



## NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend,

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. That said, no matter how hard we try, this profession is too demanding for anyone to take on these challenges alone. As professionals we must always support each other in our goal to create schools in which everyone is listened to, treated with respect and has a role in the decision-making process.



Your union is here to help whenever the need arises. Do not hesitate to reach out to [Team High School](#) if you have any questions. Together we'll work to ensure that our profession, colleagues and school communities stay strong.

In solidarity,

Janella T. Hinds, Vice President for Academic High Schools  
Sterling Roberson, Vice President for Career and Technical Education

## Teacher Evaluation

If you are a teacher who is covered by the Department of Education's teacher evaluation system known as "Advance," you should have received your final rating for the 2018-19 school year at the start of this school year. Due to successful negotiations in our most recent contract, this year, many of us will receive fewer observations than in the past. For example, teachers who have been rated "effective" for the past two consecutive years will now have a minimum of just two informal observations. See this [New York Teacher Q&A](#) for more information regarding changes to our observation cycle.

This year's evaluation process starts with the initial planning conference (IPC), and it's critical that we get off on the right foot. The IPC is a one-on-one meeting with the principal or assistant principal that should take place at a mutually agreed-upon time. This meeting provides members with the opportunity to select their observation option, discuss their program and set goals for the upcoming school year.

If you have any concerns as you prepare for your IPC, this [New York Teacher article](#) provides more information. For a more comprehensive look at the evaluation process, take a look at the UFT's [guide to teacher evaluation](#).

## Coming Home to Teach

Team High School is thrilled to welcome Dingyi Zhou to our "Coming Home to Teach" spotlight. Zhou is a math teacher at Francis Lewis HS and she began teaching in 2014. When asked why she returned to teach at her alma mater, she said, "When I was a student, I wanted to be a teacher. I thought I could give back to immigrant students as my teachers did for me when I was a newcomer."

Zhou fondly looks back at her years as a high school student recalling, "My experience at Francis Lewis was fantastic. My teachers were supportive and always there for me. I remember a teacher wrote me a great recommendation for college and I wanted to be able to do the same for others. I wanted to work at Francis Lewis because I love the community."

"We are very united. We look out for each other," Zhou said, reflecting on the supportive nature of her colleagues. "The school culture is very pleasant and it feels like a family here. I'm very happy to be able to support the immigrant population here just as my teachers supported me when I was a newcomer. It's kind of amazing to work with my former teachers, now my colleagues. That's very special," Zhou says.

A well-deserved congratulations to Dingyi Zhou and the Francis Lewis HS community for helping a former student become an amazing educator.

*Please email [Team High School](#) if you work with a colleague who has "come home to teach."*



Dingyi Zhou, a math teacher at Francis Lewis HS, Queens, proudly stands in front of her alma mater's flag.

## 2019 Caringkind Alzheimer's Walk

Join the UFT's team on Sunday, Sept. 22, on the boardwalk at Coney Island, Brooklyn, and help raise funds for research to end Alzheimer's disease and dementia. The program starts at 10 a.m. and the walk begins at 10:30 a.m. We'll meet on the [boardwalk at Stillwell Avenue](#). Look for the UFT table and banner. T-shirts will be distributed. [Register online](#). Contact the UFT's Susan Perez-

Gonzales at [sperez@uft.org](mailto:sperez@uft.org) for more information or call her at 718-862-6031.

## New Teachers

Team High School extends a warm welcome to all of you who decided to join us in this amazing profession. The start of your first year is filled with excitement, energy and (if we're being completely honest) anxiety. The [new member](#) corner of the UFT website is an invaluable resource that can answer questions related to compensation, health benefits and certification, to name just a few. Additionally, the [newcomers' checklist](#) provides a quick "to-do" list to help you prioritize your needs and stay on track as you enter the profession. Finally, every new teacher is entitled to in-school mentoring services. The mentor should be an experienced classroom teacher, ideally in your subject area. Check out the [DOE's Guide to Mentoring](#) to fully familiarize yourself with the process.

Team High School wants to celebrate the ongoing success of our new colleagues. To that end, we're asking you to [reach out](#) to us and nominate a deserving colleague to be featured in our newsletter.

## World AIDS Day Student Poster Contest

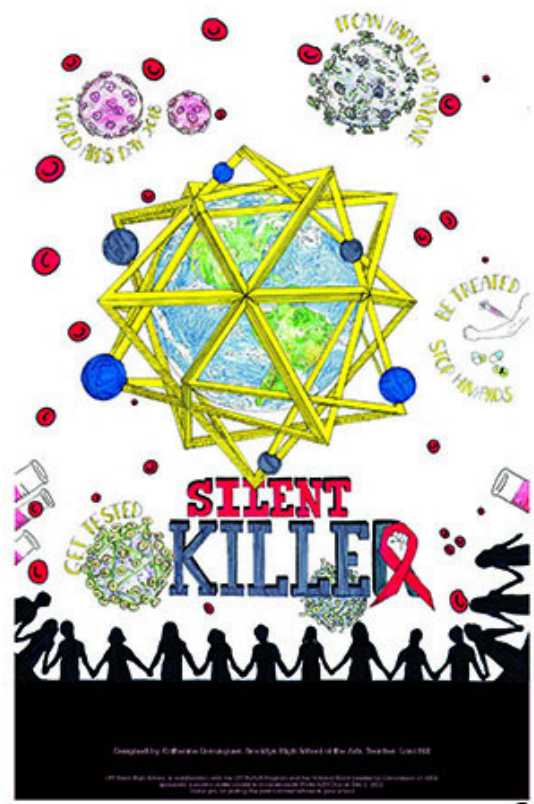
Team High School, in collaboration with UFT BRAVE and the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, is once again sponsoring a student poster contest to bring awareness and commemorate World AIDS day on Dec. 1. Last year's winning poster by Katherine Dominguez, a Brooklyn High School of the Arts student, is to the right.

The contest is open to all New York City public school students in grades 9-12. The submission deadline is Friday, Nov. 15.

The top three winning students will receive, respectively, \$500, \$300 and \$100 gift pre-paid debit cards. See the [contest guidelines](#) for full details, judging criteria and submission information. Please send a picture or a scan of the submission to [teamhspostercontest@gmail.com](mailto:teamhspostercontest@gmail.com).

## Teaching in the Age of Social Media

As with most technologies, social media has the potential to bring great benefits and joy to our lives as well as serve as a destructive force which can compromise our social, emotional and professional health. As educators, many of us have





harnessed the power of social media to enrich our practice and classrooms. On the other hand, we must be extremely diligent and take all precautions to ensure our private accounts do not jeopardize our careers. The best practice is to create firm partitions between our professional and private digital lives, and take the necessary steps to ensure our private accounts remain secure. These [social media guidelines](#) help outline best practices for using social media in our classrooms.

## Save the Date: Future in Focus on Oct. 31

Team High School, Career and Technical Education High Schools and the NYC Central Labor Council are proud to announce our fourth Future in Focus career fair on Thursday, Oct. 31, at UFT headquarters. Students will have the opportunity to explore industry-themed rooms — trades, entertainment, arts and tourism, education and public service — and meet with representatives from a variety of unions. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. [Register online](#) now to ensure your students can attend.

## Low-Cost Theater Tickets for 10th-graders

The Broadway League on Broadway Bridges, in partnership with the UFT, offers \$10 tickets to Broadway shows to 10th-graders and their chaperones. The shared goal of the union and the Broadway League is to provide every city public high school student with a chance to see a Broadway show before graduation. Participating shows this fall include “Aladdin,” “Beetlejuice,” “Come From Away,” “Frozen,” “Oklahoma!,” “The Phantom of the Opera,” “The Great Society,” “The Lion King,” “Tootsie” and “Wicked.” Tickets are on sale now. [Register online](#) on the Broadway Bridges website for performances from Sept. 25 through Dec. 13. Ticket requests are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Send an email to Robin Aronson at [bridges@broadway.org](mailto:bridges@broadway.org) if you have questions.

## Join Team High School at the Museum of the City of New York

Team High School’s monthly citywide meetings are open to all members, not just those with UFT elected positions. This year we will periodically hold our meetings in cultural institutions throughout the city. On Oct. 23, we will visit the Museum of the City of New York to explore the current [exhibition](#), “City of Workers, City of Struggle: How Labor Unions Changed New York.” Please join us while we discuss issues important to high school members and learn about the rich history of labor in this great city. Please [register online](#) if you plan to attend.