

# Team High School

## Chapter Newsletter

June 2021

Just as UFT delegates from every school meet monthly to determine UFT policy, delegates from across New York State do so each May for our state union, the New York State United Teachers.

We honored public education writer and advocate Jonathan Kozol during this year's convention on April 30 and May 1. We had greetings from First Lady Dr. Jill Biden and Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, and it's always good to hear from them. However, Kozol hit a nerve when he said, "To my friends and allies in the public classrooms of New York, it is simply this: Don't be silent... speak and act politically without any inhibitions. ...And don't let anyone tell you to be patient. I've been accused of being impatient now for 50 years."

As educator-unionists, we need the patience of a saint. We know our students this year needed us to "try it again" or "try it another way" when we were more tired than we'd ever been. Remote learning wasn't easy for most students. But we needed to be patient with ourselves as well when "trying it another way" failed once more. And we need to be patient with our students and ourselves when our students have unanswered questions and unmet needs.

As unionists, however, patience is not a virtue. Patience has no place in protecting public education and ensuring dignity for working people and a decent livelihood for ourselves and the future. Amazon recently spent millions to fight workers in one Alabama plant in a unionization drive. Perhaps, it's no coincidence that Amazon's owner along with two other individuals have more wealth than 50% of the entire country.

If you sometimes lie awake wondering if you're not patient enough with yourself or others, I hope you find solace in knowing that your fight to bring joy and justice to the hearts and minds of America is with a team, a union.

In solidarity,  
Janella and Sterling

---

## Planning for next year: What do we want?

We don't know exactly what next year will look like, but since we're the UFT high school division, one pivotal question to ask is, "What do we want?" For example, the process for how teachers select their course preferences is different this year. But, as a chapter, instead of waiting for the administration to decide, we might create a preference sheet that lists each of the courses we want offered (core and electives) in addition to how we want to manage our Circular 6 Administrative period (e.g., running student clubs and self-directed common planning).

- [Read additional guidance from the DOE regarding preference here »](#)

We should also take advantage of our contractual right to budget consultation. The DOE has announced that no schools will carry a deficit or have money owed next year, which means it is all the more important to ensure all funds are spent and that we begin earmarking allocations for next year's priorities. Contact [teamhighschool@uft.org](mailto:teamhighschool@uft.org) with questions, suggestions or to help us brainstorm ways to ensure folks doing the work have a say in how that work is done.

While there is still some uncertainty regarding next year, we believe the answers are always in the room. Please share any creative scheduling programs, student activities or ways to build community next year with [teamhighschool@uft.org](mailto:teamhighschool@uft.org).

---

## Meetings in June for CTE and academic HS

Our last meetings of the year are scheduled. These meetings are open to all high school UFT members and are an excellent opportunity to discuss common planning challenges and issues CTE and academic high schools may face next year.

- [Register here for the last citywide academic meeting June 8 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
  - [Register here for the last citywide CTE meeting of this school year June 9 at 4:30 p.m.](#)
- 

## Celebrating CTE

Sixty educators and industry partners were honored during a virtual award ceremony. We honored those who showed grit in providing the best CTE programs

and resources despite the pandemic. We presented a special award to Laura Parker, culinary teacher and work-based learning coordinator at Long Island City High School. "This past year has presented so many challenges to giving students the best CTE and shop experiences," Parker said. "Recognizing all the great work educators have done to overcome these challenges to ensure young people are prepared for their chosen careers is humbling."

---

## ...and Academics

Vice President of Academic HS Janella Hinds honored a group of union activists, educators and those indispensable to school communities at the Academic High School Virtual Award Ceremony on April 29.



UFT Members of Staten Island Technical High School created a photo montage showing the pandemic is no match for solidarity.

---

## PRIDE! Chapter leader launches trans-rights education for students

Ei Meeker, chapter leader at the Brooklyn International High School, worked with RFK Human Rights, a longstanding UFT partner, to launch trans-rights lessons and resources for students. See vital information and resources below to help ensure all students can learn in a safe and respectful environment.

- [See an article featuring Ei Meeker and the initiative](#)
- [See the complete RFK resources](#)
- [See other "Speak Truth to Power" RFK human rights lessons and resources](#)

---

## Regents Exam Update

All students scheduled for a course ending in a Regents exam this term will receive a waiver for the exam if they pass the course. If they do not pass the course, they can work to pass it in August or in a subsequent term to earn the exam credit. Students who pass the course ending in a Regents do not need the Regents exam for a Regents or Advanced Regents Diploma. Principals were to order exams and declare student waivers in late May and all Regents exams will be scored in-house. Guidance regarding grading procedures will be sent to schools. The Regents week is June 17-24; no tests will be given on June 18. June 25, the last day of school, is a rating day and will be six hours and 50 minutes. Regents week can be non-instructional or non-attendance days for students who are not taking exams.

[See the Regents calendar »](#)

---

## No puppets in the Beacon HS UFT Chapter

...But the school's Election Committee did utilize the services of one to thank outgoing UFT elected reps and introduce the newly elected chapter leader, delegate and paraprofessional representative.



[See this great display of chapter pride, organization and fun »](#)

---

## UFT's Roberson addresses CompTIA

Sterling Roberson was the keynote speaker for the inaugural CompTIA National CTE Advisory Council meeting. CompTIA is a leading IT trade association and the meeting's focus was the future of CTE. Contact Team High School with questions on program certification, work-based learning or other CTE inquiries at [teamhighschool@uft.org](mailto:teamhighschool@uft.org) or [212-598-9217](tel:212-598-9217).

---

## Truth to Power student videos to premiere

Come celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Speak Truth to Power Student Video Contest. We asked middle and high school students to create short films about human rights defenders working to make the world a more just place. On June 9, we will announce our winners at the Tribeca Film Festival after screening their powerful films. We're excited to celebrate the power of artistic expression in New York City together and in person!

The June 9 celebration is at Waterfront Plaza at Brookfield Place, 230 Vesey St., in Battery Park City from 4 to 5 p.m. Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

[RSVP for this FREE event here »](#)

Additional details will be sent as the date approaches. Following the video contest screening, the screen adaptation of *In the Heights* will premiere at 7 p.m. Please indicate if you would like to participate in this free screening on the registration form.

---

## Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

[See the AFT Share My Lesson page](#) for great lessons and student activities to honor Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

---

## Teaching students to be financially astute

On April 22, two high schools were honored by Working In Support of Education (W!SE) at the **2021 100 Best W!SE High Schools Teaching Personal Finance Virtual Awards Ceremony**. The schools were honored for setting the standard for personal

finance instruction nationally. The High School for Math, Science and Engineering at the City College of New York was ranked number one school in the country, and Stuyvesant High School ranked second in the top 10 large (by student population) high schools and eighth in the national ranking.

---

## Dial-a-Teacher is here for your students!

UFT's free homework help hotline, [Dial-A-Teacher](#), is open! K-12 students and their parents or caregivers are invited to call [212-777-3380](tel:212-777-3380) or [visit the Dial-A-Teacher website](#) Mondays through Thursdays between 4 and 7 p.m. to get free homework help from a licensed teacher.

Dial-A-Teacher can assist students and families in 10 languages, including Armenian, Bengali, Chinese, English, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish and Tagalog.

---

## John Jay united in sports

After years of work and advocacy, the John Jay Educational Campus had a major win in unifying its schools. In the past, Millennium High School Brooklyn, a school with screened admissions, had its own sports teams while three other schools in the building, Park Slope Collegiate, Secondary School for Law and Secondary School for Journalism, shared a sports program. After a long and hard fight, the UFT members at John Jay persuaded the DOE to create one unified campus with all four schools participating in one sports program with increased JV and intermediate level offerings. Mounia Aseidu, chapter leader at Park Slope Collegiate, said, "We hope to inspire other campuses across the city to come together and continue the fight for integration and against racist policies."

---

## Check May 28 for your raise

Note that the final negotiated raise of our last contract was reflected in your May 28 paycheck. Please call the UFT general hotline [212-331-6311](tel:212-331-6311) with any questions or issues.

---

## Did you know?

In 1986, NYC had 101 Academic and Comprehensive and Vocational/Technical high schools. Today there are nearly 500.

---

## College and career counseling

We can't let this pandemic upend our children's future. So, the UFT, in partnership with the city Department of Education, has created a program to offer one hour of free one-on-one college and career counseling to high school juniors and seniors.

**High school students can call [212-331-6329](tel:212-331-6329) to make an appointment.**

Here's what you should know:

- High school juniors and seniors will meet via video chat outside school hours with experienced college and career counselors who will help them develop their post-secondary plans.
- One-hour appointments are available Monday through Friday, from 5 to 8 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- This counseling can include technical assistance with post-secondary applications and financial aid. High school seniors may also be assigned CUNY or SUNY case managers who can provide tutoring, academic help and more planning support.

Please share this information with your high school juniors and. Help spread the word by [sharing the program flier](#).

---



### **Janella T. Hinds**

Vice President for Academic High Schools

### **Sterling Roberson**

Vice President for Career and Technical Education

[212-598-9217](tel:212-598-9217) | [teamhighschool@uft.org](mailto:teamhighschool@uft.org)

---

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



United Federation of Teachers  
*A Union of Professionals*  
52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004