal working and learning environments. The union negotiated a [Memorandum of Agreement](#) with the DOE regarding remote work to protect ourselves and our profession during this pandemic. Please note: just like our existing [Collective Bargaining Agreement](#) our CBAs do not walk and talk by themselves. They require our involvement and enforcement. At a time when many schools and administrations are trying to solve citywide staffing and budgetary shortages on our backs and the backs of our students, it is important that we meet as chapters and coordinate with the larger union to ensure our rights are protected. Visit the UFT's [coronavirus information hub](#) for important safety and work policy updates. Please reach out to teamhighschool@uft.org or [212-598-9217](tel:212-598-9217) with any questions or concerns.

Reminder: Academic high school meeting on Oct. 27

There's still time to register for our remote academic high school meeting! This citywide meeting is an excellent opportunity to discuss common challenges and issues academic high schools are facing this extraordinary year. Once you've registered, you'll receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting. If you have any questions, please click on the "Ask a Question" tab on the registration website.

- **Date:** Tuesday, Oct. 27 meeting
- **Time:** 3 to 4 p.m.

[Register now](#)

Reminder: CTE meeting on Oct. 28

There's still time to register for our remote CTE meeting! This citywide meeting is an excellent opportunity to discuss common challenges and issues CTE high schools are facing this extraordinary year. Once you've registered, you'll receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting. If you have any questions, please click on the "Ask a Question" tab on the registration website.

- **Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 28 meeting
- **Time:** 3 to 4 p.m.

[Register now](#)

2020-21 CTE calendar is here

See the full list of city CTE trainings, events, meetings, work-based learning opportunities and key deadlines across all CTE subteams (Grades 9-14; Academic Integration; Career Pathways and Partnerships; Program Quality; and Policy). This online document will be updated regularly.

[View the CTE events calendar »](#)

Congratulations to Williamsburg HS for Architecture and Design!

The Williamsburg HS for Architecture and Design received a 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools award for exemplary CTE programs and offerings for its students.



Senior architect teacher Alain Codio (center, left) gathers with architecture students at a construction site in Brooklyn with Toby Moskovits (center, right), the owner of Heritage Equity.

Don't forget to practice self-care ...

As unionists, we must take care of ourselves so we can do our constant work of

caring for others. Check out the [self-care section on the UFT website](#) for resources to help you manage stress and anxiety and adjust to social distancing.

You can also contact the [UFT Member Assistance Program](#) for more support by emailing mapinfo@uft.org or calling [212-701-9620](tel:212-701-9620). Read about [MAP services during coronavirus](#) including individual consultations, virtual support groups and more.

... and union colleague care

We know it can be difficult to maintain unity and positive collaboration in a time when we are not all working together in person. For assistance organizing and coordinating your UFT high school chapter, contact us at teamhighschool@uft.org or call us at [212-598-9217](tel:212-598-9217).

Shoutout to all UFT School-Related Professionals

Not only are we the largest local union in the country, we are also one of the most diverse. Regardless of our titles, we are all UFT members and our strength at the school level and beyond lies in our unity. Let's take the time in our next chapter meeting to recognize members who are often underappreciated and have job responsibilities unfamiliar to some of us.

We thank the school counselors, lab specialists, school nurses, occupational and physical therapists, paraprofessionals, school psychologists, social workers, secretaries and all the many other professionals who work with our students. Please contact us at teamhighschool@uft.org or call us at [212-598-9217](tel:212-598-9217) to have a UFT representative from one of these chapters connect with you and your school.

Inspire change by entering a video or music contest with your students

The UFT is proud to partner with [Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights](#), a social justice advocacy group who uses the experiences of courageous human rights defenders from around the world to educate young people about human rights and urge them to take action. We encourage you to enter the Speak Truth to Power student video and music contests with your students. The application deadline is March 2021.

[Read more about the contests and how to participate »](#)

Please contact Karen Robinson at robinson@rfkhumanrights.org and/or teamhighschool@uft.org for contest information; engaging lessons and student-ready material on human rights; and opportunities to meet notable international human rights advocates.



Got 'remote' control?

While the verdict is out that in-person learning is preferable to remote teaching, we all turn to creative ways to engage our students. [See these online resources](#) from the UFT Teacher Center and UFT task force on remote learning for fun, innovative lessons and activities for students.

Overheard while educating during the pandemic

Please send any funny, bizarre, crazy, previously unimaginable or otherwise interesting quotes or comments you overhear that reflect the experience of working during the coronavirus to teamhighschool@uft.org.



Janella T. Hinds

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[YOUR DIVISION](#) | [YOUR UNION](#)

